

The Windows of Saint Boniface

St. Boniface Catholic Church • Fort Smith, Arkansas

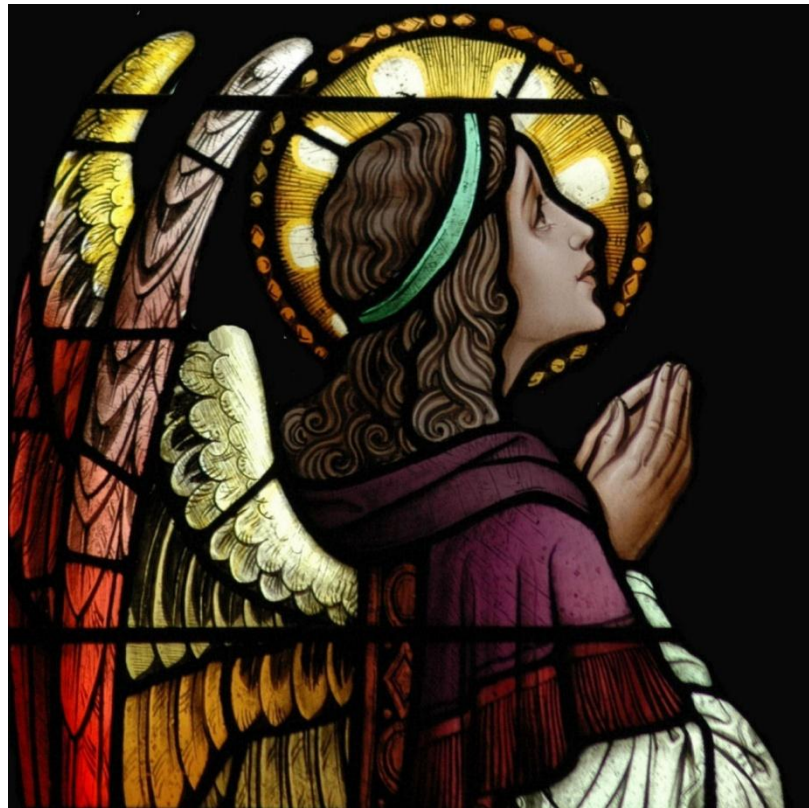


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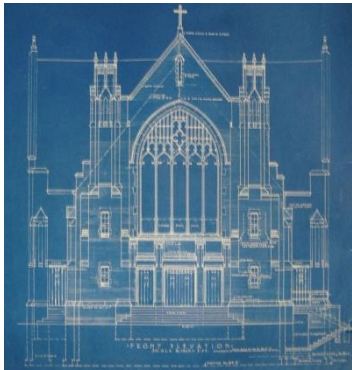
The Windows of Saint Boniface – Introduction

Introduction

Glory to the Father, Son and Spirit. As it was, is, and will be.



It was in the mid 1880's that Bishop Fitzgerald and some 50 families, many of German origin, organized a parish in Fort Smith, Arkansas. They named it St. Boniface, in honor of the Apostle of Germany. The first church was completed in the Spring of 1886 and was enlarged with a transept in 1904.



A generation later, in 1938, construction of the current church was begun. It was substantially completed in the Spring of 1939 and Mass was celebrated in the new church on May 12th of that year.



However, the church windows were left to the end. While the altars and many statues came from the original church, the windows were all new. They were not completed for another 7 months, in December 1939.



The Windows of Saint Boniface – Introduction

The perfect design for a German community had to be windows made in the Munich style. And the ideal studio for this was the Emil Frey Company, located in St. Louis and Munich.



The Munich style is stained glass frequently painted and is characterized by

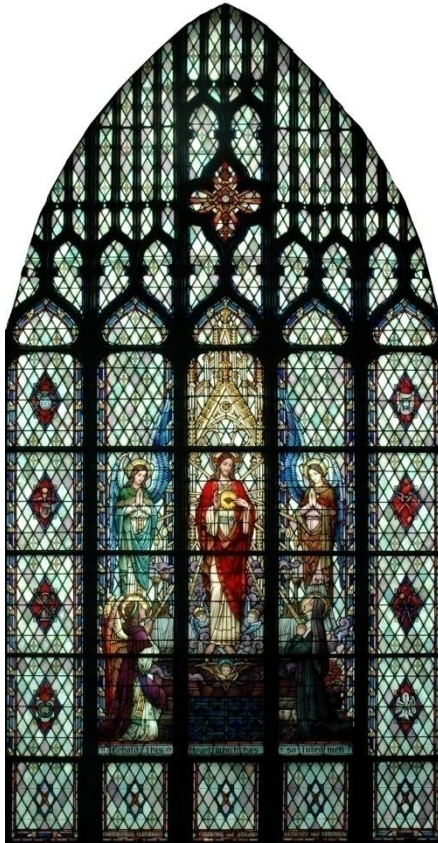
- a strong contrast between light and shade,
- rich ornamentation, and
- much architectural detail.



