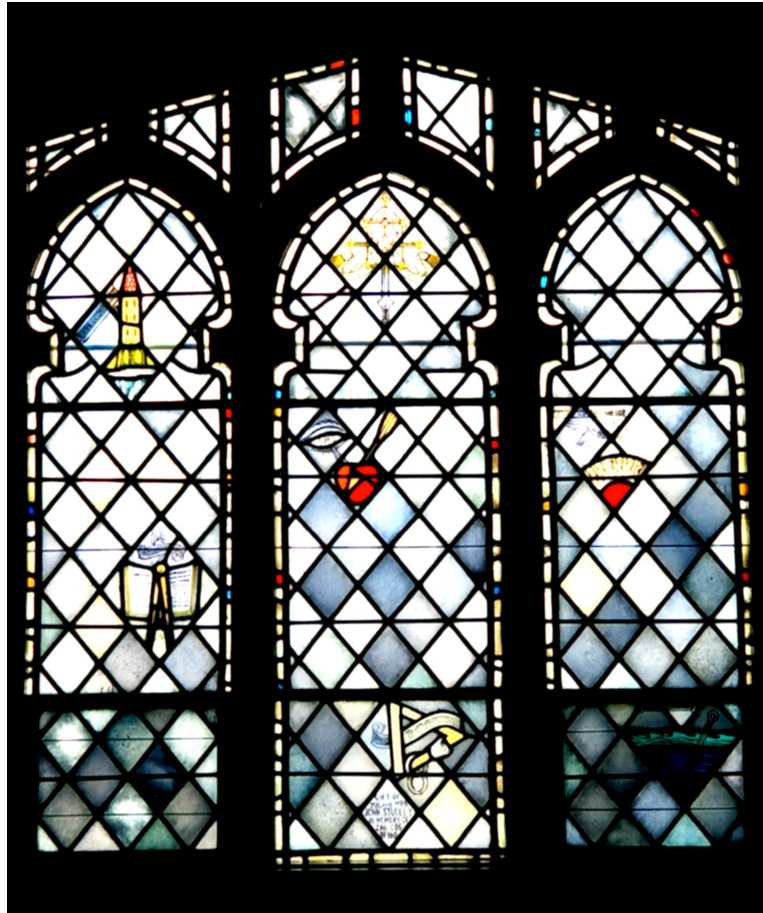


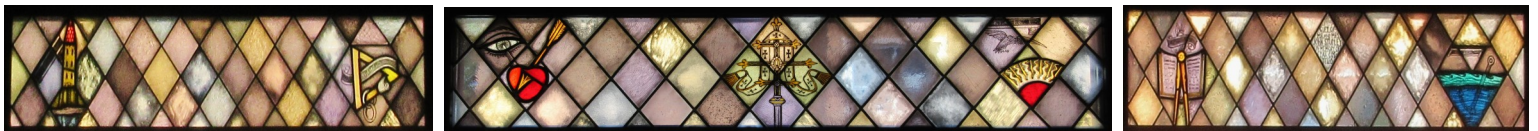
Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

This stained glass window, Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, was one of the original windows created by Emil Frei Studios, St. Louis, MO for St. Margaret Mary Parish Church when it was built in 1932. For 70 years it graced the west wall of our worship space. In 2002, when church renovation was begun, it was one of six windows removed, crated and stored until the expanded worship space was completed. While five windows were relocated this one remained safely stored for future use.



In 2012, while researching and writing about the meaning of the symbols in our church windows, Pastoral Associate Joan Bartman learned this window had not been relocated in the church. Discussions began to find a new location and artisans to dismantle and reconfigure it. Hershey Stained Glass Studio, Milton, IA was chosen to do the work. In August, 2015, it was installed in the transept on the west side of the Gathering Space. It is good to have it back in our church..

