The Decorative Program in Early Gothic Cathedrals

Ideology and propaganda
Triumph of the Virgin (mosaic - this is a Roman idea)
Roman, the Triumphal Arch of Constantine, about 313 A.D.

Parma Cathedral, tower, and baptistery, begun late 11th century
Door jambs, central portal, Parma Cathedral
Bernard de Montfaucon’s drawings of the statue columns before their destruction.
Chartres Cathedral: the Early Gothic Portals at the west facade
Bishop Fulbert (1007-1028) dedicates the cathedral of 1020; the chief relic of Chartres was the tunic of the Virgin Mary given by Charles the Bald 876
The foundations of Fulbert’s cathedral of 1020 (in grey) underneath the present cathedral (in orange) rebuilt in 1194+

West towers rebuilt after fire of 1134 with portals of c. 1145
Fulbert’s cathedral of 1020

Original location of portals

Final location of portals
Chartres, the west “Royal” portals of 1145
Chartres, the royal portals, door jambs of Kings and Queens of the OT, ca. 1145
A new humanism emerging from the study of ancient texts, such as Aristotle, at the cathedral school of Chartres.
Head of the Queen of Sheba, from St.-Denis
Capitals between the statue columns and the tympana: the Passion of Christ
The Ascension

Majestas Domini: Christ in Majesty
Christ in Majesty on the central portal
Chartres: the Virgin Portal, or Incarnation Portal
Ptolemy
Grammar