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Stained Glass Window Meditations by Livia Lagomasino

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# Stained Glass Window Meditations



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Chapel of the Blessed  
Sacrament

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St. John Neumann Church

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# The Resurrection

*John 20*

## Window 30-32

These glorious last windows are images of the Resurrection; Jesus' divinity shining through the Redemptive Cross

The windows are artistically designed to come together with the windows of Creation. The colors and brightness of the resurrected cross are similar to the presence of God in Creation

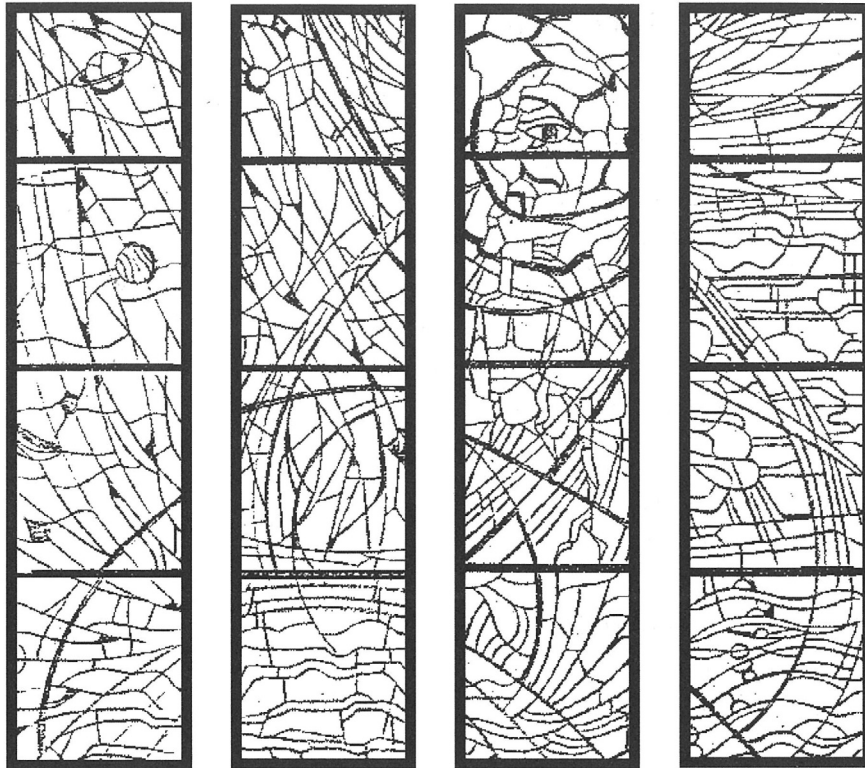
The burial garment in an empty tomb and the presence of the Angel of the Lord revealing that Jesus had been raised symbolize that he is with the Father in his glorified humanity.

### Thought

Jesus' life was a loving dialogue of obedience to the Father. His Father's answer was in the Resurrection

### Prayer

Loving Father, we thank you for your gift of new life. Help us to make things new and to see you in all we do. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.



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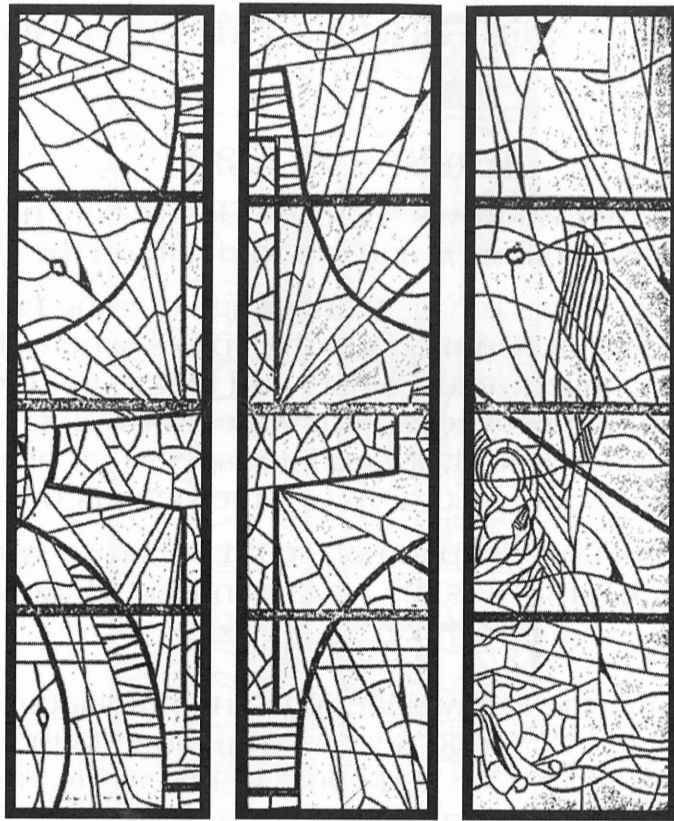
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## Introduction

The circle of stained glass windows that decorate the blessed sacrament chapel illustrates the history of salvation; the story of God's love for his creation from the very beginning when He made the heaven and Earth, coming full circle to the Resurrection of Jesus.