Original Window



Reconfigured Window

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

*-a gift from Mr. and Mrs. John Studley
in memory of Don Costello-*

*-was on west wall of original church
-now reconfigured— on west wall of Gathering Space
through memorial gifts in honor of*

*Dr. James Bouressa, Gracye Erickson, Audrey Fuchs,
Victor Turoski, Mabel and Ambrose Gracalny*

The seven symbols on this window represent the sacrament of Confirmation and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Church traditionally lists the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit as:

fortitude or courage
wisdom
piety or reverence
fear of the Lord
understanding
knowledge
counsel or right judgment

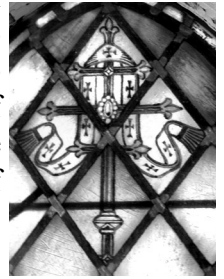
The Holy Spirit bestows these gifts upon us to help us share in the very life and nature of God, now in this life and for eternal life. The revelation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is rooted in the prophecy of Isaiah about the coming Messiah. “A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of *wisdom* and of *understanding*, a spirit of *counsel* and of *strength*, a spirit of *knowledge* and of *fear of the Lord*, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:1-3).

Jesus, the Messiah, promised the apostles that he would send the Holy Spirit to them. He fulfilled that promise after his resurrection, on Pentecost, when his followers were gathered in one place. “Suddenly from up in the sky there came a noise like a strong, driving wind which was heard all through the house where they were seated. Tongues as of fire appeared which parted and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:1-4) The Church teaches that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are extended to all the faithful through Baptism and strengthened through Confirmation.

The symbols on this window are understood best by beginning at the center with the thematic symbol. The remaining six symbols are read across left pane, center pane and right pane. They correspond to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, with one symbol (eye, heart with arrow) denoting two separate gifts.

Bishop, Ordinary Minister of Confirmation

This symbol captures the theme of this window. It represents the bishop, the spiritual leader of the diocese, who is the ordinary minister of the sacrament of Confirmation. The **stole** is a sign of the sacrament of Holy Orders. The **three crossbeams** on the cross may signify the three degrees of Holy Orders received by the bishop: deacon, priest and bishop. While the cross reminds Christians of the suffering and death of Jesus, this **jeweled cross**, “*crux gemmata*” in Latin, represents Jesus’ victory over death and his triumph in resurrection. The splayed or budded ends of the cross are ready to open, a visual statement that the cross, the place of suffering and death for Jesus, is the tree of life. His death was redemptive, giving new life to all sinners. This cross represents a processional cross carried into church and placed in a stand during Mass or a pectoral cross hung on a chain or cord and worn on the chest of the bishop and the pope during liturgical or civic functions.



The presence of the bishop at Confirmation reminds us this sacrament strengthens the person’s bond with the whole Church and her apostolic origins. The bishop may entrust the celebration of Confirmation to the priest if an adult is being baptized or is becoming Catholic from another Christian denomination.

Confirmation is intimately connected with Baptism and Eucharist, forming three sacraments of initiation. In Confirmation, the baptized person is anointed with oil of Sacred Chrism and is “sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit”. This opens the person further to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in everyday life and strengthens the person for service to the Body of Christ.

Fortitude or Courage

The **tower**, a tall, sturdy structure rising above other structures and used for observation, is perceived as a sign of strength. It stands on **rock**, a firm and supportive foundation, which may represent Christ. “Strength” is written on the banner near this symbol. The Latin word for this gift of the Holy Spirit is “*fortitudo*” meaning “bravery, firmness or steadfastness”.



The gift of fortitude provides us with special strength and courage needed to see and face various human struggles or questions in life and faith. It prepares us to do what we know is right and to endure through the duration of life's challenges. It enables us to stand firmly in our belief in Christ and the Gospel.

Wisdom

The **triangle** with three equal sides and equal angles, is an emblem for the Trinity of the three persons of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one God. Jesus, the Son of God, is represented by the bottom side of the triangle as the **two interlocking links** of chain refer to Jesus' two natures. The top link, which is looped around the triangle, indicates the divine nature of Jesus. The lower link represents the human nature of Jesus. We are connected to God through Jesus, the divine one who humbled himself to share our humanity. "Wisdom" is written on the banner near the symbol. The Latin word for this gift is "Sapientia" meaning "good sense, discernment, practical wisdom, knowledge of the world".



