

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH ~ MANCHESTER



~ Stained Glass Window Depiction ~

The loving Will of our Heavenly Father sent us Jesus, His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through the Virgin Mary. With her humble reply, "Let it be done to me according to Your Word" (Luke 1:38), Jesus became incarnate in her. And through her, Jesus was born Savior of the World!

From the cross of our salvation (John 19:26-27), Jesus gave us His Mother, showing us love that never ends. This great window illumines St. Mary, humbly living the love of the Blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Replacing the original 1872 church, this new church was dedicated in 1964, following the Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity, our parish cluster name today.

Immediately upon entering the main body of the church the attention is drawn to the altar area backed by the 50' x 30' faceted glass wall. Imported from France, the window art was designed especially for the church by renowned artist, Louis Rene Petit, and the window was made by D'Almans Studio of Paris. It is believed to be the largest window of its kind in the United States, incorporating ninety-one sections of faceted glass pieces varying from 3/4" to 1/2" thick which were chipped from larger glass billets producing the gem-like facets of color ranging from deep blue to gold.

Designed in three levels, the great window shines through the 7000lb white marble Altar from France. At this first level, the Altar connects Earth to Heaven. Heaven comes down to Earth at every Mass! Divine descent is colorfully seen, left to right: Annunciation, Birth of Jesus, Virgin and Child, and Dormition of Mary. In the greatest act of humility, God reaches down to us.

The second level is above the Altar. The Holy Spirit, with red flames of light, lifts-up the Church at prayer with Mary, left to right: Pentecost, Assumption, and Coronation of Mary. Together we are unified in prayer! The Resurrection of Jesus makes the Assumption of Mary a sign of Hope for us. The Assumption is a mandate of the Divine Will. Centered in the elliptical blue universe, Our Lady of Grace stretches her hands out to help us into the Kingdom of God.

At the third and highest level, Old and New Testaments find their fulfilled in Our Lord Jesus humbly born of the Virgin. As we pray in the Litany of Loretto, we acknowledge God's glorious design for the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mystical Rose, Tower of David, Tower of Ivory, House of Gold, Ark of the Covenant, and Morning Star. Impressionistic rays of light cause us to search out the deeper meanings of Heavenly virtue, living in God's Will for us. We pray, "Let it be done to me according to Your Word."



Like an interactive treasure map, let's follow the path of the Will of God. Jesus becomes man, through Mary, so that we may be saved and actively share in His Divinity forever! Each depiction is not only an historical event, it is an eternal spiritual relationship that personally involves us. Desire God's Will before all things for it is within your reach. There is freedom in following God's plan. Open the eyes of your heart and unite your will to His!

1. The Annunciation

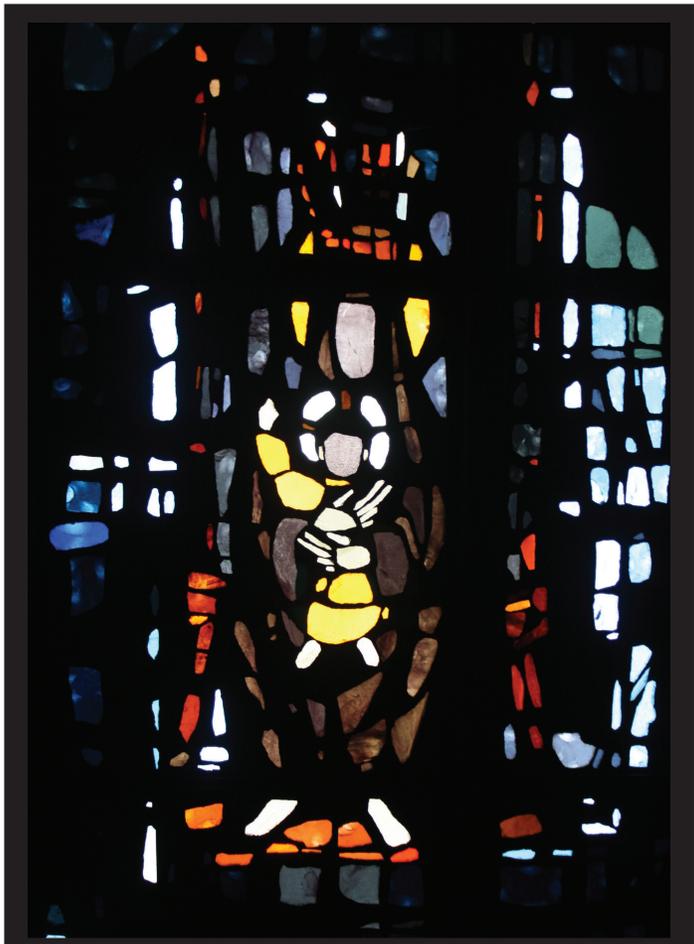
Aflame as a dove, the Holy Spirit descends upon Mary who is kneeling before the Angel Gabriel. His wings are golden amber like the Spirit, his finger points to Heaven in a river of light announcing: "Hail (Mary) full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). More than being subject to or obedient, purest love is a union of will! Mary does not seek her will, but God's. With total trust, unite your will to God's like Mary. Doing so is most pleasing to God. Give Jesus all your cares and everything that concerns you. Accept what He gives you, even if it is difficult. Doing God's Will is worth more than a million successes according to our own will and pleasure.



