

A Pilgrimage Journey Through St. Anne's Windows

The story goes that a young boy was once asked to define a saint. Since he was sitting in the church and the sun came shining through the stained glass window of St. Peter, his answer was, "Some one who lets the sun shine through". Our windows also let the "Son" shine through. Each one was created to illuminate a different mystery of God's love for us. We have gathered together in this little pamphlet the stained glass windows of St. Anne's Church. Each one leads us to a different meditation. We hope that the light that pierces each window will pierce your heart and assist you in experiencing God's mysterious love for you.

One of the ancient traditions of our Church is a pilgrimage. The Journey, usually was to Jerusalem, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. To pray in places where He prayed, laughed, cried, and preached the Father's love. Later on when, it became more difficult for the early Christians to get to Jerusalem due to time and expense, they created shrines and walked the way of the cross as pilgrims. This is where the tradition of the Stations of the Cross began. We offer the following as a Pilgrim's journey to walk and meditate on the life of Christ and the Symbols that assist us in trying to understand the mystery of God's involvement in our life. You may complete this journey in one day or several.

Each of the large windows has a general scene and a small insert window with a symbol. We will use the small window to create a theme and a focus that will lead to the main window.

We will describe the window and the symbol and offer a scripture passage to assist in your meditation. We also invite you to write your own meditation.



Large Stained Glass Windows in Church

1. Pentecost
2. St. Therese Of The Child Jesus
3. Stained Glass Windows In Back Of St. Anne's Shrine
4. Annunciation
5. Presentation
6. Jesus Found In The Temple
7. Jesus With The Children
8. The Good Shepherd
9. Lazarus, Raised From The Dead
10. Transfiguration Of Jesus
11. The Last Supper
12. Agony In The Garden
13. Coronation Of Mary
14. St. Anne Teaching Mary
15. Stained glass windows in back of the Tabernacle
16. Ascension
17. Resurrection
18. Wedding Feast At Cana
19. The Nativity

Small Insert Above the Large Windows

- (A) Seven Gifts Of The Holy Spirit Held By Angels
- (B) Roses
- (C) Ave Maria Gratia Plena
- (D) Eternal Eye Of God
- (E) Scriptures
- (F) Star
- (G) Staff And Water Jug
- (H) Eagle
- (I) Hand Of God
- (J) Pelican
- (K) Palm Branches
- (L) Symbol For Mary
- (M) Lilies

Center Windows with Symbols

- (A) Fortress
- (B) I.H.S.
- (C) Cross
- (D) Holy Spirit
- (E) Chalice And Host
- (F) Menorah
- (G) Trinity
- (H) Monstrance
- (I) Lamb Of God
- (J) Crown
- (K) Fusileew
- (L) Anchor

Stained Glass Windows In The Sacristy

- (1) Eagle
- (2) Lion
- (3) Jesus
- (4) Angel
- (5) Bull
- (6) St. John
- (7) St. Mark
- (8) St. Matthew
- (9) St. Luke

Convent Chapel

- (1) Immaculate Heart Of Mary
- (2) Sacred Heart Of Jesus
- (3) St. Anne And Mary As A Child
- (4) Our Lady Of Fatima With Francesco, Jacinto And Lucy
- (5) Blessed Mother Appearing To St. Catherine Laboure
- (6) St. Joseph
- (7) St. Vincent De Paul And St. Louise De Marillac
- (8) Joachim And St. Anne With Mary

Begin the Pilgrimage of St. Anne's Windows.

We invite you to begin at the foot of the steps of the Sanctuary and look to the back of the Church.

A: THREE ANGELS HOLDING THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Description: Each Angel (messengers of God) holds a banner proclaiming a gift of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom, Knowledge, Fear Of The Lord, Understanding, Piety, Counsel, Fortitude

Reflection: Each of us is promised the Advocate. One who will help us to understand and to know God intimately.



Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia

I PENTECOST

ACTS 2: 1-17

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." They were all astounded and bewildered, and said to one another, "What does this mean?" But others said, scoffing, "They have had too much new wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, "You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. These people

are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'It will come to pass in the last days,' God says, 'that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.

