

The church of the cluniac priory in Ris

« The church is quite interesting as it shows the first hesitant architectural attempts at the Romanesque style in its early stages. » B. Craplet, Auvergne Romane.

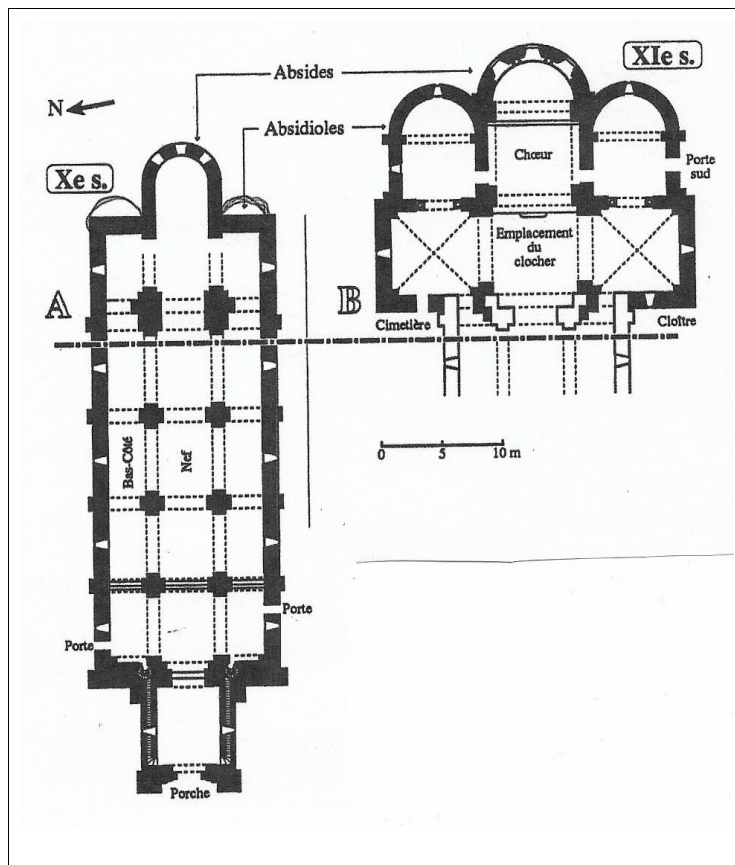
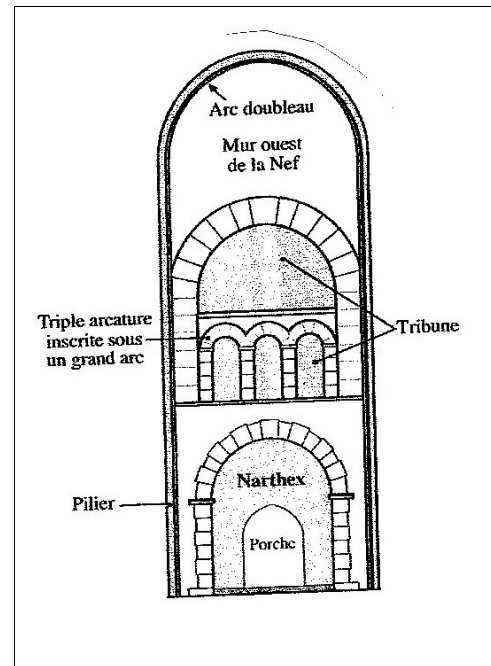
It is one of the oldest Romanesque churches in Auvergne.

