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## SAINT CATHERINE'S CHURCH

*Place Sainte-Catherine/  
Sint-Katelijneplein – Brussels*

Sat and Sun from 10h00 to 18h00

1-5 (Sainte-Catherine/  
Sint-Katelijne)

3-4 (Bourse/Beurs)

29-47-66-71-88 (De Brouckère)

It all began with a small chapel built up against the first city wall at the start of the 13th century. Then, over the course of the 14th and 15th centuries, a three-nave Gothic church was erected. This was expanded with the addition of a Baroque choir, built around 1629, and a bell tower, completed in 1664. First restored in 1780, the church continued to be used for services but was so badly damaged by flooding in 1850 that a decision was made to construct a brand new building on the site of the recently filled in Saint Catherine's docks. Architect Joseph Poelaert was responsible for overseeing the project between 1854 and 1859, with Wynand Janssens taking over from 1861 to 1873. In an Eclectic



style, taking inspiration from French churches from the Renaissance period, such as Saint-Eustache in Paris, close to the Halles, Saint Catherine's imposing silhouette made from Gobertange stone stands facing the square to which it gives its name. Of Gothic design, the church was adorned with Renaissance style decoration reinterpreted by Poelaert. The façade is punctuated by a number of small columns, supported by

lantern-topped buttresses, a decorative element that can also be found at roof level. The interior contains a beautiful set of Neo-Renaissance furniture created by the Goyers Brothers from Louvain. (Listed 07/12/1981)

**Guided tours, Saturday at 10h00 and 14h00 and Sunday at 14h00 (French/Dutch). In cooperation with Eglise et Tourisme Bruxelles.**