In spite of original sin, salvation for all people was assured through the patriarchs, prophets and finally through His Son, Jesus Christ, the "Word made flesh".



30

31

32

### *John 20*

*On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."*

## Creation Windows

*Genesis 1*

### *First Story of Creation.*

*In the beginning, when God created the heaven and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night".*

### **Window 1-4**

The first stained glass windows depict the Biblical story of Creation.

In the beginning was God and God alone, the Word of God creating a majestic and divine orderly universe, out of nothing.

The sequence of the windows show, in extraordinary beauty, images of rushing blue waters, curved lines separating the seas from the land, planets, the firmament and all the luminaries in the sky.

The brilliant sun on the last window is an explosion of light and colors with the eye of the hidden God as an expression of His glorious presence in Creation.

### **Thought**

Genesis, the star of Salvation history, talks to us of creativity, power and faithful love; divine spirit in an ongoing process, shaping the universe.

### **Prayer**

Father, all powerful Creator. You reveal yourself in love because you are love. Fill us with your love and power to be effective witnesses and good stewards for the gifts of your creation



5

6

*Genesis 2*

*Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and he place there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and bad.*

# Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

*John 19*

## Window 28 & 29

These two windows represent Jesus' final hours as he was sentenced and put to death on the cross.

Symbols of his physical sufferings are: the crown of thorns, a hammer and the spikes where the soldiers nailed Jesus' wrists and feet to the cross, the sponge soaked in sour wine that was raised to his lips before dying and the spear that pierced the side of our Lord, to be sure he was dead.

Pilate had an inscription place on the cross with the initials I.N.R.I. "Jesus the Nazorean King of the Jews."

## Thought

Despite the many sufferings and humiliations, Jesus, the Suffering Servant, remained faithful to the Father's will. He had come to reveal his Father's Glory and His plan of salvation. His death was his final act of service.

## Prayer

We adore you Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the World.

# The Garden of Eden

Genesis 2

## Window 5 & 6

These windows, full of symbolism, are based on the Second Story of Creation. A mystical garden planted by God for man to live in.

The first scene tells of the creatures of the sky and water.

The next scene is the tree of Life and Knowledge that God planted in the middle of the garden, commanding man not to eat from the tree.

Sin entered into the world through free human choice as man disregarded God's command. The bright apple in the tree is symbolic of evil and sin.

The serpent, representing the Devil, is crawling in the dirt and will live in constant enmity with humanity, God's punishment and first hint of redemption to his fallen humanity.

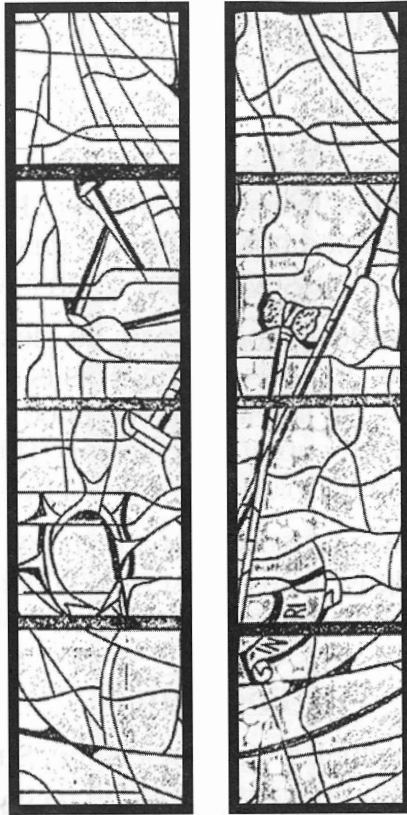
The presence of God, in the form of an angel, between the apple and the serpent, is a symbol of His redemptive presence, even in sin.

## Thought

This is not just the story of original sin and separation but is also the story of a God in love with His creation, a loving, merciful and faithful God who will never abandon His creation.

## Prayer

Praise be the God of infinite love who, from the beginning, renewed humanity with the promise of redemption.