Marriage is a Sacred Covenant with Jesus Christ, freely uniting a man and woman, for the pro-creation of children and the mutual love of the husband and wife. Love another as Christ loves the Church, self-sacrificing for the good of the other. Family life is also to exemplify the personal love of the Blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are children of God. We participate, not only in God's design, but in His life! As Jesus taught us to pray to our Heavenly Father, "Thy Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." Our receptivity to do God's Will is essential.

2. The Birth of Jesus

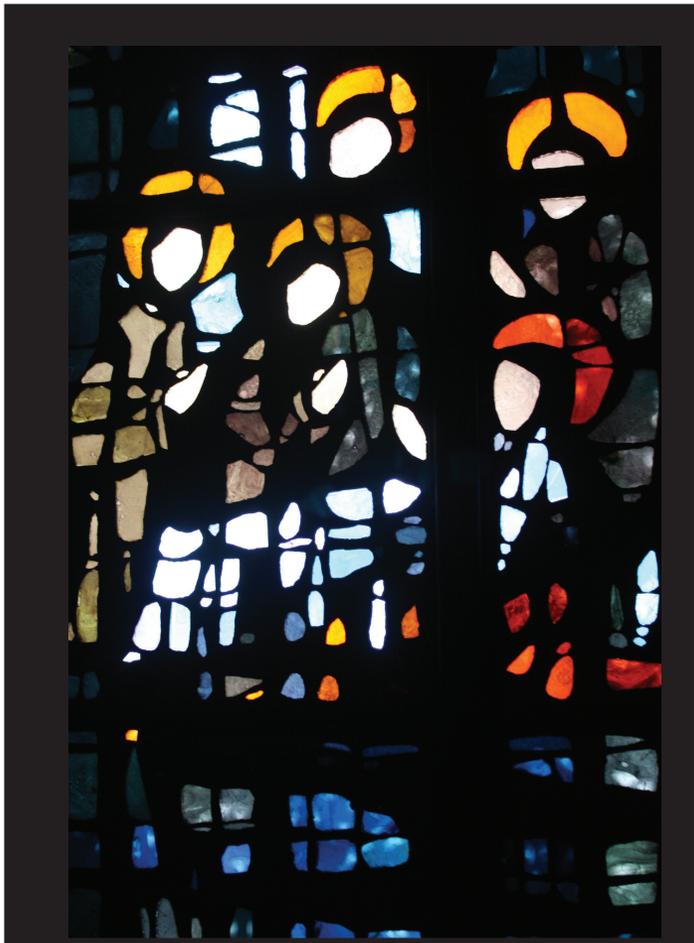
See the Baby Jesus in the manger bathed in light from the star overhead. With Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family gathers for this Christmas photo. Look at the meaning of the colors! Like our families, there is a lot more going on behind the scene: singing angels, shepherds and animals, wise men, Sacred Scripture, Salvation of the World! (Read Luke 1-2, Matthew 1-2) We are also called to bear Jesus into this world. The Master has need of us! God's forgiveness, healing and Divine Mercy takes us from the crib to the cross to eternity.



