

Overview **BASILICA MINOR St. Valentine and Dionysius** **St. Michael's Chapel**



*Dear visitors and guests,
You have come here to marvel at
and enjoy buildings and works of art
wrought by centuries of labor.
We extend our heartfelt welcome.
The motivation and goal of all these artistic
endeavors was and remains the **PRAISE OF
GOD.***

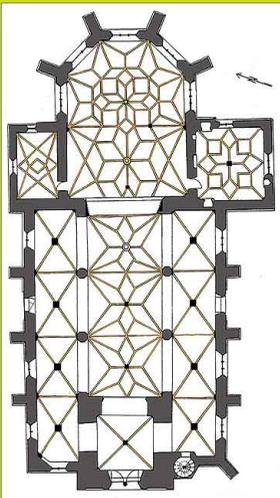
*We hope that you will allow this same
sentiment
to affect you – along with the aesthetics – and
that with the community it will cajole you into
silence
and that form of divine praise specially
nurtured here over the centuries:*



»We give You praise«

from: KYRIALE KIDERACENSE Missa 1

**Your Pastors Dr. Robert Nandkisore and Ralph
Senft**



Building layout: Basilica
of Saints Valentine and
Dionysius showing the
cross and star vaulting.

Donation of the skull relic of Saint Valentine by Eberbach
Monastery in the early 14th century made Kiedrich an important

CONSTRUCTION

First Romanesque/Carolingian church
(c.1050?), dedicated to **St. Dionysius**, is
indicated by the remaining foundations.

Gothic Church built between 1320 and 1380
on the foundation of the Romanesque church.
The side-aisles still remain.

pilgrimage site. The saint thus became the main patron of the church along with St. Dionysius. Relics and bust of St. Valentine were located on the high altar. Church patrons after 1490 were Saints Valentine and Dionysius.

St. Valentine is revered as the patron saint of »falling sicknesses« (epilepsy and other diseases) as well as of lovers, bridal couples and youths. After 1454 the pilgrimage to Kiedrich grew considerably.

The **expansion of St. Valentine's Church** (1460-1493) began with the large chancel. The magnificent double **star-vaulting** of the **chancel** was completed in 1481.

The additional **expansion of the hall into a nave with raised side galleries was finished in 1493**. This is indicated by the coat of arms of the presumed master builder, **Wolfgang Tenc's**, located in the vaulting, along with the corresponding year and stonemason's symbol.

FURNISHINGS

Almost the entire church furnishings from c. 1500 remain. It is therefore dubbed the »**Little Treasure Chest of the Gothic**«. One not only sees the Gothic construction but hears it in a **gothic triad**: in the unique form of **Gregorian Chant** only practiced here, in the Gothic **organ**, and in the sound of the medieval **bells**.

The Kiedrich Madonna, finished around 1330 (on a pedestal under the rood screen).

The crucifixion group built after 1500 in the triumphal cross archway with Christ's body sculpted by Peter Schro (Backoffen workshop in Mainz). Mary and John, in mourning are from Riemenschneider's school. The angels were purchased by Sir John Sutton.

The High Altar constructed in 1612, likely by Johann Frieß, as the grave altar of Caspar zu Eltz † 1619.

St. John's Altar (northern aisle) built c. 1510 by the unknown artist referred to as "The Master with the Bib", with St. John the

Evangelist, the Baptist, and the Threefold Anne (St. Anne with Virgin and Child), located in the northern side aisle.

St. Catherine's Altar, a grave altar from 1620 for the von Schwalbach family, in the southern side-aisle.

St. Margaret's Altar with sculptures from 1450 in the northern gallery.

The Marian Altar from around 1480 in the south gallery.

The rood screen reconstructed by Sir John Sutton in 1863/64 with use of the original remnants from the original rood screen (c. 1493).

The sacrament house built after 1481, with neogothic additions 1869/70.

Pulpit built in 1493 from sandstone in a hexagonal form, with the coat of arms of the donor Johann Knebel von Katzenelnbogen as well as the year of construction and stonecutter's symbol of the builder Wolfgang Tenc.

Choir benches with animal figures erected c. 1500 by an unknown artist.

Pews completed in 1510 by Erhart Falckener of Abensberg in Bavaria in bas-relief with numerous inscriptions and floral depictions. It is an extremely rare, completely preserved gothic set of pews. (Like the ones by same master in Bechtolsheim/Rheinhausen).

The windows in the northern side-aisle date mostly from the 14th century, and in the sacristy from 1490. Those in the southern side-aisle and in the chancel were charitably funded by Sir John Sutton and from 1870-78 created by the Flemish glass artists Jean de Bethune and Joseph Osterrath (Ghent, Belgium).

The organ dates from 1500, and is counted as one of the oldest playable organs in Germany with c. 950 pipes, of which c. 80% are original. It has a historical tonal composition comprised of a short octave, mid-range tone, and 21 registers. It has been kept in repair by several generations of Kiedrich organ builders.

