

Religion in Finnish high school students' eyes



The Holy Bible



- Not so many high school students have read The Holy Bible
- For example in the first class of Juankoski high school 3 out of 19 16-year old students have read The Holy Bible

Church



- Religion appears in Finnish people's lives in many ways. Finnish people go to church, some more than others, but usually at least once a year. Religion is a *private matter* to Finns.
- Although only a small minority of Finnish people are active members of church, the majority of Finnish people want to belong to church.

- Finland is one of the most Lutheran countries of the world; over 85 % of Finland's population belongs to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
- 1 % of Finnish people belong to the other national church, the Orthodox Church
- 13 % of Finnish people don't belong to any registered religious community

The Church Architecture and Art

An aerial photograph of the Church of Saint Henry in Nousiainen, Finland. The church is a large, rectangular stone building with a dark, steeply pitched roof. The walls are constructed from light-colored stone with darker stones interspersed. The church features several tall, narrow, arched windows. A prominent gable is visible on the front facade. The church is surrounded by a green lawn and a paved path. In the background, there are trees and a glimpse of the sea under a cloudy sky.

The Church of Saint Henry, Nousiainen - built in about 1286-1290

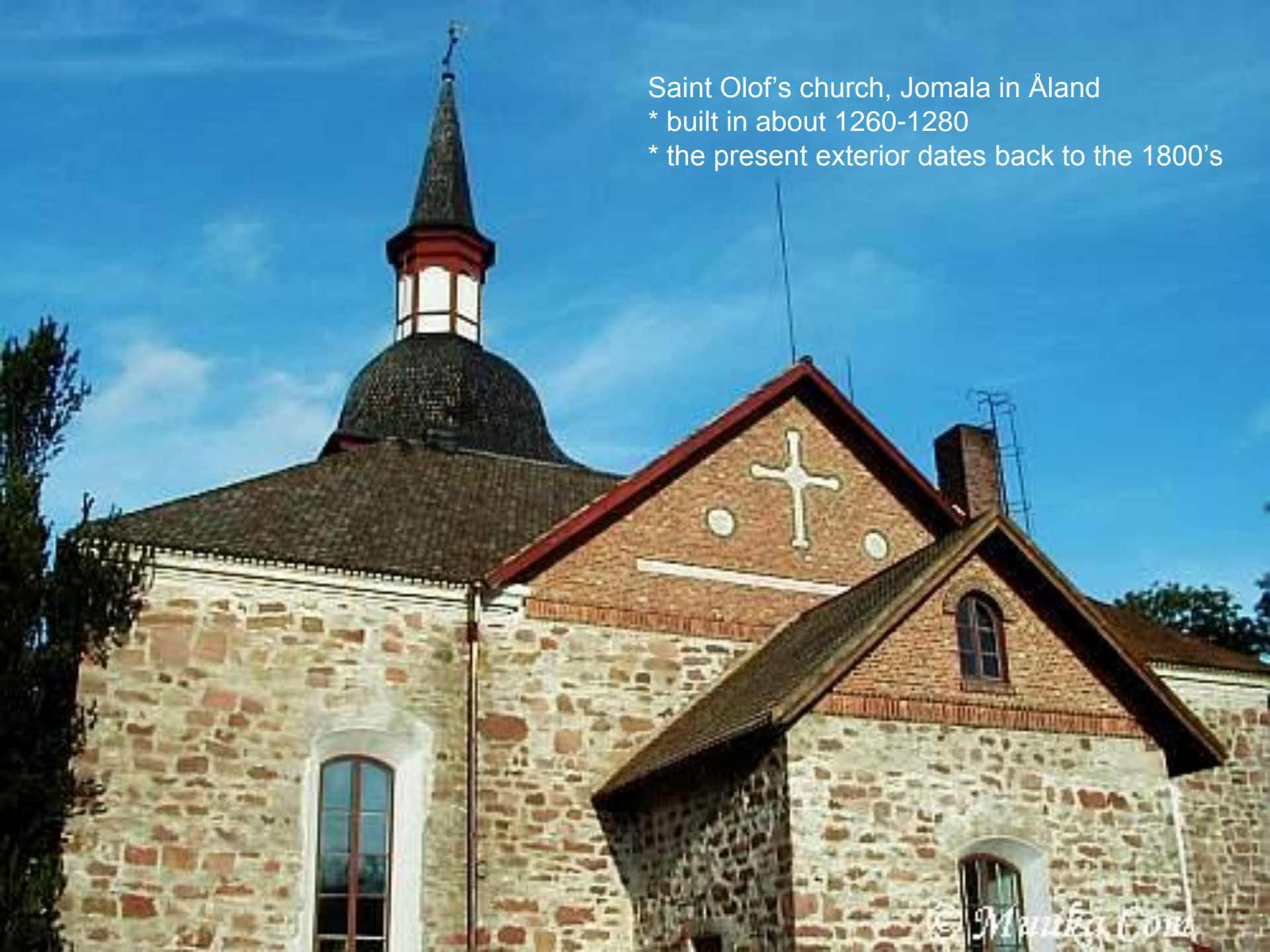


**The Church of Saint Henry, Nousiainen
The sarcophagus of our Patron Saint**

Saint Olof's church in Tyrvää
*built in about the 1450's



Saint Olof's church, Jomala in Åland
* built in about 1260-1280
* the present exterior dates back to the 1800's



Turku Cathedral

- * built in various phases, the first one in the late 13th century
- * the Cathedral was repaired and extended in the 14th and 15th centuries



Saint John's Church, Helsinki - designed in the Neo-Gothic style
* built in 1891



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Helsinki Cathedral

- * architect Carl Ludvig Engel (1778-1840)
- * built in 1826





**The Church in Haapavesi
represents modern
church architecture**