In 978, Amblard of Thiers, the archbishop of Lyon, gave the monks of Cluny a gallo-roman *villa* so that they would build a monastery.

the tenth century :

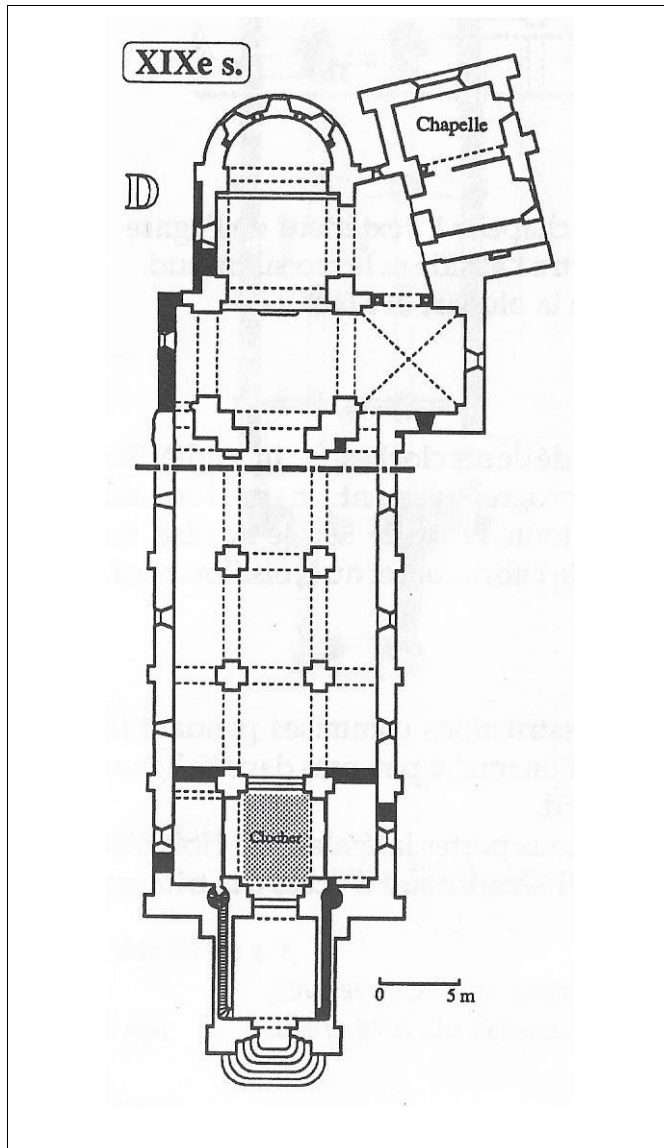
Narthex : it was primarily inspired by carolingian models : 3 arches under a larger arch, similar to the churches of Mozat and Chamalières.

The nave : you will be struck by its unusual height, narrowness and luminosity. The light comes from the very high windows, located under the vault. A barrel-vaulted nave with two half-barrel vaulted side aisles. The arcade arches are supported by massive square pillars.



In the eleventh century, important works were commissioned by the abbot of Cluny, Odilo of Mercoeur, before his visit to Ris in 1048.

The chevet is enlarged because it was for the use of monks only, the parishioners stayed inside the nave.



A chapel from the 15th/16th century has replaced part of the southern apse.

During the 1789 Revolution, the steeple was demolished as was the north apse and crossing. The southern crossing was consolidated by walling up the windows and lowering the ceiling.

Vierge Romane : a copy of « Vierge du Forez », 12th century, currently on exhibit at the Louvre, Paris.

The paintings on the pillars and the walls : *Knight and deer* is the oldest and dates from back to 12th century.

St Michael archangel dates from the beginning of the 15th century.

St Peter : 14th or 15th century.
St Bishop and St Archbishop (Amblard?) overlap.

St Agathe, St Thomas, St Marguerite, St Etienne, The Visitation were all painted by the Maître de Ris (notice the same tiles, the same background and the same expression). The Visitation is a great aesthetic and psychological success. The clothes seem to indicate that these are paintings of 15th century.

The furniture :
 The oak pulpit (1898 by Pouyet) ; the confessional, 1850 ; the upper part is from the 18th century (from the priory, with st Peter's tiara and keys.)

Stained Glassed Windows : 1900 / 1906

Paintings , from the 19th century

Stations of the Cross : they are unique to this area, 1835 , 14 etchings by Théophile Fragonard (the grand-son of the famous Jean-Honoré Fragonard).

Outside the church : « Vierge en Majesté », 15th century , Bourgogne.

Traduction : Mariethé House