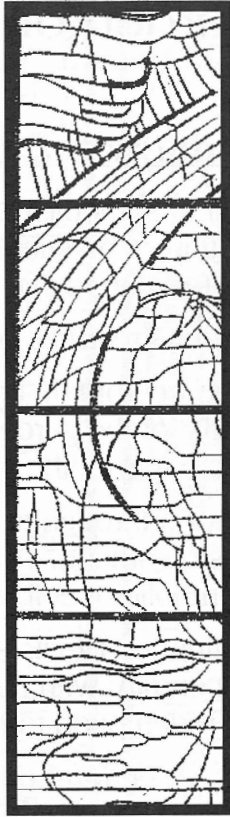


28

29

John 19

*Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and place it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him!" So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak, And he said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!"*



7

Genesis 7, 8, 9

*Then the Lord said to Noah: "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for you alone in this age have I found to be truly just. Of every clean animal, take with you seven pairs, a male and its mate; and of the unclean animals, one pair, a male and its mate, thus you will keep their issue alive over all the earth.*

6

## The Last Supper

Matthew 26:26-300

### Window 27

On the night of Jesus' "Last Supper", he and his apostles celebrated not just the old Passover meal, but a new Passover, from death into life.

"During the meal Jesus took bread, he blessed, broke it and gave it to his apostles saying "This is my body to be given up for you. Do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup of wine saying "This cup is the new Covenant, in my blood, which will be shed for you".

The radiant cup, the wheat and the grapes are Eucharistic signs, Jesus' broken body and his blood poured and offered on our behalf.

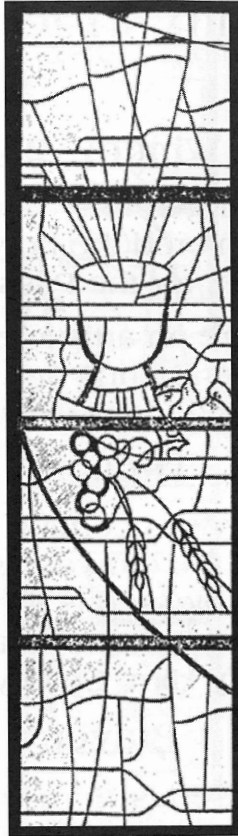
### Thought

In Catholic spirituality, Eucharist is the "Sacrament of Sacraments". The Eucharist is God in us as followers of Him in whom we live in gratitude. The Blood and Wine are signs of love which has given all Christians the courage to be available for others throughout the centuries.

### Prayer

Lamb of God, gentle Shepherd, we remember and we give you thanks for opening our eyes and our hearts. Give us the strength every day to love one another as you have loved us.

47



27

*Matthew 26:26-30*

*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "drink from it all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins."*

## The Great Flood

*Genesis 7, 8, 9*

### Window 7

This window is based on the Great Flood and Noah.

The clouds and blue waters are symbols of God's judgment of the destruction of life on earth, with the exception of Noah, the symbol of a just and righteous man.

Through Noah, God established a covenant of grace and divine preservation.

The gentle white dove carrying an olive leaf symbolizes the receding waters and the promise of God's peace.

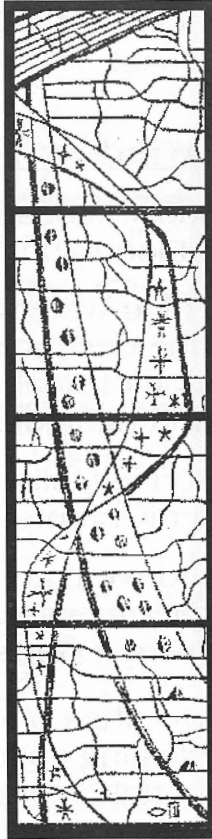
Across the window, the colorful rainbow is a sign of the everlasting covenant between God and all mortal creatures on earth.

### Thought

This story speaks to us of a fresh new beginning for humanity, pointing to other covenants with the same promise of God's love and protection.

### Prayer

Oh God, creator of Heaven and Earth, stretch out your Fatherly hand and protect us from our weakness, and transgressions.



8

*Genesis 15:1-21*

*Then the word of the Lord came to him: "No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir; He took him outside and said: Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.*

8

## The Entry in Jerusalem

*John 12:12-15*

### Window 26

The palms floating in this window are signs of victory as Jesus entered the holy city of Jerusalem, for the last time, for the Passover festivities.

The flowers are an artistic expression of a festive city, remembering and celebrating their first Passover.

### Thought

Jesus' journey was coming to an end, the acclamations of the crowds as He entered the city, "Hosanna, blessed is the King of Israel"; are in contrast with the cries a few days later, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him".

### Prayer

Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

*John 12:13*

45



26

*John 12:12-15*

*On the next day, when the great crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, [even] the king of Israel." Jesus found an ass and sat upon it, as it is written: "Fear no more, O daughter Zion; see, your king comes, seated upon an ass' colt."*

## Abraham

*Genesis 15:1-21*

### Window 8

The details on this window symbolize the covenant that God entered into with the first patriarch, Abraham.