Tempeliaukio Church,
also known as the Church of the Rock



The 19th century church art





The Wounded Angel by Hugo Simberg (1903),
woted as the most popular Finnish
painting in 2006

What do Finnish people believe in?

- 74% of Finnish people say that they believe in God in some way
- 49% of Finns believe in One God in the way the Lutheran church teaches
- God has a very important meaning in 21% of Finnish people's lives
- 18% of Finnish people think that God is meaningless

■ <http://www.evl.fi/kkh/ktk/uskonnot.htm>

Practising religion - public and private

- **Practising religion in public is not typical of Finns**
 - **about 3 % attend church services weekly**
 - **in 2000 14 % attended religious meetings at least once a month** (in countryside the people tend to attend more often)

- **Finns practise religion privately**

- **about 30 % of people pray daily or a few times a week, about 50 % pray at least once a month**
- **about 35 % of people read a Christian magazine**
- **about 25 % of people follow spiritual of religious programmes on TV or the radio**
- **about 20 % of people read the Holy Bible at least once a month**

Traditions in Lutheran church

- Finland has a few traditions concerning religion
- Baptism, marriage and funeral normally take place at church
- 90 % of Finnish kids (the age of 15) go to confirmation school and after that you have a permission attend the Holy Communion on your own and to get married in church.
- Giving a cross to your godchild after the confirmation school has almost become a tradition of its own.



In Juankoski high school

These statistics were collected from the 19 first grade students

- 6 out of 10 16-year-old girls believe in God
- 3 out of 9 16-year-old boys believe in God

- 8 out of 10 16-year-old girls wouldn't quit the church at the age of 18
- 3 out of 9 16-year-old boys wouldn't quit the church at the age of 18

- 1 out of 10 16-year-old girls go to church once a month
- 3 out of 9 16-year-old boys go to church a couple of times a year

Comments of Juankoski students

- "There's only one God"
- "It's everybody's own business what they believe in"
- "I believe in something, but I'm not sure if this is the right God"



- Thank you for your interest

