

## Station 14 – Catholic Church St. Andreas

At the former location of the Lady Chapel, today's parish church was built.

As a former burial chapel of the Sickinger – already mentioned in 1496 in a document as “capella beatae Mariae in oppido” - in 1725 the Lady Chapel was closed and demolished because of disrepair.

The old St. Andreas Church, today's Old Chapel, Station 3, has structurally been affected because of its old age and the constant military devastation.

Therefore the catholic community Landstuhl with its 400 members resolved a new construction of the church.

The building of the new church began in 1751, after more than 20 years of briefing. The auxiliary bishop of Worms inaugurated it two years later.

The Sickinger reign took the funding of the building of the church in the form of material services. The citizens of Landstuhl and vicinity had to make compulsory labor. The then-catchment area of the catholic country chapter consisted of 24 parishes.

The spacious nave, with four window axes and 5-sided border is northern-oriented and is attached to the 200 year old five-floored tower of the old city wall. The fortified tower became the bell tower, whereby the original spiky tower got degraded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century because of disrepair and got replaced by a schistose pyramidal roof.

Originally, the light-flooded room was painted inside. Today, the ceiling painting, fixed from Italian painters, is also not visible anymore.

Through two similar designed portals, flanked by pillars, you get to the church interior, in which some remarkable sights can be visited.

The high altar, the cup-shaped baptismal font made of domestic material, the gallery, the stoup in the style of rococo, the choir stall with carvings and the crest of the Sickinger, the confessional boxes and the communion rails stem from the building time of the church.

The pulpit was built in 1804. The classical side altars were consecrated to Maria, the mother of god and St. Judokus.

The oil paintings, which show the way of the cross, stem from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as well as the wooden figures of Maria and Joseph.

The monumental gravestone from Franz von Sickinger, made of bright sandstone, at the inner west wall of the St. Andreas church, show the chevalier as a larger-than-life full relief in armor, standing on a lion, to demonstrate strength. Reportedly, it was commissioned by his sons, in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Throughout the centuries, the monument had several locations and it got damaged again and again through shifts as well as through French revolutionary troops.

Below the high altar is the grave of the Sickinger. After the demolition of the Lady Chapel, it got relocated into today's St. Andreas Church.

In the past centuries, the grave got opened again and again, in order to find the mortal remains of Franz von Sickinger. At the opening of the grave in 1939, the alleged mortal remains of Franz von Sickinger were brought to the anthropological institute Munich, for investigation. A fire, caused by a bomb attack in World War II, destroyed the last rest of certainty about the destination of the mortal remains of Franz von Sickinger, “the last chevalier”.