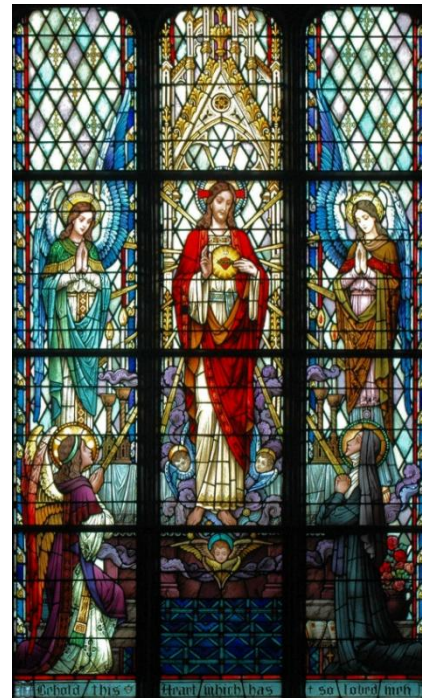
The Windows were all constructed in Munich, Germany (except for the 6 in the Sacristies, which were fabricated in St. Louis.) All were made in 1939 at a cost to the Parish of \$11,500. In today's terms, this is equivalent to \$155,000 dollars.

SACRED HEART

The South transept window depicts Jesus revealing his Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary with several angels in attendance.



Margaret Mary is shown on the lower right. She was born in France in the seventeenth century and entered a Visitation Convent in 1671. There she received a vision from Jesus asking her to spread devotion to his Sacred Heart. This devotion became known as the Nine First Fridays and the Holy Hour.



The promises made to her and those devoted to His Sacred Heart, include:

I will comfort them in all their afflictions.

I will establish peace in their homes.

I will bestow abundant blessings on all their undertakings.

I will bless every place where a picture of my Heart shall be displayed and honored.

And, the most marvelous,

My Divine Heart shall be a safe refuge in the last moment to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday for nine months in a row.



The Windows of Saint Boniface – Sacred Heart

The two outer panels of this window show eight symbols relating to Christ's Passion.



The first, at the top left, represents the Thirty Pieces of Silver paid by the Chief Priests to Judas to betray Jesus.



The Last Supper. Shown are a chalice and host for the Eucharist, a cloud indicating the divine presence, and a towel used in the washing of the Apostles feet.



Whips used during the scourging at the pillar.



This symbol shows Christ's seamless garment, 3 Roman dice used when casting lots for it and the crown of thorns.

The Windows of Saint Boniface – Sacred Heart



Veronica wipes the face of Jesus and His likeness is imprinted on the cloth.



Tools used in nailing Jesus to the cross, and removing those nails.



A spear and sponge used by the Roman soldiers during Jesus' crucifixion.



A symbol of the Eucharist. A pelican was believed to draw blood from its own breast to feed its young.

SACRED HEART WINDOW

Inscription: ***Behold this Heart which has so Loved Men.***

Location: South Transept.

Size: 15 feet 8 inches by 29 feet 6 inches.

Original Cost: \$2,200.00

Constructed: Munich, Germany

Installed: September 1939

Donated by: Thomas and Julia Kenney and Family

The Windows of Saint Boniface – South Nave

Four South Nave Windows

THE DEATH OF SAINT JOSEPH

The first Nave Window on the south depicts the Death of St. Joseph. Mary and Jesus are shown at his side.

Because they are at his side he is known as the patron Saint of a Happy Death.



DEATH OF ST JOSEPH

Inscription: ***Precious in the Sight of the Lord is the Death of His Saints.*** Psalm 116.15

Location: South Nave.

Size: 6 feet 4 inches by 19 feet 6 inches.

Original Cost: \$570

Constructed: Munich, Germany

Installed: November 1939

Donated by: St. Joseph Society



THE NATIVITY



The second Nave Window on the south depicts shepherds paying homage to our Lord at His birth in Bethlehem.

As recorded in Luke, “the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’” (Luke 2.15)



THE NATIVITY

Inscription: ***Glory to God in the Highest and Peace on Earth to Men of Good Will. Luke 2.14***

Location: South Nave.

Size: 6 feet 4 inches by 19 feet 6 inches.

Original Cost: \$570

Constructed: Munich, Germany

Installed: November 1939

Donated by: In Memory of the Jewett Family, by Charles J Jewett, KSG



STS. ELIZABETH AND ANTHONY



The third Nave Window on the south depicts Saint Elizabeth of Hungary and Saint Anthony of Padua



Left Panel – St. Elizabeth

Born in Hungary at the beginning of the 13th century, St. Elizabeth lived most of her life in Germany. She is often depicted with roses in her lap, because, according to legend, she was once carrying bread to the poor and was met by her disapproving husband. The bread she was trying to conceal was suddenly turned into roses.

