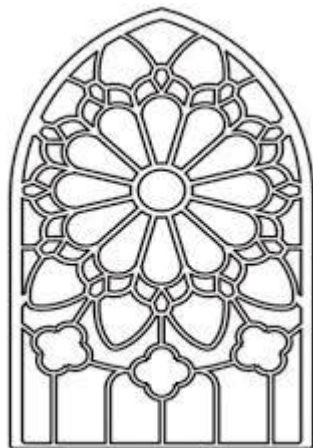


**A Guide
to the
Stained Glass Windows
of
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Catholic Church
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio**



Overview of the Windows

Windows 1-3 These west-facing windows depict the Trinity and, like the Trinity, are three in one.

Windows 4-6 These east-facing windows depict the seven sacraments through which we experience God's holy presence.

Windows 7-12 These south-facing windows represent the two life lines of Catholicism: Sacred scripture and Tradition. It is through these that we come to know God in a personal and communal way.

Windows 13-22 Lining both sides of the nave, these windows represent ten virtues. As Christians, we are called to live a life of virtue as witnessed by the saints.

Window 23 In this window in the choir loft, we honor our patroness, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in a beautiful rose window in the choir loft.

Details of the Windows

Windows 1-3 The Trinity Window These three windows are designed as one, reflecting the theology of the Trinity. Our God is one, yet God is also a mystery of three persons -Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Window 1 Creation

The left lancet depicts God the Father Creator. The hand of God sends forth the rays of creation and grace. This is the God that breathed life and spirit into all that lives, breathes, and moves -stars, planets, the sun and moon, comets, creatures of the earth and sky, water and land. Man and woman are made in the image of God who bestows upon us life and free will. God our Father also gives us His commandments.

Window 2 Redemption

The center lancet depicts the second person of the Trinity, the son, Jesus Christ. He is the Lamb sacrificed so that all may be saved. The Lamb is standing on the book of the seven seals from the Book of Revelation. We proclaim in faith that Christ will come again.

Window 3 Sanctification

The right lancet depicts the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that binds our community of faith together through baptismal waters. The Spirit bestows on us the gifts of knowledge, wisdom, understanding, right judgement, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Windows 4-6 The Sacraments

These windows are designed as one because it is through the sacraments that we come to be part of the one body of Christ.

Window 4 Baptism, Reconciliation, and Confirmation

The upper left depicts Baptism depicted by the Paschal Candle and flowing water. Reconciliation is depicted by the stole the priest wears when he stretches out his hand to forgive sins. Confirmation is depicted by the dove and fire, two of the four ways the Holy Spirit is depicted in scripture.

Window 5 Eucharist

The source and summit of our lives is depicted with the consecrated Host, grapes, and wheat. It is from the Eucharist that all the other sacraments are given life and meaning.

Window 6 Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick

Matrimony is depicted by interlocking rings of love, heart to heart, life to life, with Christ and the Church. Holy Orders is depicted by the open Bible from which priests and deacons teach and the stole worn by the priest. The shepherd's crook represents the role of the bishop as shepherd of the faithful. The final symbol is the anointing of the sick, depicted by a hand reaching out to bless with the oil of the sick.

Window 7 St. Matthew the Evangelist

The gospel which gives us Jesus' lineage is shown as a thorn growing from its root, the Start of David, from whose royal line Jesus descends. From the star springs the Mystical Rose, Mary, who gave her consent to be the mother of the Messiah.

Window 8 St. Peter

Jesus told him, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church." Peter, the first leader of the Church, is symbolized by the keys to the Kingdom given to him by Christ and the shepherd's staff or crosier, a sign of the authority of the bishop. He was the first bishop of Rome.

Window 9 St. Mark the Evangelist

In his gospel, Mark emphasized Christ's life on earth and Christ as the King. The orb of the earth shown suggests his earthly being, the cross his sacrifice, and the crown his majesty as Messiah King.

Window 10 St. Luke the Evangelist

Luke's gospel presents more of the sacrificial nature of Jesus' life. This is depicted in the cross upon which Christ sacrificed himself for us as the perfect sacrifice.

Window 11 St. Paul

Before his conversion to Christ, Paul persecuted the early Christians. His experience of the risen Lord turned him around, and he became a strong leader and defender of the faith. He is remembered for his preaching of Christ risen from the dead, symbolized by the flourishing palm.

Window 12 St. John

This gospel tells of the wondrous deeds of Jesus that all might believe in Him. This window depicts Jesus as the vine from whom we, the branches receive all life and nourishment.

Window 13 Justice

This virtue is depicted by the traditional sword of justice upon which the balance scales suspend. This suggests the coming return of Christ. These symbols are set against the shield of Justice who is God.

Window 14 Prudence

This is suggested by the compass formed by the Chi Ro (a symbol of Christ) which guides the ship, the Church, and each of us, over turbulent waters.

Window 15 Temperance

From a triangle suggesting the Trinity hangs a pendulum, a reminder that we are called to make wise decisions between right and wrong.

Window 16 Fortitude

The olive branch lays across a Roman sword here on the cross, the symbol of martyrdom and sacrifice. We need fortitude to remain strong in our faith even to the giving up of our life if need be.

Window 17 Humility

The humble birth of our Savior is shown. He was the Son of God, Messiah, and yet chose to be born in a lowly stable.

Window 18 Charity

The virtue of charity is depicted by recalling Jesus' feeding of the multitude with a few loaves of bread and some fish.

Window 19 Hope

The anchor and waters here remind us that in the roughest waters of life we can always find hope in the mystery of God's love and mercy.

Window 20 Faith

This virtue is depicted by reminding us of Abraham's complete faith in God when he was asked to sacrifice his only son. Before he struck the blow, God stopped him and provided a ram for the sacrifice. Abraham, by this action, would be blessed to be the father of God's chosen people.

Window 21 Patience

This window reflects the patience seen in the abstract story of Job. The tree, cold and alone, survives through the grace of God shown by the sun. We, in turn, survive if we strive to reach for God.

Window 22 Mercy

In this window, we see the head of Christ set within the cross and the words, “Father, forgive them!” spoken by Christ before his death. We are called to live out the same kind of mercy toward all.

Window 23 The Great Rose Window of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Our parish name sake is given a special place of honor in our church. Mary, the perfect disciple, exhibited in her life, her work, her words, and her motherhood all the virtues. She is for us a role model and perfect example of Christian living. We pray that our hearts be continuously cleansed through virtue, through the Word of God, and through the sacraments of the Church so that we, too, might come to know Christ Jesus in a personal way and know who He is calling us to be.



