



Praying with the Windows of St. Joseph the Worker Shrine



The Heritage/Patron Saint Windows

The year 2021 marked 140 years since the five stained glass windows of significant historical value were installed in the cupola of the sanctuary. They contain a rich legacy of St. Joseph Church on Lee Street before it became the Shrine in 1956.

Known as 'The Patron Saint Windows', they were installed in 1881 to represent the major devotions of the Societies and Sodalties of St. Joseph Parish, the first Franco-American Parish of the Archdiocese, from 1868 – 1947.

The Patron St. Anne Window

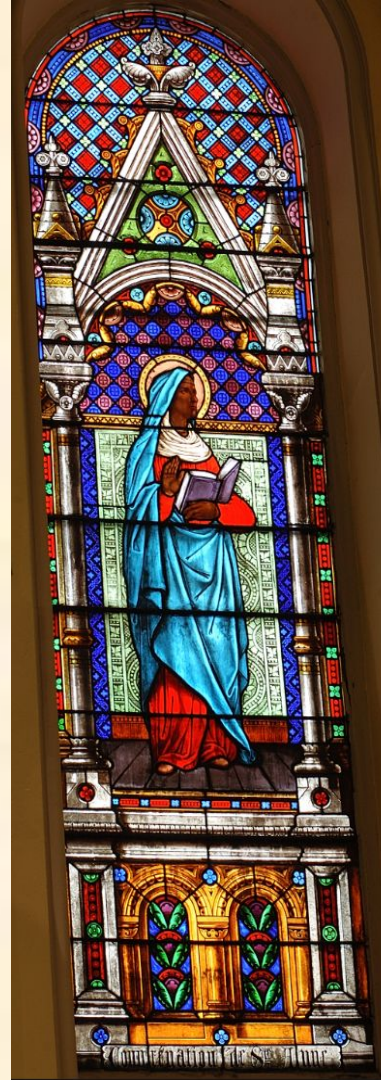
The first of the 5 centennial stained-glass windows located in the sanctuary is one dedicated to St. Anne. She is honored as the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of Jesus.

She and her husband were blessed and very devoted to God. They made their home in Nazareth but were childless – at that time, in Judaism, that was believed to be a punishment from God.

For this reason, Joachim, her husband, would not even offer sacrifice in the Temple. With sadness, he went to the mountains to pray. Anne prayed to God in her home and begged Him to give her a child. She promised to dedicate her child to His service.

Their prayers were answered – a daughter was born to Anne and they called her Miriam (Mary). Anne offered her child to the service of God in the service of the Temple at a very early age.

St. Anne's name means "grace." God endowed her with special gifts and grace to be the mother of the Mother of God.



Let us Pray

God of our forebears, you gave St. Anne and her spouse the privilege of being the parents of Mary, the mother of your incarnate Son.

May their prayers as grandparents of the Lord Jesus help us to attain the salvation you have promised to your people. Amen.

The Our Lady of Lourdes Window

This window was donated by the *Confraternity of the Ladies of Lourdes*. Few indeed are those present as eyewitnesses to one of those rare but undoubtedly real occurrences in which the omnipotence of God pierces through the shadows of space and time to bind up and heal the broken bodies of men and women – the evidence of such visitations is indisputable.

During the mid-1880's, it pleased God to so visit his people time after time in a remote grotto in the French foothills of the Pyrenees, where the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God, appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858.

God, of course, chooses his own time and places and occasions for the miraculous, but his power shines forth most frequently where his mother is honored and venerated.

At Lourdes, the Blessed Virgin confirmed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception declared by the Church in 1854 when four years later in 1858, on her last apparition to Bernadette, she said: "***I am the Immaculate Conception.***"



Let us Pray

Lord God, give to your people the joy of continual health of mind and body.

With the prayers of the Virgin Mary to help us, guide us through the sorrows of this life to eternal happiness in the life to come. Amen.

The St. Joseph Window

The stained-glass window in the center is dedicated to Saint Joseph, chosen as patron saint of this church on May 3rd, 1868, when the first Mass was celebrated on the Feast Day of St. Joseph.

The Heavenly Father chose Joseph, a young carpenter of Nazareth, to be the foster father of Jesus and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Let us Pray

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to you God entrusted his only Son; in you, Mary placed her trust; with you, Jesus learned how to be a man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage and defend us from every evil. Amen.

The Guardian Angel Window

The feast of the Guardian Angels dates back to about the year 1670. It conveys the message of God's concern and care for each one of us, His children, through the ministry of His angels.

In Exodus 23:20-23 we read: ***See, I am sending an angel before you to guard you on the way, to the place I have prepared for you.***

The Psalms echo the same consoling theme: ***"He has put his angels in charge of you, to guard you in all your ways."***

In the Gospel, (Mat. 18/1-5,10): Jesus speaks in defense of the "little ones," the helpless: ***"I assure you, their angels in heaven constantly behold my Father's face."***

This beautiful stained-glass window expresses God's tender care and protection. It was donated in 1881 by the Society of the Guardian Angels, a sodality specifically organized for the children of St. Joseph parish.



Let us Pray

God our Father, in your loving providence, you send your holy emissaries to watch over us.

Under their constant care, keep us free from dangers in this life and bring us to the joy of eternal life, where Jesus is Lord forever. Amen.

The St. Jean Baptiste Window

The Franco-Americans who founded St. Joseph church back in 1868 were for the most part newly arrived immigrants from Canada where St. Jean Baptiste is the patron saint of the Province of Québec. To continue the devotion to their Patron Saint, a stained-glass window was dedicated and installed in his honor.

John the Baptist was the son of the priest Zachary. His birth was foretold by the Angel Gabriel during a vision in the Temple. It is this same John who pointed to Jesus with the words ***"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"***

When John warned King Herod that it was not lawful for him to have his brother's wife, he was thrown into prison. Later, the king had him beheaded.

Our Lord said of John: ***"Among those born of women, there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist."***



Let us Pray

God our Father, the voice of John the Baptist challenges us to repentance and points the way to Christ the Lord.

Open our ears to his message and free our hearts to turn from our sins and receive the life of the Gospel. Amen.