

## History

### 6th to 9th century

The date when the construction of the first church „St Martin's“ started can not be accurately determined.

### About 1110 A.D.

The Citizens of Remagen aimed for and backed the founding of a priory under the supervision of the Benedictine abbey of Siegburg.

### July 23rd 1164

On this day, according to legend, the Archbishop of Cologne was sailing on the Rhine with the relics of the Three Magi. The ship stops at Remagen and control of the ship's rudder is only possible after the relics of St Apollinaris being part of the freight have been carried up to Martin's Mount.

### 1295

The name of St Apollinaris is mentioned in an official document for the first time.

### 1526

The legend of St Apollinaris appears in print for the first time.



### 1836

Baron (from 1840 onwards Count) Franz Egon von Fürstenberg-Stammheim obtains the monastery which had been dissolved by the French State in 1802.

### 1839

Start of building work on the new Church.

### March 24th 1857

Consecration of St Apollinaris' Church and takeover of the monastery by the Franciscans.

### July 23rd 1857

Return of St Apollinaris' skull to the church.

### 1972

Construction of the new monastery for the monks.

### 2006

The Franciscans leave the monastery after 150 years on the „mount“.

### 2007

The Bishop of Trier hands over the monastery and spiritual welfare of St Apollinaris' Mount to the „Community of the Crucified and Resurrected Love“. The church buildings are now owned by a Foundation.



## General information

### Pilgrimage:

The Pilgrimage starts the last weekend but one in July and lasts 14 days. It attracts a lot of pilgrims, who want to receive God's blessing by the „placing of the head“.



### Guided tours:

Groups will be given a guided tour of the church and gardens after having reported to the monastery beforehand.

### Religious Service (Holy Mass):

Wednesday and Saturday: 18:00

Sunday: 10:30

On Sundays there is a reception in the monastery or in the garden if the weather permits (until 16:30).

### Church Opening Times:

Daily from 09:00 to 18:00.

From May to September: 09:00 to 20:00.

The crypt and garden are open on Sundays after Mass until 16:30.

### Contact (Monastery):

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### (Sponsor)

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# St Apollinaris pilgrimage church in Remagen



St Apollinaris' pilgrimage church in Remagen, constructed by the Cologne Cathedral builder Ernst Friedrich Zwirner, can certainly be called one of the most significant new 19th century churches in Rhineland. An earlier church on the site, St Martin's, had to be torn down because it was dilapidated and unsafe. The foundation stone was laid in 1839 and the building work was finished in 1843. The church was completed and consecrated in 1857. The extensive decoration took a lot of time. The inner church walls are entirely covered with murals done mostly in

the fresco technique. St Apollinaris' is a totally unique construction, built completely in the Neo-Gothic style. Every detail, be it the confessional, the pulpit, the main porch or the high altar, is in complete harmony. The wonderful panorama with its amazing view over the Rhine and the cultivated gardens offer suitable surroundings.

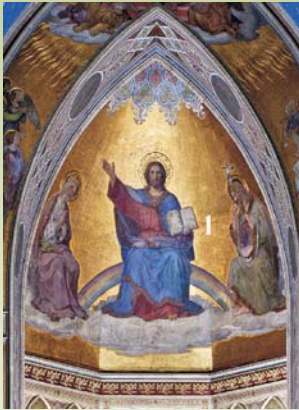


# The Frescoes

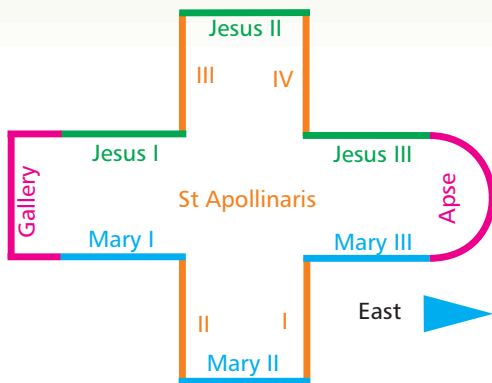
St Apollinaris' Church was planned especially to make room for the large-sized frescoes. Most Gothic churches were built with numerous windows to allow for abundant light, but here the priority was for a lot of "wall space" to accommodate the frescoes by the Nazarene artists **Ernst Deger, Andreas and Karl Müller and Franz Ittenbach**. All of these four artists belonged to the Düsseldorf School of Painting which at that time was led by Wilhelm von Schadow. For almost ten years they worked every summer for six months to complete the extensive works: **69 pictures with about 580 figures**.

The frescoes comprise the following main themes: **the Life of Jesus, the Life of Mary and the Life of St Apollinaris**.

The **Apse** is dominated by the representation of **Jesus as Judge of the World**, accompanied by Mary and John the Baptist. Below, in the middle, are **St Peter and St Apollinaris**, and on both sides the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, John and Luke can be seen. Over the side altars we find representations of Mary and Joseph.



A **Dove**, symbolizing the **Holy Ghost**, decorates the **keystone**.



## The Life of Jesus

Immediately left of the entrance, **the Birth of Jesus** is portrayed (I), on the north wall of the transept **the Crucifixion** is the central pictorial theme (II), and on the left side of the choir **the Resurrection and the Ascension of Jesus** (III).



## The Life of Mary

On the right of the entrance a picture of **Mary's birth** is over one depicting **important women of the Old Testament** (I). On both sides of the south window, **the Annunciation of Mary** (II), and on the south side of the Choir, **the Death and Assumption of Mary** into heaven (III).



## The Life of St Apollinaris

A series of paintings starting on the south side of the Choir, show **St Apollinaris' consecration as bishop** (I), followed clockwise by: **The raising of a dead person, collapse of Jupiter's Monument, and the Death of St Apollinaris**.



# The Crypt

The fact that the previous 12th century church had a triple nave was already an indication of the importance of St Martin's Church and the priory of the Benedictine monastery.



The relics of St Apollinaris had an eventful history over the centuries. Duke Wilhelm I stole them in 1383 and took them to Düsseldorf. Only the skull was hidden in Landskron Castle and therefore remained in the possession of the monastery. In 1793 the skull was taken to Siegburg to be protected from the French, after which in 1812 it was moved to the remaining relics to Düsseldorf.

In 1826 after intensive negotiations the skull was transferred back to Remagen parish church, and on July 23rd 1857 it was brought back to St Apollinaris' Church. Today the skull lies in the crypt in a stone sarcophagus from the 14th century of which only the lid was renewed in 1857. In a ceremony at the start of the pilgrimage, the parish priest who is in charge of the Relic, raises the skull to bless the town and the state.

With the laying of the skull on their heads, believers in the church receive God's blessing.

Also in the crypt, there is a moving, life-sized wooden Crucifix (probably 17th century) the exact origin of which is not known.