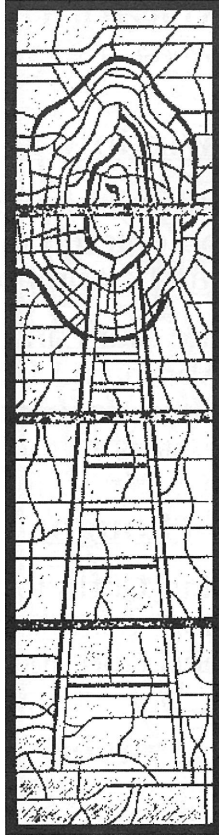
The bands with the stars and seed represent God's promises to Abraham. He will be the father of many nations and the descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky.

### Thought

Abraham responded to God's love and became the father of a great nation, establishing a very special relationship between God and his descendants.

### Prayer

God our Father, we are sharers of Abraham's faith, his spiritual descendants. Grant us the grace to be models of faith for future generations.



9

Genesis 28:10-22

*Jacob departed from Beer-sheba and proceeded toward Haran. when he came upon a certain shrine, as the sun had already set, he stopped there for the night. Taking one of the stones at the shrine, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep at that spot. Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens; and God's messengers were going up and down on it*

## The Great Commandment

Matthew 22:34-40

### Window 25

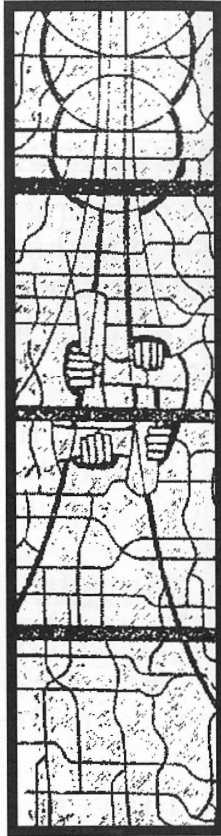
The central focus of this window is the human embrace of four human arms of different races. The symbol of the Greatest Commandment, the law of love that Jesus preaches, love God, love your neighbor. Coming from above are three interlocking rings, symbolizing the Trinity.

### Thought

Jesus is the new Covenant between God and all humanity with His new law of love. Our Lord remains with us in Jesus, our mediator with the Father.

### Prayer

Jesus, I praise you every day for the Good News and your love.



25

*Matthew 22:34-40*

*When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them (a scholar of the law) tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."*

42

## The Vision Of Jacob

*Genesis 28:10-22*

### Window 9

Jacob was a visionary dreamer, In one of his dreams he saw this great ladder going up to Heaven. On this window, the image of the ladder reaching Heaven and a single Hebrew letter symbolizes the power of God

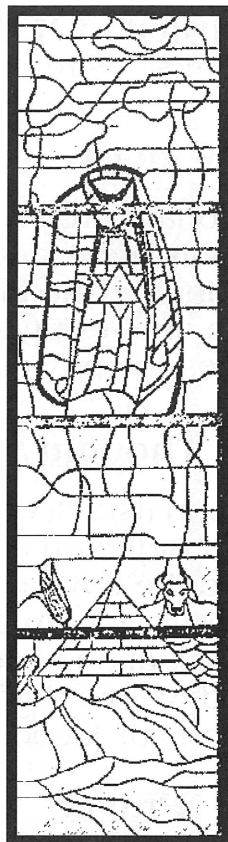
### Thought

The patriarch Jacob (Israel) encountered God through a dream in Bethel in a divine revelation where God repeated the covenant promises made to Jacob's ancestors, Abraham and Isaac, making him also part of salvation history. The twelve tribes of Israel developed from the twelve sons of Jacob.

### Prayer

God our Father, help us to recognize your presence in our midst and to commit ourselves to work in the service of others.

11



10

*Genesis; 37*

*Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons, for he was the child of his old age; and he made him a long tunic. When his brothers saw that their father loved him best of all his sons, they hated him so much that they would not even greet him,*

12

## Parable of the Good Shepherd

*Matthew 18:12-14*

### Window 24

This pastoral image of caring hands holding the lost lamb and the shepherd staff are symbols of the parable of the Good Shepherd.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leaves His flock to find one lost lamb.

This shepherd lives close to his sheep and takes great care of them as a shepherd who lays down his life for his flock and gives eternal life.

### Thought

This parable is rich in images of Jesus' relationship with His people. He cares, He forgives and brings back the strays to the Father.

### Prayer

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. In green pastures you let me graze, to safe waters you lead me. You refresh my soul. You guide me along the right path. Your rod and staff give me courage.

41



24

*Matthew 18:12-14*

*What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hill and go search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly father that one of these little ones be lost.*

40

## Joseph

*Genesis; 37*

### Window 10

The central focus of this window is the beautiful image of Joseph's coat of many colors the coat that the patriarch Jacob gave to his beloved son Joseph. His brothers filled with jealousy and envy and turned against Joseph, selling him into slavery for twenty pieces of silver.

