

CREATION AND THE FALL

Please continue scrolling down
to read about the meaning
of each symbol on this window.

Creation and The Fall

-a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Grimes
-located on the east wall

This window has eight symbols for the story of God's creation of the world as related in the Book of Genesis. (Gn 1:1-2:3) It begins with the hand of God in the upper portion of the center window and then follows through the days of creation, beginning in the left panel, reading down. The last symbol on the lower right panel represents the creation of Adam and Eve on the sixth day as well as their sin and their fall from grace.

Hand of God

The Hand of God, the "Manus Dei", represents God the Father, the Creator. The hand is extending downward through a blue cloud, which is the artist's visual division between heaven and earth. The hand is in a gesture of power or generosity, creating and giving us all we need. "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters." (Gn 1:1-2)



The First Day of Creation— Light and Darkness

The four point star symbolizes the light of creation. "Then God said, 'Let there be light.' ...and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day,' and the darkness 'night'." (Gn 1: 3-5)



The Second Day of Creation— Upper and Lower Waters

The star and rays above the two levels of water represent the presence of God. "Then God said, 'Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other. ...God called the dome 'the sky'.'" (Gn 1:6-8)



The Third Day of Creation— Sea, Land, Vegetation

"Then God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so the dry land may appear.' ...God called the dry land 'the earth' and the basin of water 'the sea'. Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth vegetation; every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree that bears fruit with its seed in it.'" (Gn 1:9-13)



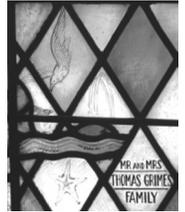
The Fourth Day of Creation— Sun, Moon and Stars

"God made two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and God made the stars." (Gn 1:14-19)



The Fifth Day of Creation— Birds and Fish

This first symbol for the fifth day is next to the symbol for the third day's creation of sea and land. It represents the creation of the creatures that will inhabit the sea and the sky. "God said, 'Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures and on the earth, let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky. ...Be fertile and multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.'" (Gn 1:20-23)



Animals

This second symbol for the fifth day of creation describes the creation of land animals. "God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle and all kinds of creeping things on the earth." (Gn. 1:24-25)



The Sixth Day of Creation— Humankind

This symbol represents both the creation of Adam and Eve as well as their disobedience and fall from grace. "God created man in his image; in the divine image God created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying; 'Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth. ...God looked at everything he had made, and God found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.'" (Gn 1:26-31)



...Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy..." (Gn 2:1-3)

The Fall of Adam and Eve—

Scripture says God told Adam and Eve that they could eat from any tree in the Garden of Eden except the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. A serpent tempted Eve, who in turn tempted Adam, to eat this forbidden fruit. This was humankind's first act of disobedience to God. The result of their disobedience was they lost their place in Paradise. (Gn 3:1-24) The Bible story does not indicate the type of fruit on this tree but an apple has become the common representation. This could be because the Latin word *malum*, meaning apple, is close to *malus*, an adjective meaning "evil".

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "In that first sin man preferred himself to God and by that very act scorned him. He chose himself over and against God, against the requirements of his creaturely status and therefore against his own good. ...Scripture portrays the tragic consequences of this first disobedience. Adam and Eve immediately lose the grace of original holiness. They become afraid...harmony with creation is broken...death makes its entrance into human history." (#398-400)