

## WINDOWS TO INSPIRE

The stained glass window-walls of Holy Family Church depict in abstract fashion Family Life in Christ (the east windows) and the Corporal Works of Mercy (the west windows). The "flow" of both window-walls begins at the south wall of the church and moves toward the north wall.

The east windows begin with a combined design of two symbolic wedding rings intertwined with the traditional three linked circles symbolizing the life of God, both triune and one, our God who is love. This love, symbolized by the "flowing stream" of red glass is the origin and strength of family life in Christ. The remaining panels depict various aspects of family life: schooling and education (a quill pen, ink pot, and scroll), parish life centered in the celebration of the Eucharist (wheat and grapes), the sustenance and shelter of the family home (a plate with bread, a pitcher, and a roof), and the love of husband and wife united in the love of Christ (again, two symbolic rings around the symbol for Christ, the first two letters of the Greek word for "Christ", the Chi and the Rho). This love is made fruitful in the begetting of new human life (symbolized by a baby carriage).

The west windows depict the Corporal Works of Mercy beginning with the gift of Christ's own life, his blood poured out for us (again symbolized by the Chi Rho letters and the tilted cup). This life-giving blood of Christ flows out in our lives (again depicted by a "stream" of red glass) and is the source of our good works: feeding the hungry (a plate with a fish), clothing the naked (a stylized robe and boot), giving drink to the thirsty (a pitcher and cup), visiting the imprisoned (shackles and a chain), sheltering the homeless (a stylized house), visiting the sick (a crutch and a mortar and pestle), and burying the deceased (a shovel and palm branch).

The north windows of the church depict more realistically some of the events in the life of the Holy Family. The west window shows the Nativity, the visit of the Magi, and Mary and Joseph

journeying to Egypt. Simple symbols on the window recall the search for a place of shelter in Bethlehem (a lantern) and the dreams of Saint Joseph (an angel). The east window depicts Jesus and Saint Joseph working in the carpenter shop in Nazareth, Jesus with the teachers in the temple at Jerusalem, and Jesus and Mary at the wedding feast of Cana. Simple symbols on this window recall the Presentation in the Temple (two turtle doves) and the death of Saint Joseph (a palm branch).

The large window of the front of the church suggests, through seven pairs of colored crosses, the seven sacraments: Baptism (a gold and purple cross), Confirmation (a red cross), Eucharist (a gold cross), Penance and the Anointing of the Sick (purple crosses), Marriage (a white cross) and Holy Orders (a gold cross).

The windows of the sacristy area symbolize the special ministries of the priesthood: forgiveness of sins (the keys) and the celebration of the Eucharist (a chalice and paten). The cry room windows contain symbols of Christian family life (the west room) and the ministry of the parish ushers (the east room). The west room windows again have the Chi Rho symbol for Christ and a symbol of the Christian Family Movement which was active in Holy Family at the time of the building of the church (the letters CFM and stylistic figures representing the members of the family). The windows of the east room have the traditional symbols for those commissioned as guardians (a lance and a halberd).

The windows of Holy Family Church were designed and executed through the studios of church architect Eugene Peddle and the Nobis Decorating Company of North Canton, Ohio.