Traditionally titled, Seat of Wisdom, Mary bears Jesus, The Eternal Wisdom, for all the world to know and love! Even before He was born, filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth cried out, “Most Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb... Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled” (Luke 1:42-45). Jesus living in us is God’s Will and Wisdom. At the wedding feast of Cana, Mary tells the servants then as she advises us today, “Do whatever He (Jesus) tells you” (John 2:5). The cure to cluelessness.

3. The Virgin and Child

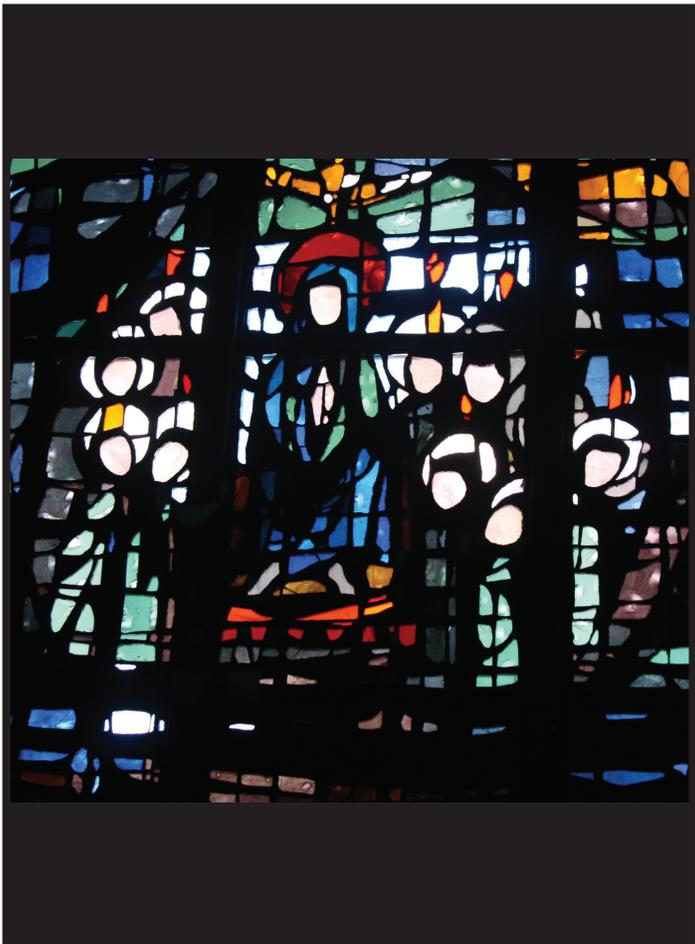
Baby Jesus, both fully God and man, is as bright as the sun! With raised arm, His Divine Kingship saves and sanctifies Queen Mother Mary, enthroned and crowned in fiery color. Where Jesus is, you will always find His Mother. Notice both of their feet, identifying their full humanity. We struggle to do God’s Will the way God would have us do it. Jesus would pray three times to the Father: Your Will be done! (Matthew 26:31-46) We too have a private Gethsemane where we learn to pray: Thy Will be done, Lord Jesus! Jesus calls us to unity of will, “Remain in Me and I will remain in you.” (John 15:4)



In perfect unity to the Will of God, Mary accompanied Jesus through all of His sufferings and death on the Cross (John 19:25). Our Lady of Sorrows has suffered with Jesus for us! On behalf of her Son, whose Body is the Church, she suffers mystically for us today. Next to her Divine Son, she has suffered more for each one of us than anyone else ever has. Do you ever feel lazy, skipping Mass, neglecting sincere heartfelt prayer? Are you distracted by work, entertainments, plans that exclude Jesus? Consider your death and personal judgement.

