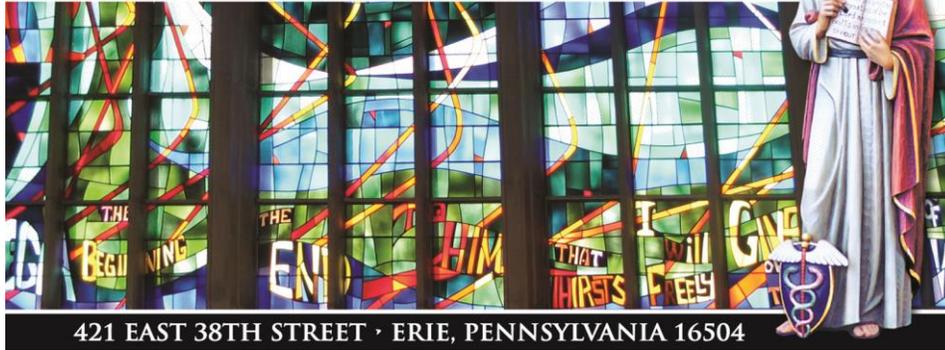


Saint Luke

ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH



421 EAST 38TH STREET · ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16504

St. Luke Church Windows

Entering St. Luke Church on a sunny day is like stepping into a rainbow as the sunlight passing through the stained-glass windows illuminates the sacred space with beauty and splendor.

The primary function of stained glass in a church is to educate and lend beauty and splendor to the interior. All of these windows are integrated by the same theme, that of the coming of Christ. The east is Christ past, the north is Christ present, and the west is Christ future.

On the east, taking in the first rays of the morning sun is the Incarnation, Christ's first appearance on earth.

Catching the last rays of the sinking sun is the west window that symbolizes the Parousia, the last coming of Christ.

Steady northern light filters through the north window...a huge pillar of fire signifying the daily coming of Christ in our lives. It can also be interpreted as the pillar of fire, which led the Israelites through the desert to the Promised Land. St. John's theme that God is love is embodied in the warmth and power of this window.

The east windows exemplify the beginning of St. John's Gospel, *The Word was made Flesh and lived among us, and we saw His glory, the glory that is His as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.* The Incarnation of Christ was a quiet coming, known to comparatively few people... *a light shining in the darkness...*

The western window illustrates the ordering of the universe on the Last Day, with flowing lines, which also serve to represent the foundation of living water emanating from Christ. In contrast will be Christ's second coming on the last day, when the whole world will witness not only His glory but also His power. *Behold I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end; to him who thirsts I will freely give of the waters of the foundation of life.* The narrow bands of bright color heighten the concept of divine power, moving ever outward to contain the whole universe. The sole piece of clear glass represents the eye of God.

As with the east and west windows the baptistery windows are inspired by the words of St. John. *No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit.* The theme of water is embodied in the fountain-like image in blue tones; the Holy Spirit, by the tongue of fire in the center. Three theological virtues are conferred at Baptism and these are represented by the cross (faith), the anchor (hope), and the flame (love.) The size and brilliance of the flame emphasizes the strength and beauty of charity in the life of the Christian. *There abide faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.* 1 Corinthians 13

The Sacristy window is a reminder to the priest of his most important daily act, that of offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The words, *I will go to the altar of God, to God who gives joy to my youth,* from Psalm 42, are said at the beginning of every Mass. As the priest vests he is reminded that the Sacrifice of the New Law fulfills the Old.

Our windows were designed by Sister Mary David, RSM, (Jacqueline Shuler)