Eventually, Joseph became a leader in Egypt, saving his land and his own family from a devastating famine.

Symbols of Pharaoh and his dreams interpreted by Joseph are in the pyramids and represented by the head of the cow and the thin and fat ears of corn.

The Star of David, the six pointed star, is a symbol of Judaism and decorates Joseph's coat.

### Thought

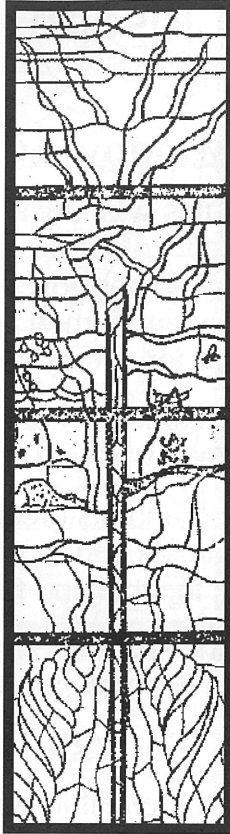
The story of Joseph is a beautiful story of forgiveness and redemption seen as a foreshadowing of Jesus' story; Joseph fulfilling his mission of turning evil into good and saving life.

### Prayer

When the Lord called a famine on the land and ruined the crops that sustained them, He sent a man before them, Joseph sold as a slave. *Psalm 105:16-17*

Lord; may Joseph be a source of inspiration to me and permit me to be a source of assistance to my family.

13



11

*Exodus 14:19-22*

*The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the waters were thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.*

14

## The Feeding of the Multitude

*Matthew 15:32-39*

### Window 23

Jesus' miracle of the multiplication of the five loaves of bread and the fish are represented in this window. The hand from above is the symbol of Jesus' care for his people. He shows pity for the physical and spiritual hunger of people.

He knew that the multitude who had been listening to Him were hungry and tired, so he worked a miracle and fed them.

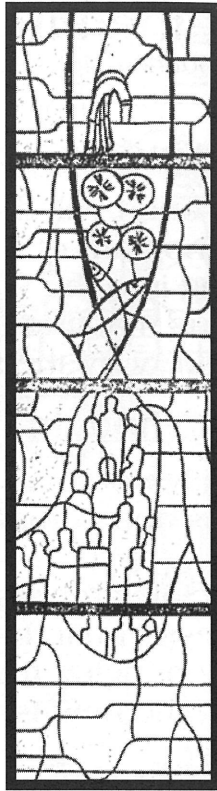
### Thought

The day after Jesus had fed the people, they asked Him for more bread; Jesus said to them "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread, will live forever."

### Prayer

Lord, give us always your bread to eat.

39



23

*Matthew 15:32-39*

*Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." The disciples said to him, "Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place to satisfied such a crowd?" Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" "Seven," they replied, "And a few fish." He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave it to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over—seven basket full. Those who ate were four thousand men, not counting women and children.*

38

## The Exodus

*Exodus 14:19-22*

### Window 11

The image of this window speaks of the greatest event in Hebrew Scripture, the story of Moses called by God to rescue his people from slavery in Egypt and inviting them to live by faith in freedom in a good land flowing with milk and honey.

The pillars of fire are signs of God's presence guiding them on their journey.

The plagues, the miraculous and liberating staff and parting of the sea are also symbols of God's saving power and love.

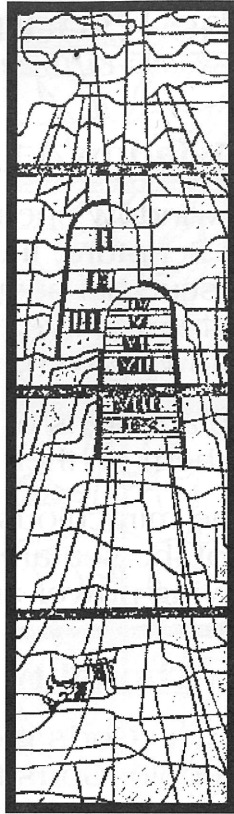
### Thought

The Exodus event was God's greatest intervention on behalf of His people. God's fidelity in keeping His promise of salvation became very real.

### Prayer

Praise God the Father for His faithful presence for His people's journey.

15



12

*Exodus 20*

*I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourself in the shape of anything in the sky above or the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the Lord, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on their children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation, on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

## The Call of the First Disciples

*Matthew 4:18-22*

### Window 22

“Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.” The monogram of the Holy Name of Jesus, (I.H.S.) coming into the water, represents the invitation that Jesus made to His first disciples, Simon and Andrew by the Sea of Galilee.

