

Parish Church of Santa Maria della Neve

The Parish Church of Santa Maria della Neve is located in the heart of Teti. Very little is known about the church, which was originally dedicated to Saint Juneval. Some architectural and furnishing elements help date the building, namely a granite column with latin inscriptions dating back to the 17th century, and a wooden altar featuring elements from different altars and some handcrafted nativity figurines from Naples dating back to the 18th century.

Its main façade overlooks Piazza del Popolo and is made of stone in the Renaissance style. The main entrance (with steps) is round-arched with a barred window on each side and is surmounted by a protruding triangular tympanum; a very simple cornice, above which is another tympanum, runs along the top of the wall. The imposing square bell tower with round-arched windows on the right side of the church is surmounted by a pyramid-shaped dome and a cross.

The hall of the church is divided into three naves separated by round arches that, being painted a light blue, stand out against the white walls and ceiling; the apse features a round window depicting the Virgin Mary and is raised from the naves, which have a chequered floor. Behind the altar, between two angels holding candlesticks, is an aedicule with a niche housing a statue of the Madonna and Child flanked by two columns and surmounted by a tympanum. In addition to the aforementioned wooden altar, the side naves house five marble altars (two of which are a gift from a private donor) with statues of Jesus Christ, the Madonna and Child and some saints (St Anthony, St John the Baptist and St Sebastian). Behind the first altar at the beginning of the left nave there is a mosaic depicting the descent from the Cross, by M. D. (1976). The 14 stations of the Cross (made of silver) are also of great interest.

The Patron Saint is celebrated every year on August 5. Saint Mary of the Snows is very dear to the people of Teti, so much so that there is a small statue of her sitting atop *Sa Marghine*, the highest mountain in the area, at 952 metres above sea level.

Text by Cecilia Mariani

