

Santa Maria del Suffragio



Santa Maria del Suffragio is a 17th century church in central Rome on the via Giulia, in the rione Ponte, dedicated to the mourning of the dead. (2)

In 1592, the *Confraternita del Suffragio* (Fraternity of those who succor the suffering) was a purgatorial society established adjacent to the church of Saint Biagio della Pagnotta; their goal was to pray for the spirits of the dead and dying. Two years later, the group received a charter of approval from Pope Clement VIII. In 1620, it was elevated to "Arciconfraternita" by Pope Paul V. (2)

Having outgrown their premises, the group acquired in 1607, part of an unfinished site that originally had been destined to be the Bramante-designed Palace of the Courts. In 1662, the architect Carlo Rainaldi designed the church, which was completed by 1669, with interior decorations continuing till 1685. (1) (2)

Exterior:

The simple two-storey façade has two pairs of Ionic pilasters framing the door, and another two pairs either side of the window above the architrave. The triangular pediment has a segmental pediment wholly inserted. In between each pair of main pilasters is a side entrance with segmental pediment. (1)

Interior:

The interior has a single nave with chapels side, covered by a barrel vault with lunettes.

The vault has frescoes by Cesare Mariani (*Coronation of the Virgin*) from 1868. (1) (2)

The same architect of the church, Carlo Rainaldi, is the second chapel on the right (before the Petrosino family so dedicated to "Santa Maria Comforter of the Afflicted").

The third chapel on the right has a *Birth of Mary* and an *Adoration of the Magi* by Giuseppe Chiari. (2)

The third chapel on the left, the family patronage Mazzetti Pietralata was dedicated to the "Crucifix". On the altar there is a large *wooden* cross, by an unknown author of the 18th century, surrounded by twelve carved wooden reliquaries. The barrel vault with frescoes depicting scenes from the *Passion of Christ*. The chapel once had frescoes on the walls by Giovanni Lanfranco, today at the Vatican of Rome, replaced by marble tombs of family members.

On the left of the chapel is the confessional where traditionally it is believed [St. Vincent Pallotti](#) used to hear confessions.

Artists and Architects:

Carlo [Rainaldi](#) (1611-1691), Italian architect of the Baroque period

Cesare [Mariani](#) (1826-1901), Italian painter

Giuseppe Bartolomeo [Chiari](#) (1654-1727), Italian painter of the late-Baroque

Burials:

Alessandro Cardinal [CAPRARA](#), (1626-1711)

Location:

Addr: Via Giulia, 59/a

Coordinates: [41°53'52"N 12°27'58"E](#)

Info:

Open daily 7.00 to 8.00 and 19.00 to 20.00

Sunday 18:30 to 19:30

Links and References:

1. http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/Santa_Maria_del_Suffragio
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Maria_del_Suffragio
3. <http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://www.homolaicus.com/arte/cesena/storia/Chiese/Suffragio/suffragio.htm>
4. <http://www.060608.it/en/cultura-e-svago/luoghi-di-culto-di-interesse-storico-artistico/cattolici/santa-maria-del-suffragio.html>
5. [http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiesa_di_Santa_Maria_del_Suffragio_\(Roma\)](http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiesa_di_Santa_Maria_del_Suffragio_(Roma))