The Windows of Saint Boniface – South Nave

St. Anthony is known as the "saint of miracles", the popular saint who helps us find lost things. He was born in Portugal in 1195. He died in Italy at the age of 36 after spending much of his life there as a Franciscan monk.

Right Panel – St. Anthony of Padua



He is shown here holding the Child Jesus, a book and a lily. The **baby Jesus** appeared to St. Anthony in a vision; The **book** is a symbol of his science, doctrine and preaching. He has been proclaimed a Doctor of the Church. The **Lily** is a symbol of his purity. The first words of a prayer to **St. Anthony** begin... "If you seek..." Things have a way of "turning up" for those who make a point of trusting in God.

STS. ELIZABETH AND ANTHONY

Inscription:	St. Elizabeth - St. Anthony
Location:	South Nave.
Size:	6 feet 4 inches by 19 feet 6 inches.
Original Cost:	\$465
Constructed:	Munich, Germany
Installed:	November 1939
Donated by:	
St. Elizabeth -	In Memory of Otto J. Woestman (1874-1933) by the Woestman Family.
St. Anthony -	In Loving Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Anton Homan

BL. KATERI TEKAKWITHA AND ST. THERESE



The vestibule Window on the south depicts the Lily of the Mohawks, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, and the Little Flower of Jesus, Saint Theresine of the Child Jesus.



Left Panel – Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

The Lily of the Mohawks, was born in 1656 to a Christian Algonquin mother and Mohawk father on the south bank of the Mohawk River in upstate New York. She was orphaned at the age of 4 when small-pox took the lives of her parents and brother. The disease left her scarred and nearly blind.

She was baptized by Jesuit missionaries at the age of 20. Her adopted family did not accept her desire to follow Christ and she was forced to escape to Quebec. She led a life of extraordinary sanctity and virtue and died at the age of 24. According to a witness at her deathbed, “Her face, so disfigured in life, suddenly changed 15 minutes after her death and became so beautiful and so fair.”

She was beatified in 1980, the first Native American to be declared Blessed.

The Windows of Saint Boniface – South Nave



Right Panel – Saint Therese



St. Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus, was born in 1873 in France. She entered a Carmelite convent at the age of 15.

Therese loved flowers and saw herself as a little flower. Because of this analogy, she is known as the "Little flower of Jesus."

She wrote in her autobiography: "Jesus set the book of nature before me and I saw that all the flowers he had created are lovely. The splendor of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not rob the little violet of its scent nor the daisy of its simple charm."

Saint Therese died at the age of 24. She was canonized just 28 years later and Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church in 1997.

BL. TEKAKWITHA AND ST. THERESE

Inscription: ***Lily of the Mohawks, Little Flower of Jesus***

Location: South Nave (Vestibule).

Size: 6 feet 4 inches by 19 feet 6 inches.

