

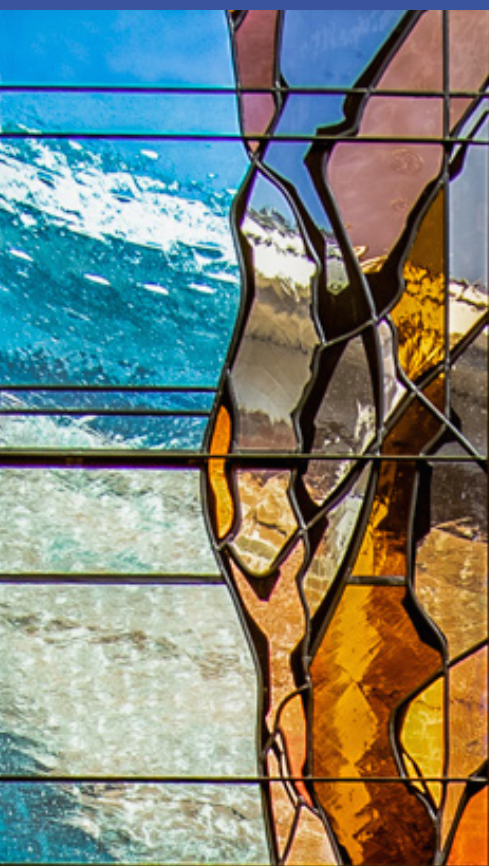
HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH



REFLECTIONS ON GOD'S COVENANT IN STAINED GLASS

A PILGRIMAGE OF OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

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INTRODUCTION

The stained glass windows of this church are meant to remind us of the fundamental truth of God's Covenant with us. A covenant is more than a contract. It is the commitment between two parties to be faithful to an agreement. For us the Covenant is God's promise to be faithful to us.

We are a People of God, chosen by Him and renewed and redeemed through the death and resurrection of His Son. The very basis of our Christian faith is the Covenant that God established with His people through Abraham, our father in faith. Jesus Christ is the perfection of that Covenant. At every Mass Christ comes to us in the Eucharist through the words, "The Blood of the New and Eternal Covenant."

The windows also remind us that as the People of God we are on a pilgrimage as a family, a Holy Family, led by God through the Holy Spirit. This booklet can be used to go from window to window, reading the inscriptions and pondering the scripture messages associated with each. As such this "Reflection on the Covenant" can be done much as the Stations of the Cross.

Full texts of the Scripture passages for each window are in the back of this booklet.

To begin the pilgrimage, the first window, "Tribes of Israel," is located at the back of the church on the right, facing the altar.

TRIBES OF ISRAEL WHO WERE THE “LORD’S FAMILY”

Genesis 5: 5-6,18 and 17: 1-9

*Theme: God has made a Covenant with
His people for all time.*

This window reminds us to worship the God of Abraham and Jacob. What is missing from the center? There is no Ark or tabernacle of the Covenant. There is no temple. The only thing that binds them together is God’s Covenant that He made with their forefathers. The stars at the top of the window are a reminder of what God said to Abraham, “I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars.” Modern artists do not use details of faces so that we can see ourselves as part of the family.

*Prayer: Lord, I am one of the many descendants of
Abraham. Help me to know and understand fully the love
You have shown us through the Covenant.*



MARRIAGE

Hosea 2: 21-22 Reference – bride of Christ?

Theme: Marriage as Covenant. We are God's spouse. The Church is the Bride of Christ and we, the People of God, are the Church.

The husband who commissioned this window in 1990 was informed that his wife had six months to live. He asked the artist to show their souls continuing after death. For this reason their heads are not completed and there is a dove above the woman's head representing her impending death. She survived until 2000. This continues the current theme in the window to the left. Without the strength of the marriage covenant the family of God falls apart. It is symbolic that we are God's spouses (Hosea). He is the bridegroom. We are supposed to see ourselves as his bride.

Prayer: Lord, you loved us, including myself, as the Bridegroom loves his bride. Help me to return this love to You.



“LITTLE GIRL, GET UP”

Mark 5:41

*Theme: Through His ministry Jesus reconciles
and heals us.*

Mark 5:41 tells of the healing of Jarius' daughter. The face of Jesus is contrasted by the lack of facial expression in the unnamed character in the window. The artist sees us here. The window represents the reconciling and healing ministry of Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, I am in need of healing, spiritually and physically. There are those with whom I need to reconcile. Help me to heal and to be reconciled.



MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

Luke 1: 39-45 Magnificat – Luke 1: 45-56

Theme: Like Mary we are on a pilgrimage to share the good news of Christ with others.

Luke tells us, “Mary got up and went ‘in haste’ to visit Elizabeth.” Elizabeth is the figure to the right standing in the doorway. Mary is the figure to the left with her back to you. The piece of blue glass could lead us to see an angel accompanying Mary. The artist took poetic license to depict the child in the middle. The child is carrying a bowl of fruit. Elizabeth rejoices in the fruit of Mary’s womb. It can also represent hope to the extent they can be fruitful in their old age. Mary is the first “pilgrim.” We pray that our lives will be the fruit of “preparing the way of the Lord.” We pray to carry Jesus in our pilgrimage to his kingdom.

Prayer: Lord, be with us always on our pilgrimage through life. Help us to share the good news of your coming, especially with those closest to us.



THE HOLY FAMILY IN FLIGHT TO EGYPT

Hosea 11: 1 Matthew 2: 13-15

Joseph is told to flee to Egypt to save the child from Herod.

Matthew 2 records how Joseph was warned in a dream that Herod intends to kill the child Jesus. He is told to flee to Egypt for safety, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Hosea 11:1, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” This window looks “busy” to give a sense of motion.

Prayer: Lord, make us aware of dangers to our faith, to our family and help us to listen to your voice and to follow your direction.



THE FAMILY OF FAITH AROUND THE CUP

Psalm 116: 7

Diversity of the Holy Family parish today watched, as it were, by the founding families represented by the flight into Egypt.

Psalm 116: 13 says, "I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord." This window can also represent the diversity of people who make up Holy Family parish today. The founding families represented the "Flight to Egypt" window as looking at us and they see families they never imagined celebrating around God's throne.

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for our parish and the people who support us. We thank those who worked to make this parish a reality and hope to be faithful followers in the way they have marked out for us.



THE DOVE

*Genesis: 8: 6-12; Matthew 3: 16; Mark 1: 10; Luke 3: 21-22;
John 1:32 and Matthew 10:5*

*Theme: The Dove as the symbol of the Holy Spirit who descended on
Jesus at His Baptism by John.*

Genesis 8 speaks of how Noah released a dove from the ark. When it did not return he knew that land had been restored. Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3 and John 1 note that at Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. In Matthew 10:5 Jesus warns his disciples to be "wise as serpents and as innocent as doves."

*Prayer: Lord, keep us tuned to the Holy Spirit in our lives
that we may know your ways and wisely follow them out of
love for you and our neighbor.*



THE MOTHER PELICAN NESTING IN THE TREE OF LIFE

John 1:55

Theme: The pelican is an early Church symbol of the Eucharist. It also is the traditional symbol of religious orders devoted to service, like the Vincentians and Sisters of Charity.

In the catacombs the common symbol used for the Eucharist and the church was the mother pelican. When a pelican does not have food for her children, she will pick at her breast because the baby birds will survive on her blood. “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:55)

Prayer: Lord, help us to partake fully in the banquet of your body and blood so that we may be food for others through love.



THE FAMILY OF GOD CARRIES THE ARK OF THE COVENANT PROTECTED BY THE PILLAR OF CLOUD BY DAY AND PILLAR OF FIRE BY NIGHT

Exodus 12: 21-22; 14: 19-20; Psalm 141: 2

*Theme: As Moses and the people were guided out of Egypt by the
Pillar of Cloud and Fire, we are guided on our own journey
with God*

When Moses led the people out of slavery from Egypt to Israel, they were protected and guided by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Psalm 141 says, "Let my prayers rise up to you as incense." The first ark (tabernacle) held the manna (the bread that comes down from heaven), the Ten Commandments, and the staff of Aaron (the priest of Moses). Mary is the new ark who carried Jesus in her womb. He is the High Priest, the Bread of Life and the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets.

Prayer: Lord, continue to guide us through your Covenant that leads us in our lives as the pillar of fire led our family forbearers in the desert.



JESUS COMES AT THE END OF TIME TO COLLECT HIS FAMILY

*1 Thessalonians: 4: 15-18; 2 Corinthians 12: 2;
Revelation 12:5; Psalm 23*

*Theme: We fill in the faces of family in the window as Jesus embraces
and calls the whole world to Himself.*

1 Thessalonians, 4: 15-18, 2 Corinthians, 12:2 and Revelations 12:5 speak of how Jesus will return for the faithful family. The artist does not fill in the facial details of the family in the lower right corner so we can identify ourselves in the window. The immensity of the figure of Jesus and the height of the mountains in the background are meant to remind us that He will be seen by the entire world for who He really is. The symbolism of the road that leads to Jesus reminds us to pray for the right path that guides us to Him (Psalm 23).