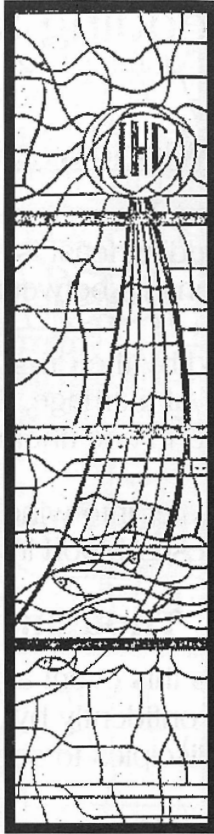
### Thought

Jesus selected twelve ordinary people to be His disciples and companions.

The twelve disciples represent the twelve tribes of Israel. Jesus built the foundation of a new community bringing the world back to God, the new Israel.

### Prayer

Jesus give us the grace to respond to your call of discipleship and to live the call in our daily lives.



22

*Matthew 4:18-22*

*As he was walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his Brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fisherman. He said to them, "Come after me and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their net and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in their boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.*

*He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.*

# The Ten Commandments

*Exodus 20*

## Window 12

This window depicts the Covenant on Mount Sinai and the giving of the Ten Commandments. God's Covenant with his "chosen people" shaped their history and the future of humanity.

God loved His chosen people freely and they were to return that love by obeying Him. Moses told them to observe, to remember and teach the Commandments of God.

The golden calf reminds us of the time when the Israelites, tired of waiting for Moses, fell into idolatry. Eventually, Moses would destroy the idol.

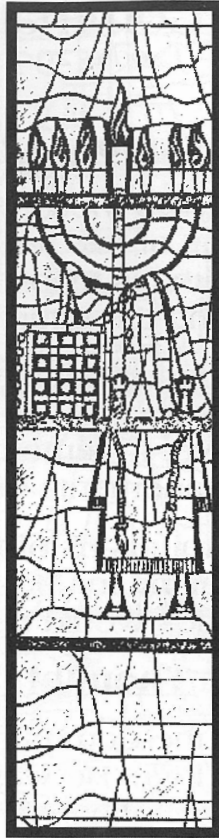
## Thought

For the Israelites the Commandments became a sign of God's love. He was inviting them to live by faith in freedom.

These laws would unite them and set them apart as God's people and, through them, continue His plan of Salvation.

## Prayer

Father in Heaven, help us to observe, remember and teach us your Commandments.



13

Exodus 26

*“The dwelling itself you shall make out of sheets woven in fine linen twined and of violet, purple and scarlet yarn, with cherubim embroidered on them. The length of each shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the width four cubits; all the sheets shall be of the same size. Five of the sheets are to be sewed together, edge to edge; and the same for the other five. Make loops of violet yarn along the edge of the end sheet in one set, and the same along the edge of the end sheet in the other set. There are to be fifty loops along the edge of the end sheet in the first set, and fifty loops along the corresponding sheet in the second set, and so placed that the loops are directly opposite each other. Then make fifty clasps of gold, with which to join the two sets of sheets, so that the dwelling forms one whole.*

18

## The Wedding at Cana

*John 2:1-12*

### Window 21

This window depicts Jesus' first miracle recorded in John's Gospel. The wedding feast is a symbol used by John to represent the relationship between God and His people.

Jesus is symbolized by the Cross. The two rings are signs of the covenant of marriage, the faithfulness to God and to one another.

The changing of the water into wine prefigured the change of wine into Jesus' blood in the Eucharist.

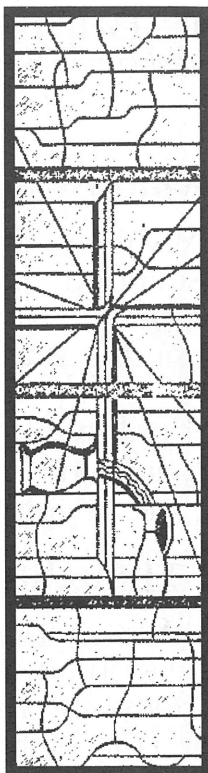
### Thought

John's Gospel presents this event as the first manifestation of Jesus' divinity, led confidently by his mother and for His disciples to see.

### Prayer

Jesus, you came to us with an invitation to a feast, God's eternal banquet. Strengthen us in faith so that we may be worthy of his love and invitation.

35



21

*John 2:1-12*

*On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine," [And] Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washing, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter," So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."*

34

## Laws of God

*Exodus 26*

### Window 13

The symbols of this window represent the formal way in which God instructed Moses to institute their faith through the Temple or Tabernacle as shown by the curtain and the seven branch candelabra (Menorah). The breastplate, with twelve stones, relates to the twelve tribes, and the Word told from the five books of the Hebrew Scripture, the Torah, are shown.

