

Stained glass windows play games with the light in many modern churches. The tradition of making those windows goes back a long way. As early as the fourth century, colored glass was used to ornament church windows, though it was not until the 12th century that making stained glass became an art form like sculpture or painting. Yet stained glass was not just a decoration. It was a way of communicating scenes and episodes from the Bible to everybody -- including those unable to read.

St. Mary's Nativity has 12 stained glass windows. You'll find the number twelve used in 187 places in the Bible and there are some significances to this number as we will read. The number twelve seems to be very important to God and it represents, in most cases, the number of perfection and authority.

Window #1, directly over the Tabernacle, depicts the Eucharist.



Left Side:

Fish and Loaves - feeding the multitude, recalling the youth's lunch miraculously multiplied as Christ feeds us spiritually through the Eucharist.



the Chi Rho -- this symbol of Christ is derived from the first two letters of the Greek word XPICTOC, pronounced, Christos. This is an abbreviation of the name of Christ.

Chalice with Host -- symbol of the Holy Eucharist

Right Side:

The Lamb with Banner and The Seals -- the standing Lamb carrying the Banner is a symbol of Christ, the Lamb of God, Triumphant, and Risen! (Revelation Chapters 5 & 6).

ΑΩ -- The Alpha Omega -- In the form of a monogram symbolizes Christ. The Lord, God says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the One who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty!" Rev. 1:8