4. The Dormition of Mary

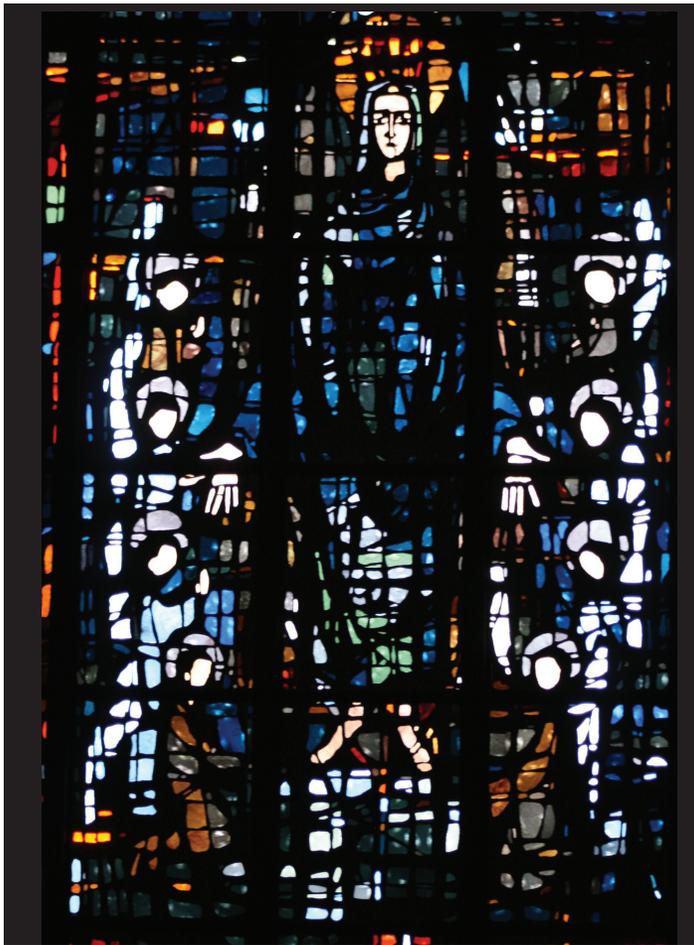
Glowing in holiness, Mary falls asleep among the disciples and the angels come to take her to Heaven. Our earthly journey quickly ends. We like the angels and saints have important spiritual missions to accomplish in God's Will. With Jesus and Mary, have no fear of pain or death. Only self-will can cast you into hell. Consecrate yourself to the Will of God, saying, "Jesus, I trust in You. Thy Will be done!" Stop thinking about yourself and your opinions. Everything can be repaired by living in Jesus. Be ready to meet Him.



In every age, Mary is the loving Mother of the Church, who prays with us for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. “All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren” (Acts 1:14). To share in His Divinity, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, bearing gifts to give us: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Good Counsel, Courage, Piety and Awesome Respect for the Lord (Fear of the Lord). These produce good fruit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Self-control and more!

5. Pentecost

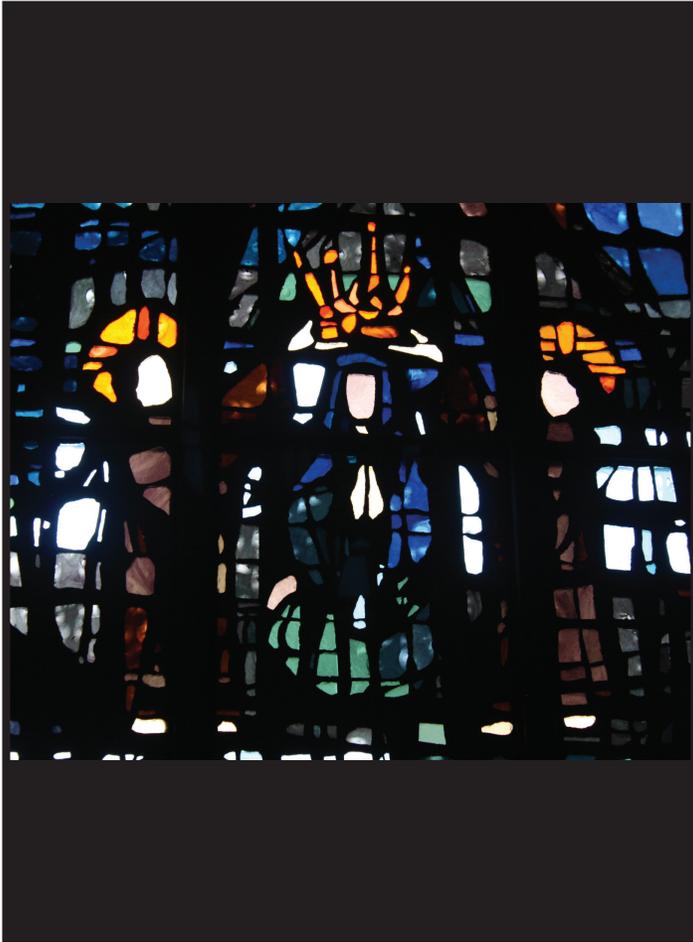
Again, aflame as a dove, the Holy Spirit descends upon Mary and the Apostles gathered in prayer. Look at Mary’s hands. Ponder the array of persons and color: each with a special mission from God. Are you there, gathered around Mary, praying to receive a new and powerful outpouring of the Spirit? What is your spiritual mission/purpose? Are you open to the Holy Spirit giving you a new mission? Mary’s mission is not over. As at the beginning of the Church, Jesus gives us the help of His Mother. Mary helps us to pray together, completely open to the Spirit of God.