Thanks to the great **benefactor of the church**, the Englishman Sir John Sutton, the organ was repaired in Bruges (Belgium) between

1858 and 1860 by Louis-Benoit Hooghuys. The magnificent shutters on the organ case were painted on both sides by the historical artist August F. Martin. The basic restoration performed between 1985 and 1987 by Orgelbau Kuhn (Zurich) safeguarded its condition.

Orgelpositiv (movable organ, in the choir) from 17th century Flanders, 5 registers, with mid-range tone; a gift of Sutton.

The bells in the tower ring with the following tones: F´ (1389), C´ (1513), E´ (1513), D´ (1868); those in the roof turret from the 15th century.

IN THE CHURCHYARD

The cruxifixion group, located within a tracework railing that was almost certainly part of the basilika's original rood screen. The thieves were sculpted in the Backoffen workshop. The crucifix dates from 1622.

The 14 stations of the cross were built from 1877 to 1880 in the workshop of Cypers and Stolzenberg in Roermond (Netherlands) during the Kulturkampf (a political fight between Bismarck and the Catholic Church, depicted in station 5). They were funded by charitable donations from Baron Sutton (13 stations) and Princess Sophie zu Löwenstein.

The gravestones located among the Stations of the Cross were originally in the church (dating from 15th to 17th centuries).

Headstones from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Tomb of Sir John Sutton 3th Baronet (northern churchyard)
† 1873 in Bruges, Belgium. Remains brought to Kiedrich in 1974.

He was Kiedrich's greatest patron and benefactor.

Kapelle St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel is considered the escort of the departed into the hereafter. Chapels devoted to him have as a rule an ossuary in the cellar.

Our **St. Michael's Chapel** is presumed to have been planned by **Nicolaus Eseler the Elder** and built by his father **Peter Eseler** in the years **1434-1444**. It is considered among the most noteworthy late Gothic structures on the Rhine.

Highlights: Stone lattice work of the tower roof, the **exterior pulpit** for preaching on pilgrimage days, **oriel window** on the east side; inside, the **net and star vaulting** as well as **the two-sided Madonna candelabra** by Peter Schro from c. 1520 (Backoffen school, Backoffen workshop).

CHORAL HIGH MASS

The mass is sung by the »**Kiedricher Chorbuben**«, a group comprised of boys and girls as well as men from the parish. Under the direction of the choir director they sing Gregorian Chant in the Old-Mainz version of the "Gothic Germanic Dialect". This special form of song is today regularly performed only in Kiedrich, where it has been sung with Papal authorization since 1333.

Mass times: German mass on the 1st Sunday of every month, a Choral High Mass on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday at 9:30. Current information available on the homepage or at parish office.

Choir museum contains handwritten and printed musical books dating back nearly 800 years.

Open hours: per appointment.

Kiedricher Chorbuben, Suttonstr. 1, D-65399 Kiedrich,

Tel. 06123-2810; Fax 06123-794773

Mail: info@kiedricher-chorbuben.de

Internet: www.kiedricher-chorbuben.de

**The St. Valentine and St. Dionysius
Parish Church in Kiedrich was elevated to a **BASILICA MINOR**
by Pope Benedict XVI on June 29th, 2010,
on the feast day of the Apostles Peter and Paul.**

Open hours:

BASILICA MINOR (outside church services)

Mar. to Oct.: weekdays 10:30am – 12:30pm,

Saturdays 10:30am – 12:30pm and 14:30pm - 16:30pm

Sundays/Holidays: 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Nov. to Feb.: Saturdays 10:30am – 12:30 pm

Sundays/Holidays 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

St. Michael's Chapel March to October:

daily from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Literature, Postcards, Recordings and more info:

Media about the church and its artistic treasures as well as CDs and music cassettes from the organ and the choir can be purchased during church open hours. They can also be purchased in the Krechel store on Marktstrasse 18, as well after tours, and on Sundays after the High Mass on the merchandise table in front of the main door of the church.

Church Tours

Sundays following the Choral High Mass (free tour, we ask only that you make a donation for the preservation of St.Valentine's Basilica).

On **work days** tours are by appointment only, the same with organ recitals (cost to be negotiated).

Direct your requests to:

Kath. Pfarrei St. Peter und Paul Rheingau, Kirchort Kiedrich

Marktstr. 26, D-65399 Kiedrich,

Tel: 06123-2421,

Fax: 06123-799944,

email: pfarrei@peterundpaul-rheingau.de

Internet: www.peterundpaul-rheingau.bistumlimburg.de

www.kiedrich-kirche.de (in development)

© Kath. Pfarrei St. Peter und Paul Rheingau
Kirchort Kiedrich

04/2016 W. Kremer; transl. from the German text by
Dr. John Jefferson of Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.