*Prayer: Lord, we are your people and we long to join
ourselves to all those who have come before us on the
pilgrimage to You and to share You with the whole world.*



SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

WINDOW 1 THE TWELVE TRIBES OF JACOB

Genesis 15: 5-6, 8; 12: 1-9

He took him outside and said: Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so, he added, will your descendants be. Abram put his faith in the LORD, who attributed it to him as an act of righteousness. “Lord GOD,” he asked, “how will I know that I will possess it?”

The LORD said to Abram: Go forth from your land, your relatives, and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will find blessing in you.

Abram went as the LORD directed him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his brother’s son Lot, all the possessions that they had accumulated, and the persons they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, by the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites were then in the land.

The LORD appeared to Abram and said: To your descendants I will give this land. So Abram built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel, pitching his tent with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. He built an altar there to the LORD and invoked the LORD by name. Then Abram journeyed on by stages to the Negeb.

WINDOW 2 MARRIAGE

Hosea 2: 21-22

I will betroth you to me forever: I will betroth you to me with justice and with judgment, with loyalty and with compassion; I will betroth you to me with fidelity, and you shall know the LORD.

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

WINDOW 3 LITTLE GIRL GET UP

Mark 5: 41

He took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!”

WINDOW 4 MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

Luke: 1: 39-56

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

The Canticle of Mary.

And Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to

his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

WINDOW 5 THE HOLY FAMILY IN FLIGHT TO EGYPT

Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a child I loved him; out of Egypt I called my son.

Matthew 2: 13-15

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

WINDOW 6 THE FAMILY OF FAITH AROUND THE CUP

Psalms 116: 7

Return, my soul, to your rest; the LORD has been very good to you.

WINDOW 7 THE DOVE

Genesis 8: 6-12

At the end of forty days Noah opened the hatch of the ark that he had made, and he released a raven. It flew back and forth until the waters dried off from the earth. Then he released a dove, to see if the waters had lessened on the earth. But the dove could find no place to perch, and it returned to him in the ark, for there was water over all the earth. Putting out his hand, he caught the dove and drew it back to him inside the ark. He waited yet seven days more and again released the dove from the ark. In the evening the dove came back to him, and there in its bill was a plucked-off olive leaf! So Noah knew that the waters had diminished on the earth. He waited yet another seven days and then released the dove; but this time it did not come back.

Matthew 3: 16

After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Mark 1:10

On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.

Luke 3:21-22

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

John 1:22

John testified further, saying, “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him.

**WINDOW 8 THE MOTHER PELICAN (NESTING ON THE
“TREE OF LIFE”)**

John 6:55

For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

**WINDOW 9 THE FAMILY OF GOD CARRY THE ARK OF THE
COVENANT PROTECTED BY A PILLAR OF CLOUD BY DAY
AND A PILLAR OF FIRE BY NIGHT**

Exodus 12: 21-22

Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and procure lambs for your families, and slaughter the Passover victims. Then take a bunch of hyssop, and dipping it in the blood that is in the basin, apply some of this blood to the lintel and the two doorposts. And none of you shall go outdoors until morning.”

Exodus 14: 19

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's army, now moved and went around behind them. And the column of cloud, moving from in front of them, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the Egyptian army and that of Israel. And when it became dark, the cloud illuminated the night; and so the rival camps did not come any closer together all night long.

Psalms 141:2 Let my prayer be incense - "before you; my uplifted hands"- an evening offering.

WINDOW 10 JESUS COMES AT THE END OF TIME TO COLLECT HIS FAMILY

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

2 Corinthians 12: 2

I know someone in Christ who, fourteen years ago (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows), was caught up to the third heaven.

Revelation 12:5

She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne.

Psalms 23

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul. He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.

You set a table before me in front of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days.

BACKGROUND

The project of creating and placing the stained glass windows was initiated by Fr. Thomas Ryan, the pastor when the new church was built. It was later completed by his successor, Fr. Joseph Barr.

The first two windows were placed by Fr. Ryan in 1991. Final installation of the others was done by Fr. Barr after 1996.

John Calligan designed the original stained glass windows. His shop was in Frederick, MD, but later closed. The four centered windows (right and left of the Tabernacle) were completed by Sharon Rowland's "Art in Glass," also in Frederick.

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Holy Family Church

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