The gift of wisdom helps us to detach somewhat from our human existence in the world and gives us a more divine viewpoint. It enables us to see the world and life as God sees it, so we may grasp the purpose and plan of God for our lives. It saves us from the illusion that our human nature and our own times are to be the guideposts for our lives. It keeps God central in our lives, fostering love for the things of heaven.

Piety or Reverence

The **heart** represents the center of the person, the font of human emotion and deepest feelings. The slender shaft and the point of the **arrow** pierce through the heart, signifying something or someone intensely affecting the senses or emotions. The Latin word for this gift of the Holy Spirit is "pietas" which means "dutifulness or being towards the gods".



The gift of piety or reverence assists us in our attempts to open our hearts to God and to approach God in prayer and devotion. God's love for us affects, enhances and deepens our love for the Father who created us, for Jesus who saved us, and for the Spirit who is sanctifying us.

Fear or Awe of the Lord

The **eye** represents the eye of God with the power to look keenly into the **heart** so as to know us, judge us and appreciate us. There is no word banner for this gift near this shared symbol. The Latin word for this gift of the Holy Spirit is "timor Domini" which means "religious fear or apprehension of the Lord".



The gift of fear of the Lord is also described as wonder and awe in God's presence. It is our response to our God who is transcendent, exceeding ordinary limits, while also being all-present, a close, loving spiritual companion and guide. This gift can infuse honesty into our dependent relationship with God, a frankness that places us in awe before the majesty of God.

Understanding

The **sun**, the distant but central controlling body of our solar system, gives light and heat. The bird, an **eagle**, is perceived as having the ability to fly higher than other birds, thus achieving the most complete view of what lies below. "Intellect" is written on the banner near the symbol. The Latin word for this gift of the Holy Spirit is "intellectus" which means "a perceiving, sensation, understanding or comprehension".



The gift of understanding helps us to have a broad view, grasping the truths of our faith and knowing that which God has revealed. It stimulates us to work on knowing ourselves as part of our growth in knowing God.

Knowledge

Scientific symbols are used to portray knowledge which is gained through the study of living things (represented by the **holly leaves and berries**) and the study of inanimate objects (represented by the **compass and geometry book**). “Science” is written on the banner near this symbol, rather than “knowledge”. It comes directly from “scientia”, the Latin word for this gift of the Holy Spirit. “Scientia” means “acquaintance with or a theological or philosophical knowing”.



The gift of knowledge points out the path to follow and the dangers to avoid in our lives. It aids us in our desire to know and believe in things as they really are. It directs us to thoughtful reflection on the mysteries of our Catholic faith and the mystery of God.

Counsel or Right Judgment

Water, a basic element of life, is a transparent liquid. In this symbol the water is moving in waves at the surface but becomes more calm with increased depth. The heavy **anchor** is lowered to grip the bottom, to hold firmly and securely. “Counsel” is written on the banner near the symbol. The Latin word for this gift of the Holy Spirit is “consilium” which means “foresight, deliberation, taking advice or suggestion”.



The gift of counsel or right judgment helps us to look deeply and thoroughly before making a decision about what to choose or what to do when we are faced with challenges in life. As we open ourselves to deeper spiritual lives, we find greater stability and security through the quiet teaching the Holy Spirit. We see the best ways to follow God’s plan for us through the power of this gift.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, symbolized on this window, help us to live our lives in response to the grace of the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. As we do so, we develop particular Christian qualities, characteristics and attitudes of the heart that we call **the fruits of the Holy Spirit**.

St. Paul identifies nine fruits of the Holy Spirit in his writing to the Galatians. “The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness and chastity. Against such there is no law! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the spirit, let us follow the spirit’s lead. Let us never be boastful, or challenging, or jealous toward one another.” (Gal 5:22-26)

The Church traditionally lists twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit:

love
kindness
faithfulness

joy
goodness
modesty

peace
generosity
self-control

patience
gentleness
chastity