

## *Fountain of Grace*

*-located above the original south entrance*



This small window shows a blue **fountain with streams of green water** flowing from three levels and then running outward in all directions. The water is green, the color of life and new growth, representing the new life that is given to us—through the living water of Baptism and through God’s grace that is given through each sacrament.

The yellow **circle with a cross** at the top of the fountain symbolizes Jesus Christ, who lives and acts in the Church through the sacraments. The three upper streams of water represent the three *sacraments of initiation* (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). These three streams flow into the middle level of the fountain with its four streams of water. Those four streams symbolize the two *sacraments of healing* (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick) and the two *sacraments of service or vocation* (Matrimony and Holy Orders). The three streams and the four streams become seven streams of water flowing from the lowest level of the fountain, representing all seven sacraments of the Church. Our sacraments are sacred signs, symbols and rituals that form an organic whole, occupying a vital place in Christian existence and touching all stages and important moments of Christian life. The water flows out lavishly in all directions, a sign that God’s life-giving grace, which we receive in the sacraments, flows out to touch every aspect of our lives and, through us, should flow into the lives of others.

The placement of this symbol over the main entrance of our original church reminds us that we enter into the life of Christ and the Church through the sacrament of Baptism. The Church is the font of grace and salvation. Baptism gives us new life in Christ and leads to membership and participation in the Church, including the celebration of other sacraments.

This fountain of living water is reminiscent of Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well, “If only you recognized God’s gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him instead, and he would have given you living water...Whoever drinks of the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give shall become a fountain within, leaping up to provide eternal life.” (Jn 4:10, 13-14)