



The Death of St.

Boniface and His

Companions + 754

The Church Window of Saint Boniface

It is fitting that the German patron saint is featured in the first window you see when entering through the main entrance to the church. Saint Boniface Parish is named for him.

This Apostle of Germany was born in England around 672. He was ordained a priest of the Benedictine order. He soon realized his desire to become a missionary and traveled to the Netherlands to convert pagans. He was later sent by Pope Gregory II to organize the Church in the German states. History tells us that the pagans of Germany worshipped the thunder god Thor, and a holy oak tree dedicated to him. Upon Saint Boniface's arrival in Germany, he took up an ax and cut down the tree. When the expected thunderbolt failed to appear, many of the pagans were instantly converted. The felling of Thor's Oak is commonly regarded as the beginning of German Christianization.

Saint Boniface never gave up his desire to return to The Netherlands, so at the age of 82, he traveled with approximately 50 followers to Frisia. While awaiting the arrival of some converts, his group was attacked by an armed band of pagans. All were martyred. The remains of Saint Boniface were returned to Germany where they are interred beneath the main altar of the Fulda Abbey.

The stained glass window depicts a terrifying scene of the martyrdom of Saint Boniface, with his disciples trying to save him. It was told that he was still preaching when he died, saying "Trust in God and welcome the prospect of dying for him". The picture shows him raising a book that he had been reading as if he was defending himself. The book has been preserved and is one of Fulda Abbey's treasures. In the lower left section of the window, a tree that had been cut down has been added for symbolism of his first conversion in Germany.



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