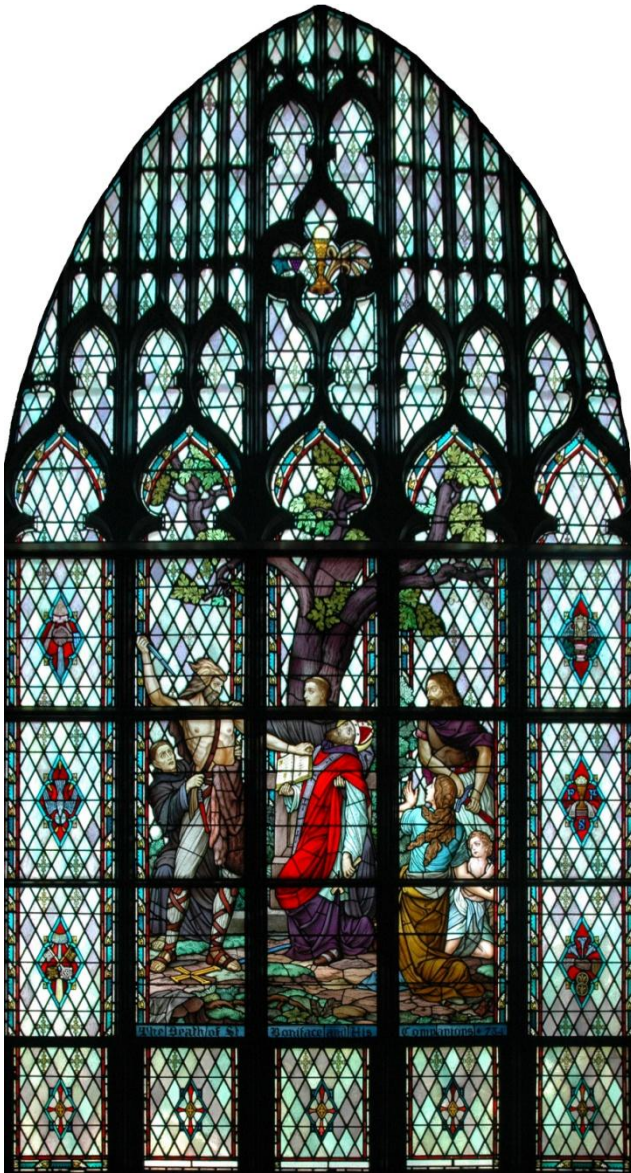
Original Cost: \$390

Constructed: Munich, Germany

Installed: November 1939

Donated by: In Memory of Our Parents, Mr. and Mrs. McCloud.
By Mrs. Ella Sicard and Mrs. Marie Baker

MARTYRDOM OF SAINT BONIFACE



The rear window of the church depicts the martyrdom of St. Boniface.



The Apostle of Germany was born in England about 672. He was ordained a priest of the Benedictine Order. He soon realized his desire to become a missionary by traveling to The Netherlands to convert the pagans but had to return because of war and political turmoil. He then went to Rome where Pope Gregory II sent him to preach the Gospel and organize the Church in the German states.



The lower left section of the window shows a tree cut down. History tells us that the pagans of Germany worshiped the thunder god Thor, and a holy oak tree dedicated to him. Upon his arrival in Germany, Boniface took up an ax and cut the tree down. When the expected thunderbolt failed to appear, many of the pagans were converted. The felling of Thor's Oak is commonly regarded as the beginning of German Christianization.

The Windows of Saint Boniface – Martyrdom of St. Boniface

This window depicts a terrifying scene of the martyrdom of St. Boniface, with his disciples trying to save him. But as Boniface preached, “Trust in God and welcome the prospect of dying for Him.”

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



St. Boniface is said to have raised the book he was reading to defend himself. The book has been preserved and is one of Fulda Abbey's treasures.

The Windows of Saint Boniface – Martyrdom of St. Boniface

There are 7 symbols surrounding the Martyrdom window, which represent the 7 Sacraments.



The first, at the upper left, is Baptism. The IC, on top, is an abbreviation for the Greek word for “Jesus.” In the center is a shell, with the waters of Baptism flowing down.



Confirmation. A Dove with a three-rayed nimbus represents The Holy Spirit.

Reconciliation. “Whatever you bind & loose on earth shall be bound & loosed in heaven.”



On the upper right, The Last Rites showing the passing of time with an hour glass over wings and Pax Vobiscum below, “Peace be with you.”



The Windows of Saint Boniface – Martyrdom of St. Boniface

Holy Orders, showing a stole, the Gospel, the Eucharist and the initial P, F and S, for the Latin Pater, Filius and Spiritus: Father Son and Spirit.



Marriage. Lilies are new life; Two hands joined & entwined rings are covenant.



And the seventh, at the top of the window, is the Eucharist.

MARTYRDOM OF ST BOMIFACE

Inscription: ***The Death of St. Boniface and his Companions - 754***
 Location: Rear.
 Size: 15 feet 6 inches by 24 feet 3 inches.
 Original Cost: \$1,700
 Constructed: Munich, Germany
 Installed: December 1939

Four North Nave Windows

SAINTS FRANCIS AND ROSE OF LIMA



The vestibule window, on the north side, depicts St. Francis of Assisi and St. Rose of Lima.



St. Francis, born in Italy in 1182, was the founder of the Franciscan Order.

Francis was born into a wealthy family and led a carefree and, some might say, misdirected, youth. At the age of 19, he became a knight in order to fight against a rival city-state. After a defeat, he was captured and spent a year as a prisoner-of-war. Upon his return to Assisi, though, his life slowly began to change from one of self-indulgence to a life of total obedience to God's will.



Legend tells of animals and birds attracted to Francis. Among the stories: Francis preached to a flock of attentive birds, fed a hungry wolf, and the hunted rabbit sought to attract his attention.

Left Panel – St. Francis of Assisi

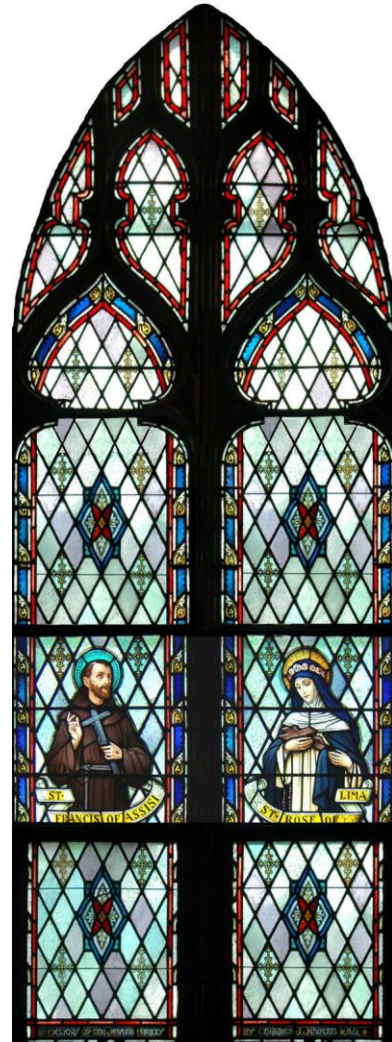
Two years before his death, at age 44, Francis received the Stigmata, the marks of our Lords crucifixion on his hands, feet and side. His is the first recorded occurrence of the Stigmata.