“Having completed the course of her Earthly life, Mary was assumed body and soul into Heavenly glory.” God is active and at work in our world. Little is needed to become a Saint; being “little” is required. The necessity of littleness opens the way for God to act. Forget about yourself and look to what God is doing. A little child of God wants what He wants, loves what He loves and focuses on what He does. We will what He Will. If there is something that is contrary to God’s Will, abandon it immediately! By His Own design and for His Own purpose, God is working through Mary.

6. Assumption of Mary

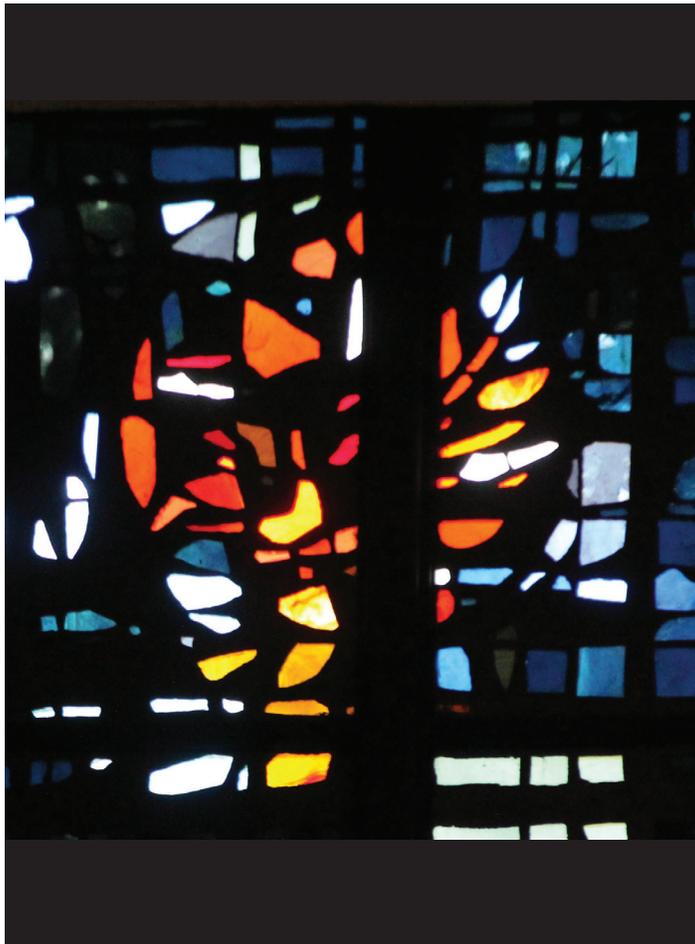
Gaze into this dynamic celebration of angels lifting-up Mary. Look how her hands reach out to us. Notice the detail of each finger. With Heavenly rays streaming from her fingers; each with three rings, we are reminded that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared this way to St. Catherine Laboure in Paris (1830). The inscription above her reads, “O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse the thee.” Flip to the front cover to see how the Assumption is centered in the elliptical blue universe according to the Divine Will. God continues to send Mary to help us. Reach up and take her hand.



As Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Mary is always beside the Tabernacle. At every Mass, Mary is there. Jesus and Mary always go together! This is a living relationship with us. The Church is not a museum, it is the Body of Christ, living, growing to bear good fruit. The fruit of God's love is true happiness. When the soul is at peace, one forgets quarrels, deceptions and jealousies, and breathes in the fresh air of joy. Inner joy comes from living and doing God's Holy Will, that heals the soul, draws us to God, yields lasting happiness and readies us for Heaven.