### Thought

God called Moses not just to be the leader of His Chosen People, but also the mediator and law-giver.

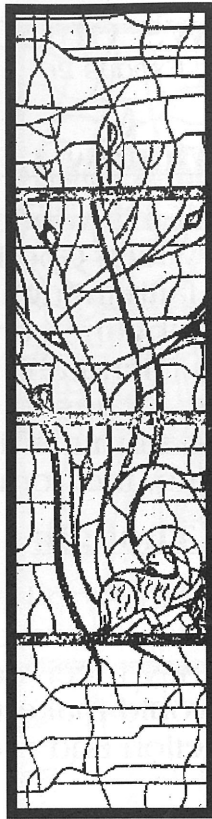
Through Moses they received the sacred and liberating laws that would make them a nation under God's direction and protection.

### Prayer

Hear O Israel, the Lord our God,  
the Lord is one.

Deuteronomy 6:4 The Shema

19



14

*Isaiah 11:1-9*

*But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him; a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, knowledge and the fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.*

## The Baptism

*Matthew 3:13-17*

### Window 20

This window shows the opening of the sky as the spirit of God descended upon the beloved Son, after Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River, by John the Baptizer.

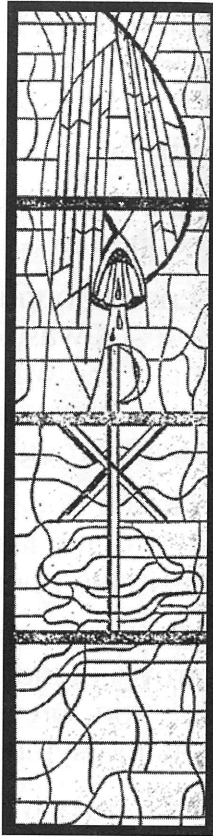
The drops of water are symbols of Baptism and renewal, descending into the sign of the victorious Christ, the Living Water.

### Thought

In this scene of Jesus' Baptism, marking the beginning of His mission among us, we find the revelation of the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

### Prayer

Jesus, you are the fountain of living water, bringing eternal life to those who believe.



20

*Matthew 3:13-17*

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened (for him), and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove (and) coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased."*

32

## A PROPHETIC VISION

*Isaiah 11:1-9*

### Window 14

We often speak of the family tree; so does Scripture. Isaiah speaks of the tree of the Messiah, which begins with a shoot coming forth from a stump. This refers to Jesse, the Father of King David. The tree finally comes to fruition in the Messiah, depicted by the Greek symbol for Christ. When the tree finally blossoms and the Messiah is born, there will be peace in the land, symbolized by the lamb, also a symbol of Christ, the Lamb of God.

### Thought

God had a plan to prepare for the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Jesus is born of a royal family. As the Messiah, He surpasses the hopes and expectations of His people.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for being our promised Messiah. Help me to receive your gifts of hope and life eternal. Help me to respond with the gift of my own life.

21



15

*Matthew 1*

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Issac, Issac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king.*

## The Presentation in the Temple

*Luke, 2:22-35*

### Window 19

Mary and Joseph faithfully brought their child Jesus to the temple, to be consecrated to God as the law required.

In this Presentation scene the burning candle represents Simeon's prophecy that Jesus was to be not just the glory of Israel but the Light of the World. The bright light descending onto two pigeons symbolizes the offerings that Mary and Joseph brought to the temple.

The pigeons encaged in the box is with a cross on top symbolizes the tabernacle of the last and perfect sacrifice of Jesus in the Eucharist

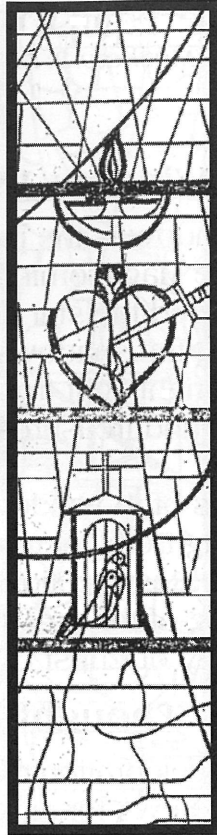
The sword piercing a heart represents Mary's immaculate heart pierced by the sorrows of indifference, rejection, and the passion of her divine Son. On top of the heart, the lily is repeated as the symbol for Mary.

### Thought

Simeon inspired by the Spirit, recognized Jesus and he rejoiced in the fulfillment of God's words; Jesus is born and now he asks to be dismissed in peace.

### Prayer

Father, give us true faith and love to recognize and to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation.



19

*Luke, 2:22-35*

*When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.*

## The Origin of Christ

*Matthew 1*

### Window 15

The symbols of this window represent lineage of Mary to the King David, showing the Star of David, also known as the Star of Our Creator. The lion, crowned as leader of the tribe of Judah is shown. The two columns remind us of the great temple of Solomon, David's son.

