

Picture Study, May 4-5, 2020

Try to remember everything you know about Giotto and his work. You have learned a lot!

People think Giotto was buried in one of two places in Florence. Researchers unearthed the remains of a man who had dwarfism. The body had arsenic and lead which were in paint. The neck bones revealed the man had tilted his head back a lot and his teeth could have gotten worn from holding a paint brush. Not everyone thinks the body is that of Giotto. One professor joked that the bones could have belonged to a fat butcher.

[Today's picture study](#) will offer an overview of [how the frescos were arranged](#) in the [Scrovegni Chapel](#) in Padua. Some details you might have noticed are:

- The black bars support the building. Many churches have survived flood, earthquake, and war; they require extra care. Some of Giotto's frescos in Naples were lost when the church was bombed during World War II.
- Nearly every inch of the wall is covered in frescos. In those days, mass was held in Latin, a language understood by only the educated people. Giotto lived before the invention of the printing press and an ordinary person could not afford

books. The walls reminded people of what was written in the Bible.

- Many [church vaults](#), or ceilings, of this time were blue with gold stars. This is how the Sistine Chapel's vault looked until Michelangelo started his great work.
- Small scenes along the [decorative bands](#) between paintings show Old Testament stories.
- The bottom tiers below the narrative panels illustrate the [seven virtues \(good habits\) and the seven vices \(bad habits\)](#).