Description: This window depicts the 11 Apostles and Mary gathered in the locked room for fear of the Jews being overcome by the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

Reflection: After the ascension the disciples and Mary gathered together in a room with the doors shut tight. They prayed and waited in fear, not knowing if they would be arrested. Suddenly the Holy Spirit came upon them in the form of tongues of fire. They were able to speak in different languages and their fear changed to courage. They went throughout the city proclaiming the good news. They no longer feared for their lives. So often Lord I am afraid and I lock myself in a room and hide. Confusion abounds and I do not know the way to go. The world around me proclaims one message, and my heart proclaims another. My friends say one thing and your word speaks another. Please fill me with courage to speak and stand. Do not let my fears control my life. Help me to seek only your way.



Dear Lord, as I begin this journey, open my heart to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Through this pilgrimage may I experience the deep love you have for me and may I come to know that you desire me to know you better, love you more, and share in your divine will.

These are the gifts we invite you to pray for during your pilgrimage

✠ PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit on Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord with the sign of your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

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✠ Journey now to the Shrine of St. Anne, which is to your right.

B. ROSES

Description: This small window at the top shows a bouquet of roses.

Reflection: The Church Fathers and the saints in their praise and veneration of Mary used numerous flower images. St. Bernard spoke of Mary as, "The rose of charity, the lily of chastity, the violet of humility and the golden gillyflower of heaven" In medieval times the basic symbol

adopted for the Rod of Jesse was the rose, as in the central rose windows of cathedrals – in accordance with the lines from Dante, "Behold the Rose, wherein the Divine Word was made incarnate" and also as in the Christmas carol, "Lo, How a Rose 'ere Blooming".



Dear Jesus, as I begin this journey give me the trust and confidence of Therese the Little Flower. May I know that you will answer my prayer not because of the good that I have done, not because of the love that I have shared, not because of anything other than your deep and abiding love for me, as your child made in your image and likeness. Give me the courage of Mary

II. ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

[Phil 4:6] Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Description: This window depicts St. Therese praying to Mary and the child Jesus. The ground is covered with roses, a symbol not only of Mary and Jesus but also of St. Therese, known as the Little Flower.

Reflection: There is a tradition that any prayer requested through the intercession of St. Therese when the prayer is answered a rose will be gifted to the petitioner. Even though this saint never left the convent, she is hailed as the patron saint of foreign missionaries. She offered her pain and suffering to Jesus for the missionaries throughout the world. This saint is an example of quiet suffering and a simple life in the cloister. St. Theresa defined her doctrine of the Little Way as "the way of spiritual childhood, the way of trust and absolute surrender." Her "little way" means loving and trusting in God as a child, held in His loving arms. Her prayer reminds us to trust so deeply in God's love that we know our prayer will be answered.

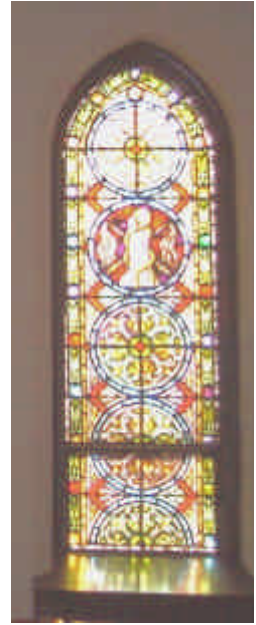
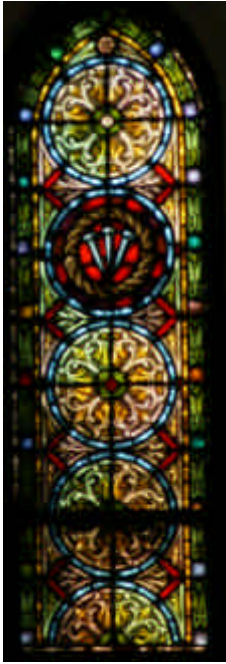
to say yes to you in my life that I too may bear Christ to the world in which I live. I begin this prayer journey in thanksgiving for the answer to my prayer. Open my eyes that I may see your answer, my ears, that I may hear your answer, my heart that I may love your answer.

