



The Church of St. John of Nepomuk was constructed between 1912-1914, to the plans of the architect Johannes Schroth on one of the former isles that existed between the arms of the Rhine. The building was designed in the Neo-Romanesque style and serves as a place of worship for Catholics in our pastoral sector, in ecumenical communion with all Christians in Kehl and its surroundings.

#### SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The bell **TOWER** is 56m high and houses 5 bells named: Jesus, Mary, Aloysius, Frances and Cecilia.

**1** The fresco on the outer facade above the main portal portrays the **ASCENSION of CHRIST**.

**2** On the left side of the main entrance: a statue of the patron saint of our church, St. **JOHN of NEPOMUK** (1350-1393, patron of bridges and of the secret of the confession). The statue comes from the former chapel of the Kehl garrison.

**3** Beneath the entrance on the left: sandstone image of the **MOTHER OF GOD** with the **CHILD JESUS** on the pillar. Opposite this pillar the foundation stone of the church was placed.

**4** To the right of the main entrance: **PIETA** altar (the body of Jesus resting in his Mother's arms). This side altar also houses the holy grave (open only during Holy Week as it contains the entombed body of Christ).

**5** Statue of St. **ANTONY of PADUA** OFM (1195-1231)

**6** Statue of King **DAVID** (patron saint of musicians and singers)

**7** Statue of St. **CECILIA** (patron saint of sacred music)

- 8** Statue of the apostle and evangelist **MATTHEW**
- 9** Statue of the apostle **JAMES THE MINOR**
- 10** Statue of the apostle **PHILIP**
- 11** Statue of the apostle **JUDAS THADEUS**
- 12** Statue of the apostle **ANDREW**
- 13** Statue of **JOHN** the apostle and evangelist
- 14** Statue of the apostle **BARTHOLOMEW**
- 15** Statue of the apostle **JAMES THE ELDER**
- 16** Statue of the apostle **MATTHIAS**
- 17** The former 'preaching' **PULPIT**
- 18** Statue of St. **CHARLES BORROMEUS** (1438-1584, patron saint of spiritual guides)
- 19** Statue of the apostle **PETER**
- 20** Statue of the apostle **PAUL**
- 21** Statue of St. **ALOYSIUS GONZAGA** SJ (1568-1591, patron of youth)
- 22** The **SANCTUARY** - altar, ambo, choir seats, candlesticks - date from 1999 and are made of cherry wood and wenge. The Eucharist table is in the form of a bridge to symbolize a liturgical interface between heaven and earth, the patron saint of our church and the bridge over the Rhine.
- 23** The **FRESCO** of the **ROMAN ARC** in the semi-circular arch above the choir represents the 24 elders (cf. Revelation, ch. 4) who bow down before the Lamb of God (Christ). To the right and left, we see the source of living water and two deers quenching their thirst (Psalm 42).



**24** Above the high altar, there is a bas-relief of the patron saint of the church, St. John of Nepomuk. The group of statues below represents the **CRUCIFIXION** with the traditional iconography of the relationship between Judaism and Christianity: on the left, the Crowned Church and far right, the Synagogue, blindfolded to symbolize that she does not recognize Christ.

**25** In the side chapel of the transept, to the right on the plan, the two Nativity panels are photographic reproductions of **KEHL'S ALTAR**. The original is housed in the Staatliche Kunsthalle in Karlsruhe; these are oil paintings on fir-wood painted in 1505 by an anonymous master of the Haut-Rhin, from the school of Martin Schongauer.

**26** Statue of the **VIRGIN MARY** on the side altar of the transept, on the left in the map.

**27** On both sides of the transept are the 14 **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** (via dolorosa).

**28** The **BAPTISMAL FONT** evokes a section of an ancient aqueduct.

**29** Statue of St. **JOSEPH**

**30** Statue of the **SACRED HEART** of **JESUS**

**31** Statue of Brother **CONRAD** OFM Cap (1818-1894)

**32 ORGAN:** the first instrument was built in 1922. The original pipe organ was so badly damaged during the war that the community decided in 1988 to install an electronic Ahlborn organ with 3 keyboards and 52 stops.



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Opening hours :

Monday to Friday 8:30 - 12:00 h

Monday and Thursday 14:30 - 17:00 h

## Saint John of Nepomuk KEHL



**SHORT CHURCH GUIDE**