

angels, one on either side. On top of it there sit statues of the four evangelists.

The "Rosa Mystica" was placed in the center above the tabernacle in 1970. The people's altar as well as the pulpit (1969/70) were drafted by architect Plevan. The front walls of the two side-naves are decorated by one large fresco each: Christmas and Resurrection (by L. Schulz).

The way of the Cross painted by Josef von Führich between 1841 and 1846 is the most important artifact. It consists of fourteen 240 x 185 cm frescos. Replicas of this way of the Cross can be found all over the world.



The aftermath of the bombing in März 1945

On March 15th 1945 the church was severely damaged due to heavy bombing. The belfry nearly collapsed and the original Ludy-organ was completely destroyed. The church was restored by 1951, but the new organ was not built until the eighties. It originates from the St. Florian workshop, Upper Austria, and was consecrated on May 16th 1990.

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„Der Führich-Kreuzweg“

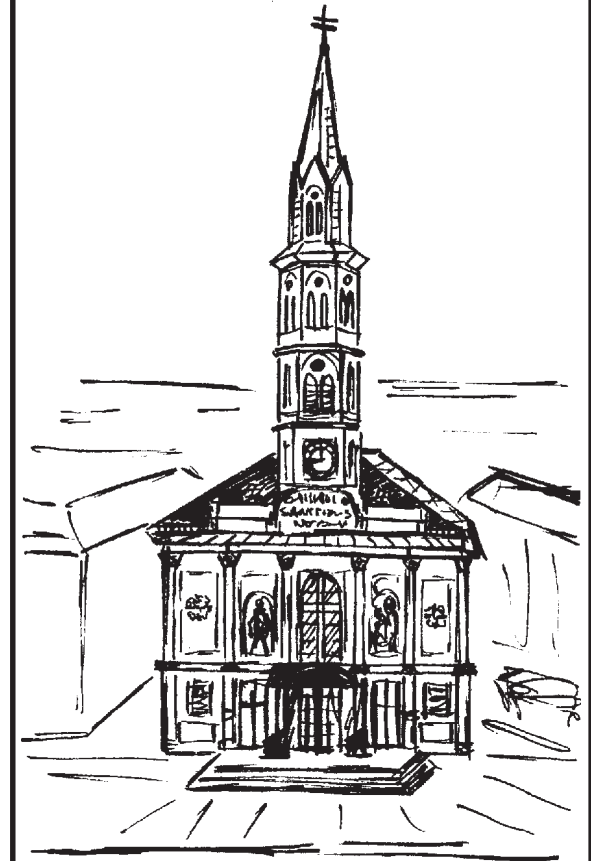
Copies of the guide to the way of the Cross containing color pictures are available in the parish-office. (German only)



6th Station:
Jesus and Veronica

20080505

SMALL CHURCH GUIDE



ST. JOHANN NEPOMUK

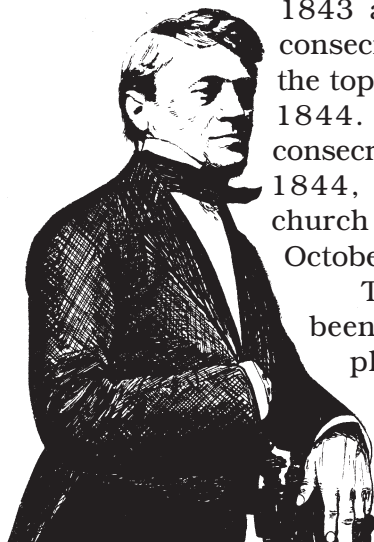
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Small Church Guide

History

The history of the parish of St. Johann Nepomuk began with the veneration of a depiction of Mary, the Mother of God, a copy of the so-called Maria Pötsch painting which to this day is being venerated in St. Stephan's Cathedral. The "Rosa Mystica", as the copy is also called, is today integrated into the main altar.

It is said that the picture was originally part of a home-altar at 7 Jägerzeile (which today is the Praterstrasse), the home of a royal herold. The painting remained undamaged during a great fire in 1729 and as of then was said to be wonder-working. So, the picture was hung onto a tall tree in the Jägerzeile and built into a wooden chapel. In 1730/31 the population of the Jägerzeile was spared by the Black Death, which was also attributed to the miraculous picture. Three years later a heavy storm split the tree, but the painting once again remained undamaged. Therefore, it was decided to build a stone chapel which was accomplished in 1736 when it was consecrated in commemoration of St. Johann Nepomuk. The chapel had been erected right in the middle of the Jägerzeile where it became an obstacle to traffic as the Prater was opened to the public. In 1780 the chapel was removed while in the same year a new church was begun under the architect Franz Duschinger. The church was consecrated on March 17th 1782 and became a parish church four years later.



Prof. Carl Rösner

As the population was rapidly growing a new church was planned in 1835. The construction work started in 1841; the belfry was accomplished by 1843 and the cross was consecrated and hoisted to the top of the fry in July of 1844. The bells were consecrated on October 29th 1844, and, finally, the church was consecrated on October 18th 1846.

The new church had been built according to plan A by Professor Carl Rösner (1804 - 1869). It is a three-nave gallery-church. In the two niches of the front facade there stand monumental statues of St. Ferdinand (to the left - by Franz Bauer) and St. Anna with Mary (to the right - by Josef Klieber).

Interior Design

The whole back wall of the presbyterium is dominated by a huge fresco which was painted by Leopold Kupelwieser between 1841 and 1844. It depicts St. Johann Nepomuk's ascension into heaven. Christ on his throne is surrounded by angels and is accompanied by Mary and John, the Baptist. Below them the twelve apostles sit with their names written on their halos. The angel at the bottom right holds a model of the new church. The city of Prague, in which St. Johann Nepomuk was killed, is hidden



*St. Johann Nepomuk's ascension into heaven
(by Leopold Kupelwieser)*

behind the main altar.

The side walls of the presbyterium are decorated with depictions of the four Doctors of the Church: St. Jerome and St. Ambrose on the left, St. Gregory and St. Augustine on the right. Beneath them there are portraits of the prophets Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, Baruch (left), Malachi, Ezeckiel, Elijah, and David (right). The white and golden wooden main altar holds in its niches statues of Abraham, Melchisedech, Abel and Moses, men who are associated with sacrifice. The tabernacle is guarded by two worshipping