✦ MORNING OFFERING

O JESUS, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all our associates and in particular for the Holy Father's intention of this month.

☛ *Now move closer to the shrine of St. Anne. And look upon the three windows behind her.*

III. STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN BACK OF ST. ANNE'S SHRINE



☛ *Use all three windows to share in this meditation. Each one represents the sufferings of Christ. The Mocking Crown, the Piercing nails, the beating pillar. And the Pelican*

⌘ **CROWN AND NAILS**

⌘ **PELICAN**

⌘ **THE PILLAR OF SCOURGING**

[Mat 11:28-30] "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Description: The crown and nails and the pillar of scourging are all related to the sufferings of Christ.

Reflection: The Pelican exemplifies the

sacrificial love of a parent for its offspring. The mother pelican's habit of reaching into her pouch to extract food for her young led to some misunderstanding amongst early peoples. They believed that the parent bird was tearing open its breast to feed its babies on its own blood. From this came the association with Christ pouring forth his blood from the Cross. Inspired by these legends, Thomas Aquinas wrote, "Pelican of mercy, Jesus, Lord and God, cleanse me, wretched sinner, in thy precious Blood; Blood, whereof one drop for humankind outpoured, might from all transgression have the world restored"

At this point place all your suffering and pain before the Lord. Let your heart hear him say, "Yes I know I've been there. I know the pain of rejection I know the humiliation of mocking I know suffering of a broken body. I have been there". Place them all on the altar before you and leave them as you journey on this pilgrimage so that they do not get in the way of your prayer. Hear Christ promise to be present to you. "Let

me feed you and nourish you on this journey. I will be enough for you. I will pour forth my life giving spirit to sustain you. Do not let any of this distract you during your prayer leave them behind and come walk with me.”

Reflection: The yes of Mary--”You too are full of my grace”--”How can this be?” “Trust me.”

IV. THE ANNUNCIATION

✠ OFFERING OF SELF BY SAINT IGNATIUS LOYOLA

Take, O Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and all my will, whatever I have and possess. You have given all these things to me; to You, O Lord, I restore them. All are Yours, dispose of them according to Your will. Give me Your love and Your grace, for this is enough for me.

☞ *Now move over by the organ and journey up the side of the Church.*

C. AVE MARIA, GRATIA PLENA

Description: This small stained glass window shows a cluster of lilies with these words in Latin. Hail Mary, full of grace.



LUKE 1: 26-39

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. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,

and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Description: This stained glass window portrays the angel Gabriel speaking to Mary as she prays and reads the Old Testament.

Reflection: Gabriel explains the visit and asks her to be the mother of the Messiah. The angel waits anxiously for the answer. Imagine the surprise, the feeling of awe and humility that ran through Mary's mind. Her response was "yes". Whenever the Lord invites someone to a mission or a task it is not because of his or her ability but because of His ability to work through him or her. The individual must be willing to accept the grace to accomplish the mission or the task. Ask yourself the question – "What if Mary said, no?" In giving her consent the Holy Spirit, fills her with grace. In being open to the grace, she conceives the Son of God. Her yes and her willingness to say "yes" brings about the completion of creation, i.e. the incarnation. God becomes man and dwells in our midst.



Dear Lord, give me the courage to say yes to you in my life, even when I do not understand all the ramifications for that yes. May my prayer life be translated into action. May my yes, bring Christ to someone who is deeply in need of him. Help me to trust the Father's love and compassion.

Help to understand that he also has chosen me for some special work in this moment in time. Help me to realize that it is not my talents but His grace that will accomplish His work in me.

✠ **HAIL MARY**

Hail Mary, full of Grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your Womb, Jesus. Holy Mary mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

D. ETERNAL EYE OF GOD

Description: Above the main picture is a symbol of the eternal eye of God the Father. God is always vigilant and watches over us with great love. It is a symbol that God is always present and ready to reveal his love.

Reflection: He sees all, knows all. Like Simeon and Anna of old we must be present to him to experience and acknowledge his revelation in our lives. He comes to us at times in most unexpected ways...an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes.

V. PRESENTATION

Luke 2:21-40

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. 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