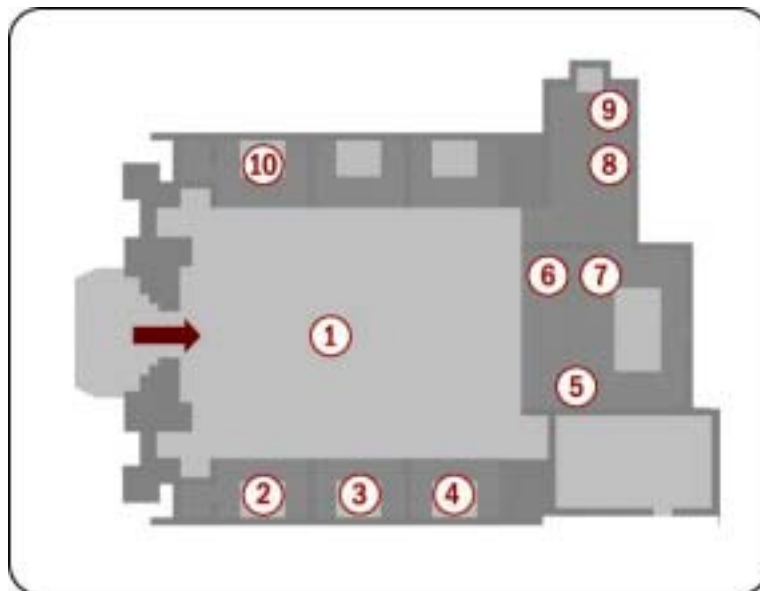


SAN STAE

The church of San Stae (vernacular for St. Eustachius) was already a parish church in 1127. Towards the end of the XVII century, being in urgent need of restoration, it was completely re-planned and therefore rebuilt by the architect Giovanni Grassi. The façade was projected by the architect Domenico Rossi and it was built in the XVIII century, thanks to a donation from the Doge Alvise Mocenigo, now buried in the centre of the nave (1). The inspiration of the church is clearly Palladian; the large semi-circular windows allow the sun light to stream in, light that, reflected by the predominately white decoration, makes the interior strikingly luminous. The church presents a rectangular, single nave plan, with vault roof and deep chancel and three lateral chapels on each side of the nave.



On the first altar on the right (2) an altarpiece by Nicolò Bambini (beginning of XVIII century) with *The Virgin and saints*. On the second altar on the right (3) *St. Eustachius* by Giuseppe Camerata (beginning of XVIII century), while on the third one (4), you can admire *St. Oswald* by Antonio Balestra (beginning of XVIII century). In the presbytery there is a unique cycle of works by the major Venetian artists of the XVIII century, commissioned by the patrician Andrea Stazio. Among them, the most outstanding ones are *St. James led to his martyrdom* (5), by Giambattista Piazzetta, *The martyrdom of St. Bartholomew* (6), by a very young Giambattista Tiepolo and the *Liberation of St. Peter* (7) by Sebastiano Ricci. In the sacristy are the few paintings left from the original church and a curious decoration on canvas thought to form a cornice to the portraits of the parish priests along the walls. In the sacristy are kept as well *St. Eustachius in jail* (8) by Bartolomeo Litterini (beginning of XVIII century) and *The emperor orders sacrifice to the idols* (9) by Giambattista Pittoni (beginning of XVIII century). Going back to the nave, on the first altar on the left you can see an altarpiece by Jacopo Amigoni (beginning of XVIII century) depicting *St. Catherine and Andrew* (10).