The Windows of Saint Boniface –North Nave

St. Rose of Lima was born in 1586 in Lima, Peru and thus was the first saint to be born in the Americas.



She gave her entire life to prayer and extreme self-mortification. She wore a metal spiked crown concealed by roses and received an invisible Stigmata.



Right Panel – St. Rose of Lima

Rose told of visions, revelations, visitations, and voices. Her prayer was, “Lord, increase my sufferings, and with them increase Your love in my heart.” She died in 1617, at the age of 31.

SAINTS FRANCIS AND ROSE OF LIMA

Inscription:	<i>St. Francis of Assisi, St. Rose of Lima</i>
Location:	North Nave (Vestibule).
Size:	6 feet 4 inches by 19 feet 6 inches.
Original Cost:	\$390
Constructed:	Munich, Germany
Installed:	November 1939
Donated by:	
St. Francis -	In Memory of Frank J. Brun, By Mrs. Frank J. Brun.
St. Rose -	In Memory of Joe Gaisbauer Family, By Rose Gaisbauer.

SAINTS PETER AND ANNE



Left Panel - St. Peter

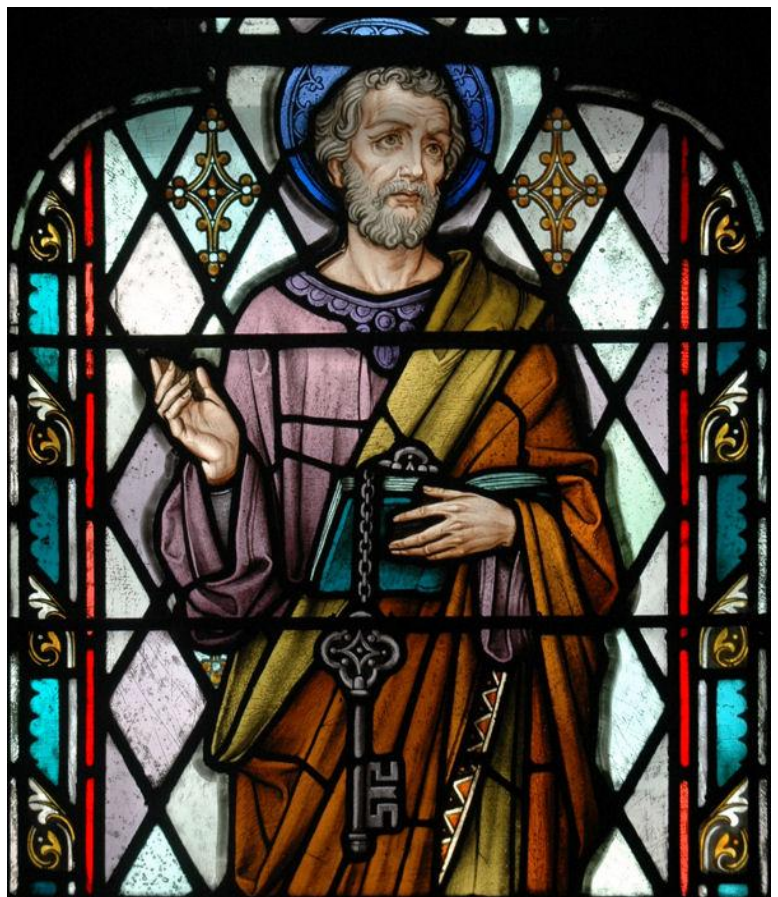
Thus, St. Peter is shown with a key. He also carries a book, which represents Scripture, to which he contributed. Peter wrote 2 Epistles and in his 2nd letter, he recalls witnessing the Transfiguration, during which God the Father proclaims that Jesus “is my son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Peter denied Jesus 3 times before the Crucifixion, but redeemed himself when he was able, after the Resurrection, to answer “yes” 3 times to Christ’s question, “Do you love me?” [John 21.]

The next Nave window, on the north side, depicts St. Peter, the Apostle and St. Anne, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



St. Peter, the Prince of the Apostles, the first Pope, was originally known as Simon. Jesus gave him the name Peter, or Rock, when He said "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church." Jesus continued, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." [Matt 16.]