7. Coronation of Mary

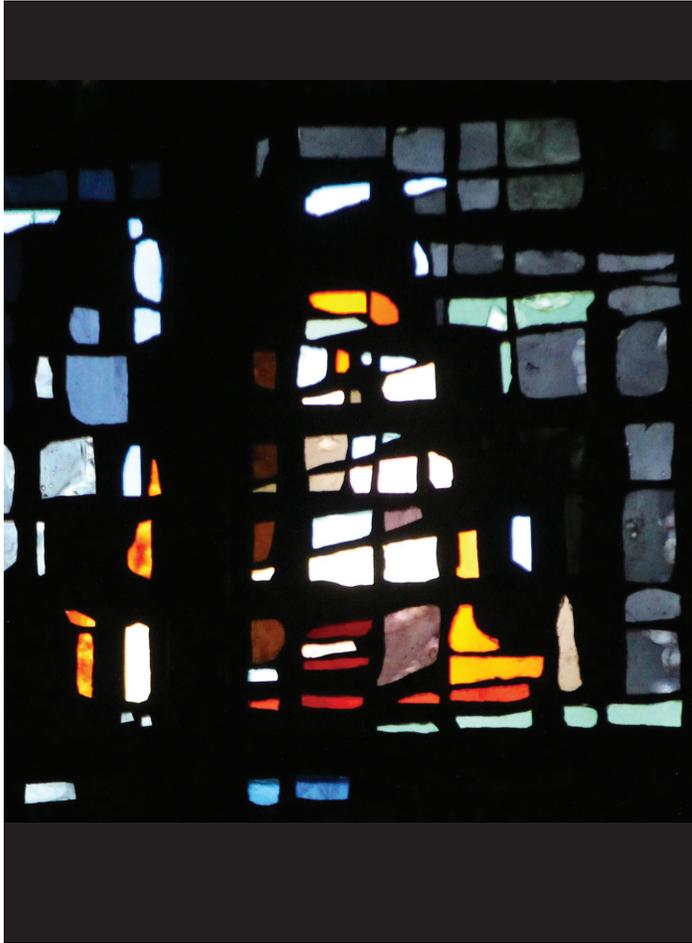
Look at that glorious crown! Mighty angels doing the Will of God crown Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth, Queen of Angels and Saints. Only God could do this. (Rev 12:1) In humility, Mary is kneeling, with her foot visible telling us she is still merely human, just like us. Her hands are in front of her, folded in prayer. She is praying for us! She is not only the Queen of Heaven but also the Mother of Mercy. Mary is forever dedicated to helping us here on Earth! She draws us deeper into the life of Jesus. This is the Will of God, our sanctification. Entrust your life to God and accept all that comes from Him.



This great window is spiritually charged with the Beatific Vision. At the very highest level, the Old and New Testaments, including all the people of God, are fulfilled in the Kingdom of Heaven. We need eyes of faith to see it. If hardship, failure or brokenness has blinded you as in a fog, let Mary help you to see with new eyes. Mary's complete openness and union in God's Will calls us to share in Christ's glory. Our prayer becomes a rose with the words of the Angel Gabriel, "Hail (Mary) full of grace, the Lord is with you" collected as the spiritual bouquet of the Most Holy Rosary.

8. Mystical Rose

High above, look at the shapes and colors of God's Rose, blossoming for us with open integrity, harmony and radiance. Releasing the most delightful fragrance, His Rose is the royal flower. By His grace, Mary has the sweetness of sanctity and the beauty of every Heavenly virtue. From the Old Testament Song of Songs 2:1, "I am the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley." The Song of Songs was read during Passover and on feast days in the synagogue resounding with God's personal love for His people. Mary was saved by Jesus before she was conceived. Jesus saved us while we were still sinners.



Jesus is victorious over sin and death. How He loves our personal cooperation! Mary's role is to crush the head of the evil one (Genesis 3:15). As the New Eve, the Queen of Heaven destroys the devil's kingdom of deception. By God's design, Mary is our strong defense, keeping us closest to Christ. Life was rough in the Old Testament, tough during the New and very difficult today. In Jesus, the power of death will not destroy and the gates of hell will not close in upon us (Matthew 16:18). For each soul, a spiritual war rages on!