### Thought

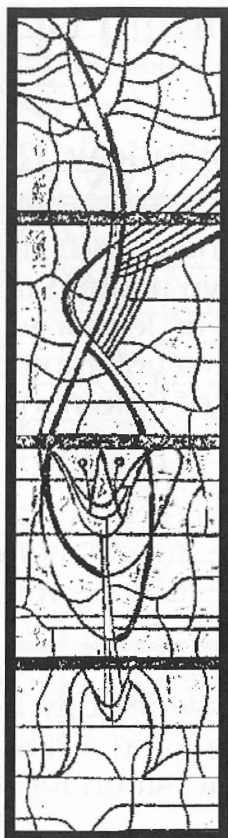
Jesus, our Lord and Savior, was a member of the human race. In the "fullness of time" God sent His Son Jesus, the long promised redeemer.

He was born among God's people from a Jewish woman. In human genealogy He is a descendant of Adam, Abraham, and a descendant of Jesse, who is one day to sit on the throne of David.

### Prayer

Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessing of Heaven in Him.

Ephesians 1: 3



16

*Luke 1:26-38*

*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary, and coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.*

## The Epiphany

*Matthew 2:1-2*

### Window 18

The theme of this window is the poetic story of the Magi and the star, the three Magi coming from the distant east because they recognized the star announcing the birth of the new King. Among the shadows and darkness of this window we see the bright light from the star that they follow, to bring homage and treasures to the newborn King.

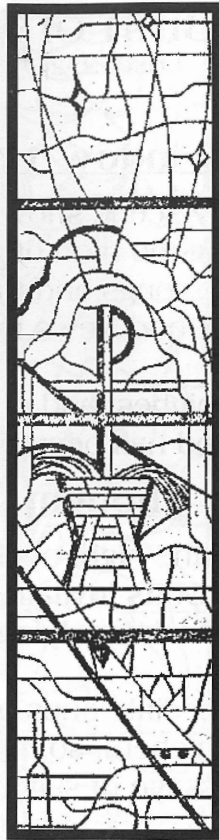
But the central focus of the window is the stable and a cross representing Bethlehem and Golgotha, the Incarnation and the Resurrection, the Good News of salvation. The ending of the cross represents, in Greek, the victory of Christ over death.

### Thought

The Epiphany is the celebration of the presence of God among us the Good News for all people. People of all nations are included in Jesus' mission on Earth.

### Prayer

Father of light in our own journey, let us seek you always and experience your Epiphany all the days of our lives.



18

*Matthew 2:1-2*

*When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and we come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophets: "And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

28

## The Annunciation

*Luke 1:26-38*

### Window 16

The Church has always symbolized Mary in many different ways. On this window the lily is the symbol of Mary in all her purity, strength and beauty.

The Holy Spirit from above, is coming upon her; Jesus becoming human through the power of the Holy Spirit. Angelical wings are embracing her mystical beauty, filled with God's grace.

### Thought

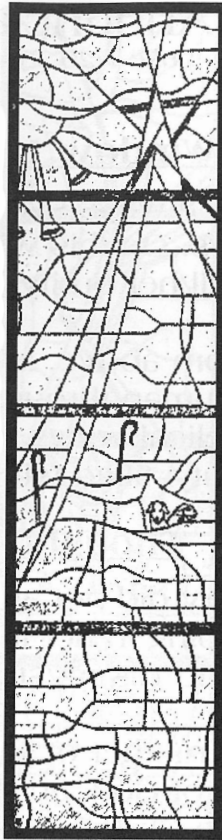
Even though Mary did not always understand what God was doing in her life, she obediently surrendered to His mysterious words.

Mary became the mother of Jesus, the promised Messiah, the Son of God, and Mary became the mother of the Church and our mother.

### Prayer

Mary, you allowed Jesus to come to us because of your spiritual receptiveness and readiness to accept God's will. Help me to be always responsive to His presence and will.

25



17

Luke, 2:-26

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from a town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

## The Birth of Jesus

Luke, 2:-26

### Window 17

This beautiful nativity scene shows a bright star in the firmament announcing the birth of Jesus. The trumpets symbolize heavenly songs and the angel of the Lord proclaiming the Good News to the shepherds.

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace. Mary’s child, the son of God has been born in Bethlehem”.

### Thought

In the darkness of the night over Bethlehem’s hills the angels brought God’s invitation to the shepherds to go and visit the infant lying in the manger.

The first visitors, “the little ones of God”, understood the mystery of Bethlehem, so they returned to their fields with the message of salvation to everybody.

### Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for the gift of your Son. Let me hear His voice directing my path, so that I may always walk in His light.