The Windows of Saint Boniface –North Nave

Immediately after this affirmation, Jesus indicated what sort of death Peter was to undergo. He died a martyr in Rome about the year 60. He was crucified, head down, at his request, as he did not consider himself worthy to die in the same manner as Jesus.



St. Anne was the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the grandmother of Jesus. She is not mentioned in the New Testament and the little we know comes from tradition. She was married to St. Joachim and was said to be advanced in years when she gave birth to Mary. Sts. Joachim and Anne dedicated Mary to God at a young age and saw to her education in the temple.



Right Panel – St. Anne

SAINTS PETER AND ANNE

Inscription:	St. Peter, St. Anne
Location:	North Nave.
Size:	6 feet 4 inches by 19 feet 6 inches.
Original Cost:	\$440
Constructed:	Munich, Germany
Installed:	November 1939
Donated by:	
St. Peter -	In Memory of. Our Pastor, Rev. Peter Post, OSB By the Young Men of the Parish
St. Anne -	By Mrs. Anna Goebel

HOLY FAMILY IN NAZARETH

The third Nave window, on the north, depicts a scene from the life of the Holy Family in Nazareth.

The inscription below the scene comes from the 2nd Chapter of Luke and describes the time after the 12 year old Jesus was found in the temple in Jerusalem: “And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them.”

“And his mother kept all these words in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.”



HOLY FAMILY IN NAZARETH

Inscription: ***And Came To Nazareth And Was Subject To Them (Luke 2:51)***

Location: North Nave.

Size: 6 feet 4 inches by 19 feet 6 inches.

Original Cost: \$570

Constructed: Munich, Germany

Installed: November 1939

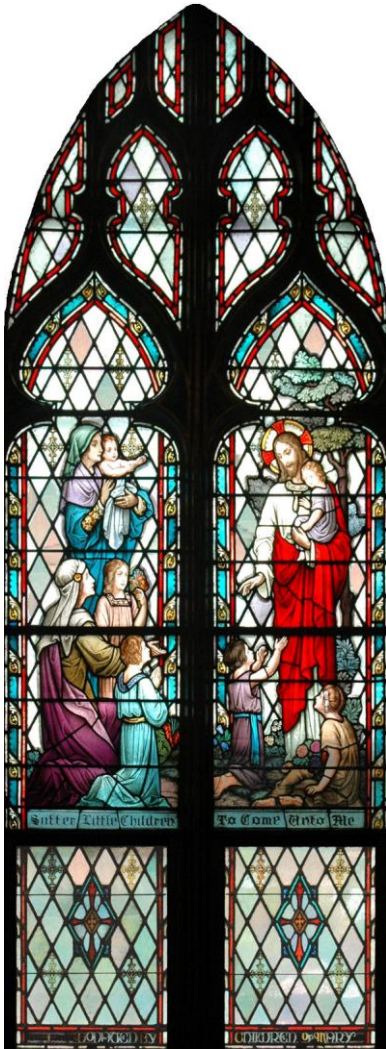
Donated by: In Memory of My Parents By Daughter
Theresa Carroll Neeheim, and
In Memory of the Hartmeier Family



JESUS WITH THE LITTLE CHILDREN

The last Nave window, on the north, depicts a verse from the 18th Chapter of the Gospel of Luke, “The kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”

Left Panel – Two mothers with children.



Right Panel – Jesus and three children



A child is trusting and dependent, as we know we must be totally trusting and dependent upon God.

JESUS WITH THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Inscription: ***Suffer Little Children to Come Unto Me (Luke 18)***

Location: North Nave.

Size: 6 feet 4 inches by 19 feet 6 inches.