9. Tower of David

See how the tower is ramped up for battle. From its foundation, the brilliance of colors tells us that the tower is built by Divine Power: living stones! Built up over time, in the lineage of David, Mary stands as a tower of strength and protection. That's why the United States of America is consecrated under the protection of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let's draw close to her for protection from the attacks of the world, the flesh and the devil. The Kingdom of God, through the ages, is unconquered, undefeated and uncompromised.



We are so concerned about very pure water, clean air, sanitized food, anti-bacterial soap, and pristine health. Yet show little concern for our culture of death, the evil in our media and entertainment. Without spiritual purity, our souls drink in the sewers of the world and vomit it up upon others. Purity is necessary for the well-being of our senses, our will, our intentions, in all our thoughts, words and deeds. What pleases God and what does not is authentically taught by Holy Mother Church. Holy purity is granted by God when we ask with humility and use the wisdom of self-discipline.

10. Tower of Ivory

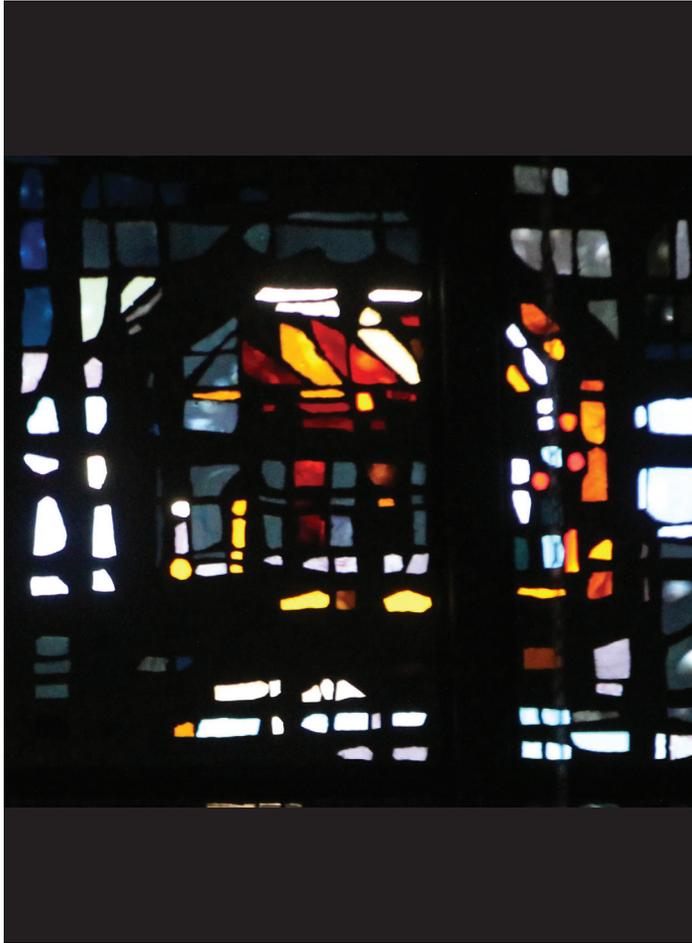
See the golden turrets at the top. The tower is shielded by Light! Let us focus our hearts on Jesus and Mary. Purity is a powerful defense against evil. Evil will attack and our sure defense is virtue in unity with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, if we keep our hearts clean and pure. "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). Our Lady of Fatima said, "More souls go to hell for sins of the flesh than for any other reason." Avoid impure images, language and near occasions of sin.



Amidst serious difficulties, cry out, “Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now!” says St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, “I must admit, this prayer has never failed me.” Never be afraid of loving Mary too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did. She will help you to be closest to Him. Don’t presume to look for mercy from Jesus, if you offend His Mother! The Son of God became man for our salvation but only in Mary and through Mary, according to the Will of the Father.

