



## The Church of St. Mary

The Church of St. Mary was built in the 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> century. It was expanded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and consecrated again in 1026. The façade includes a rectangular-shaped atrium, with three entry arcades and a sloping roof with two single-light windows. To the right side of the façade, an inscription on the wall serves as a reminder of the builder of the church, Magister Mazulo. The floor of the church is made of irregular and multi-colored bricks. Eight ceramic bowls (currently under restoration) are also part of the decoration. They are made of marble and include high-relief motifs of animals and symbolic figures.

The sides of the façade are adorned with two outstanding rose windows, with open latticework depicting two gryphons eating fruits from the Tree of Life. The church is entirely decorated with 13<sup>th</sup> century frescoes. It is laid out with an elongated rectangular plan and it features three naves and a polygonal apse. Most of the structure and decoration materials have been reused from other sites, as it was customary in the Middle Ages; this includes the column capitals and the floor mosaics, which were originally in the Ravenna area.