Original Cost: \$570

Constructed: Munich, Germany

Installed: November 1939

Donated by: Children Of Mary

The Windows of Saint Boniface –The Altars

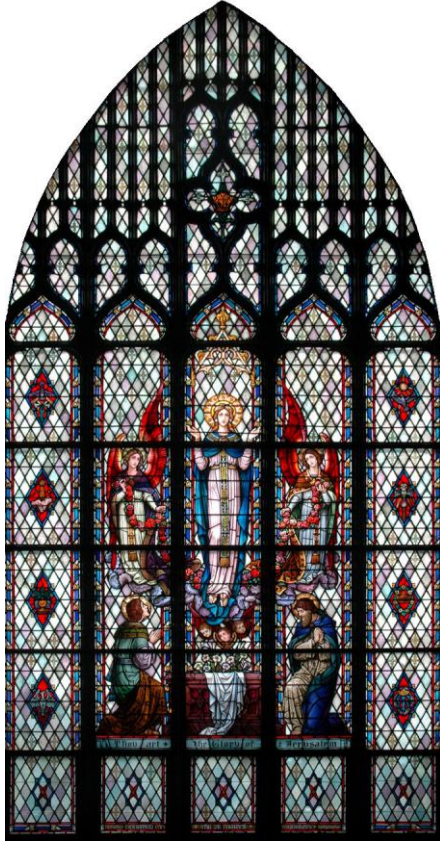
The Altars of St. Boniface



The Windows of Saint Boniface –The Assumption

THE ASSUMPTION

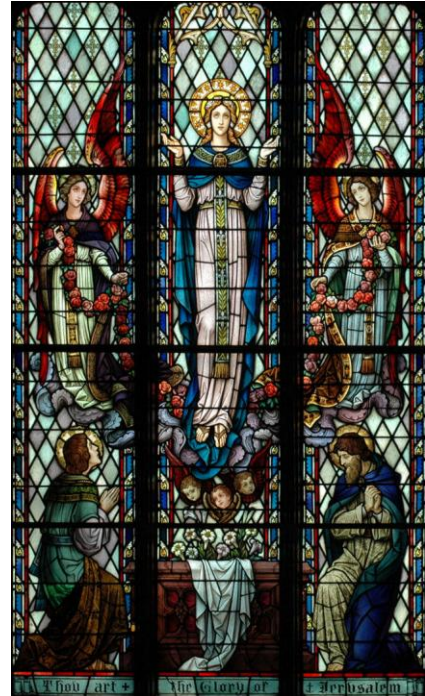
The north transept window depicts the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, showing her attended by angels, two on either side.



On the lower part of the window are depictions of the Apostles John and Thomas.

At the foot of Jesus' cross, St. John was entrusted with the care of Mary.

Tradition holds that St. Thomas was not present at the death of Mary and when he arrived, he insisted on her grave being opened so he could pay her homage. When it was opened, it was found to be empty, thus beginning the doctrine of the Assumption.



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. [Rev 12:1]



The Windows of Saint Boniface –The Assumption

The two outer panels of the window show eight symbols relating to Mary.



The first, at the top left, represents the Annunciation, showing the Holy Spirit as a dove and lilies representing Mary.



The Nativity, the Birth of our Lord, with the guiding star above.

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, the visit of the Magi.



The Phoenix symbolizes immortality, resurrection and life after death.



The Windows of Saint Boniface –The Assumption



An eagle rising to the sun, renewing his plumage, represents both Christ's and our own resurrection.



The Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles and Mary at Pentecost.



The rosary. The Latin word *rosarius* means a garland of roses.



The Coronation of Mary, Queen of Heaven

THE ASSUMPTION

Inscription: ***Thou Art the Glory of Jerusalem.***
Location: North Transept
Size: 15 feet 8 inches by 29 feet 6 inches
Original Cost: \$2,200.00
Constructed: Munich, Germany
Installed: September 1939
Donated by: The St. Mary's Sodality

The Windows of Saint Boniface - Sacristies

SACRISTY

There are 6 windows in the sacristies on either side of the sanctuary. Four of the windows, two on either side, show the 4 living creatures mentioned in Revelation.

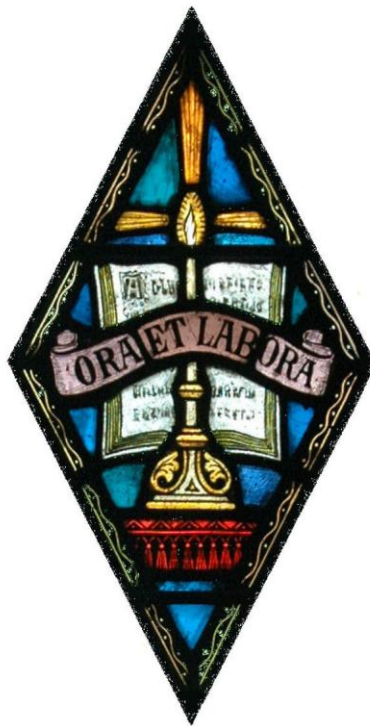


North Sacristy

“The first creature resembled a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like that of a human being, and the fourth looked like an eagle in flight.” These symbolize what is noblest, strongest, wisest, and swiftest in creation. This same imagery, a man, lion, ox, and eagle, was also used by Ezekiel to describe cherubim angels. Since the second century, however, these four creatures have been used as symbols of the 4 evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



Luke



Pray & Work



John

The Windows of Saint Boniface - Sacristies

South
Sacristy



[*Matthew*]



[*Eucharist*]



[*Mark*]

*Day and night they do not stop exclaiming:
"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and who is, and who is to come."*

NORTH AND SOUTH SACRISTIES

Size -6 windows: 2 feet 6 in by 7 feet 3 in

Original Cost: \$85 each

Constructed: St. Louis, MO

Installed: September 1939

Donated by:

Luke Mr. & Mrs. Delmer D. Edwards
And Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Peters

Ora et Labora Mr. & Mrs. Louis Seiter

John In Memory of Louis Ruttle

By Mrs. Louis Ruttle

Matthew In Memory of Ben A. Grote

Eucharist Catholic Knights of America

Branch 652, Ft. Smith, Ark

Mark Catholic Daughters of America

Court Joan of Arc, 482



South Sacristy

SAINT SCHOLASTICA

Sanctuary



St. Scholastica was the twin sister of St. Benedict. She devoted her life to God in a religious community just 5 miles from Monte Cassino and her brother.