11. House of Gold

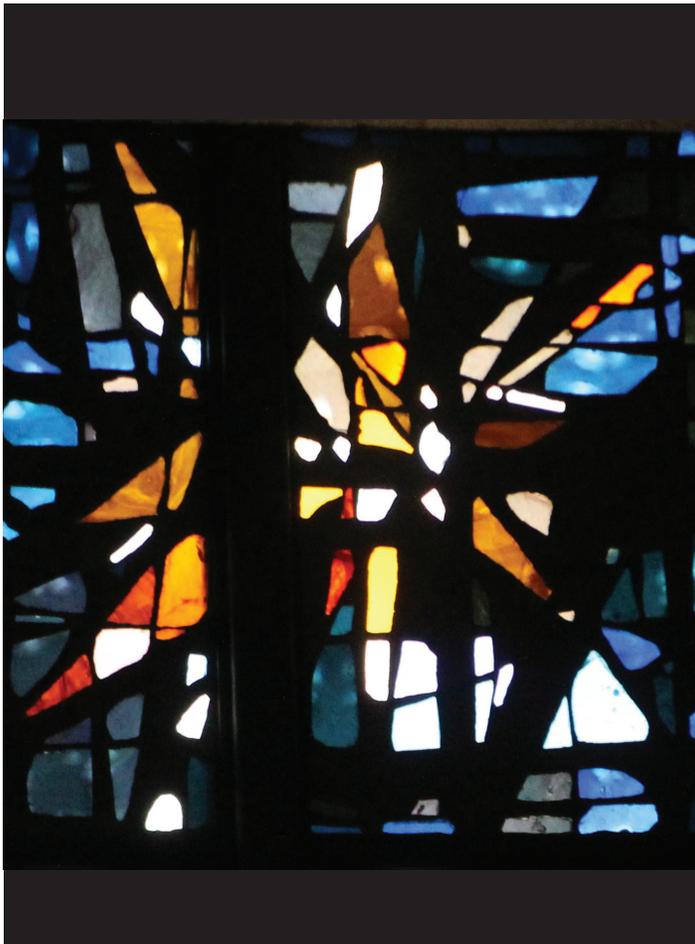
Note the detail of the exterior architecture. See how the arched windows are filled with golden light, telling us that the treasure is interior. Now go inside: Jesus is the treasure of the greatest eternal value. Mary housed Jesus within her, body and soul. Yet, Mary’s mission does not end there. God’s immense love, rich with tender mercy, is for us all. His very nature is to give the joy of new life! Mary invites us in a special way to dwell with Jesus, united in the purest love.



The Old Testament God told Moses specially how to build the Ark of the Covenant in which was housed the 10 Commandments and manna from Heaven. Mary “housed” Jesus: The Eternal Word of God, the New Covenant, the Holy Eucharist. What God did in Mary is extended to all of God’s children. She houses us in the truth of Jesus Christ. She gives us spiritual protection, when we ask for help. She carries us forward to dwell with Jesus in the Kingdom of Heaven! She is the creation of God’s unique design.

12. Ark of the Covenant

Study this photo of highly placed gemstones, in light and color, for structure and meaning. This is the work of God. Nothing we make lasts for very long, only God’s work lasts forever. “Then God’s temple in Heaven was opened, and the ark of His covenant could be seen in his temple... A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth” (Rev 11:19 – 12:2). Mary symbolizes all God’s people in the Old and New Testament.



Heaven is on the move as never before! Start each day with morning prayer: desiring God's Will in holiness every step of the way. Do you have suffering now? Remember, you have all eternity for ecstatic joy! We too share in Christ's victory of over sin and death. Let nothing rob you of the peace and joy that is yours. United to Christ, trust that His Will be done.

13. Morning Star

While still night, power rays of Divine Light burst forth to herald the Sunrise that will end the darkness. "The path of the just is as the light of the morning star, that shines more and more until the day is perfect" (Proverbs 4:18). "Just as I receive authority from My Father. And to Him I will give the morning star" (Rev 2:28). Interestingly, with Jesus as the sun, the Light of Day, Scripture refers both to Jesus and Mary. "I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the brightest morning star" (Rev 22:16). Let's be one in Jesus Christ, now and forever!

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins my Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me, Amen.

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

Mary's response to God's incredible Grace is a model for us. In humility, she proclaims a psalm of praise as a servant of the Lord.

And Mary said:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me
blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things
for me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm,
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their
hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones,
and exalted those of low degree;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.”

Luke 1:46-55

100th Anniversary

June 1, 1919 - 2019



Council #1962

To God be the Glory!

Photography by Edwin Geers