According to the Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great, the two visited each other on occasion. During their last visit, as it was coming to an end, Scholastica sensed her death was near and she begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day, so that they could talk *"of the joys of the Heavenly life."*

He gently refused because he did not want to spend a night outside the monastery, thus breaking his own Rule. Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain and a severe thunderstorm broke out, preventing Benedict and his monks from returning to the abbey. Benedict cried out, "What have you done?" Scholastica replied, "I asked a favor of you and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it."

A few days later, on the day of her death, it is said that Benedict had a vision of his sister's soul ascending to Heaven in the form of a dove.



Sanctuary

St. Benedict was known as the Patriarch of Western Monasticism, the founder of the Benedictine Order.

He was born in Italy about 480, almost 200 years before St. Boniface, in the town of Nursia. He studied in Rome but quickly became disillusioned with its decadent lifestyle and left to become a hermit near Subiaco, some 45 miles east of Rome.



After several years of solitude and prayer, his piety soon attracted many followers and this caused no small measure of envy among some of his brothers. A local priest was so disturbed he tried to destroy Benedict with a poisoned loaf of bread. Legend tells us a raven swooped in and took the loaf before Benedict could eat it.

On another occasion, as word of his holiness continued to spread, some nearby monks asked Benedict to be their leader. He told them that his requirements would be stern. So strict was Benedict that the monks tried to rid themselves of him by giving him a cup of poisoned wine. Tradition tells us that the cup shattered as he blessed it prior to drinking from it.

Benedict is shown here with a book, a chalice with a serpent, and a crosier. The book represents the Benedictine Rule; the chalice and serpent is the poisoned cup that was shattered; and the crosier is the crook of a shepherd, indicating he was an Abbot.

Benedict died about 547, and is buried at Monte Cassino, in Italy.

SAINT BENEDICT



The Windows of Saint Boniface - Sanctuary



Sts. Scholastica and Benedict

Location: Sanctuary

Size: 2 windows - 3 feet 9 inches by 14 feet 9 inches.

Original Cost: \$475 each

Constructed: Munich, Germany

Installed: September 1939

Donated by:

St. Scholastica - Memorial to Rev. Fr. Lawrence Smyth
By Mrs. Samuel McLoud

St. Benedict - Memorial to Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick F. Horan, D.D.
By Mrs. Samuel McLoud

The Windows of Saint Boniface



**Compiled by
Artie Berry
Fall 2006**

The Windows of Saint Boniface

With appreciation to...

Andrew J. McDonald, DD, Fifth Bishop of Little Rock,
for inspiring this effort.

And to the following for providing invaluable help and many details...

Father Jon McDougal, Pastor, 2005-Present
Father Hilary Filiatreau, OSB, Pastor, 1975-1984
Father Hugh Assenmacher, OSB, Subiaco, Arkansas
Brother Abraham Frei, O. Cist., Irving, TX
Deacon John Burns
Stephen Frei, Great Grandson of Emil Frei, Designer
Janice Locknar, Secretary
Nancy Lensing, Parishioner
Kenneth Blaschke, Parishioner

The following sources also provided much information...

Symbols of the Church, Abingdon, Nashville
Edited by Carroll E. Whittemore, Drawings by William Duncan
Lives of Saints, Published by John J. Crawley & Co., Inc
US Conference of Catholic Bishops
www.americancatholic.org (Franciscan)
www.biblegateway.com (Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition)
www.catholic.org/saints (Catholic Online, Saints)
www.catholicexchange.com (Catholic Exchange)
www.catholic-forum.com (Catholic Forum, Patron Saints Index)
www.christdesert.org (Monastery of Christ in the Desert)
www.ewtn.com/library (Eternal Word Television Network)
www.fordham.edu (Medieval Sourcebook, Saints Lives)
www.kateritekakwitha.org (Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha)
www.newadvent.org (New Advent, The Catholic Encyclopedia)
www.osb.org (Order of Saint Benedict)
www.santantonio.org (St. Anthony of Padua)
www.shrinesf.org (Shrine of St. Francis)
www.sttherese.alphix.com (Friends of St. Therese)
www.subi.org (Subiaco Abbey, Arkansas)
www.usccb.org (New American Bible)