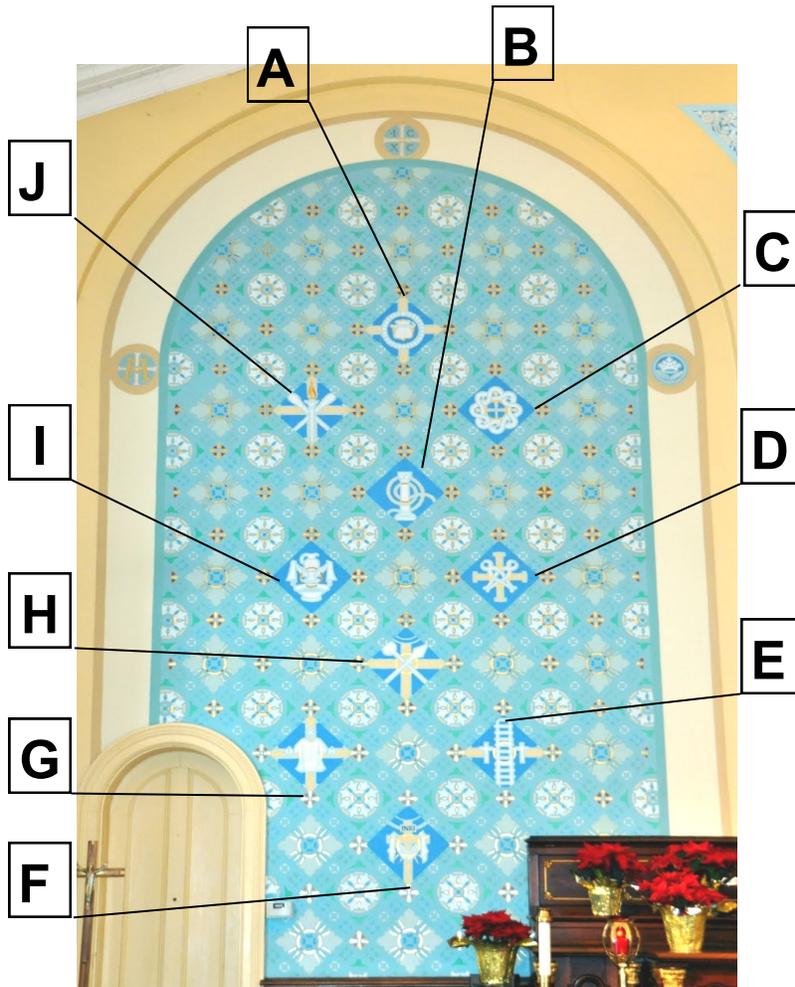




KNOW & GROW TOPIC OF THE WEEK: THE SYMBOLS IN ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH, PART 1



We are incredibly blessed with two beautiful churches in our parish, and if you look closely, you can learn much from the architecture and symbolism in both of those spaces. In St. Bridget's Church, many symbols are painted into the arches flanking the altar in the sanctuary.

Symbols of the Left Arch: the Passion and Death of Christ

- A. Bag of Coins**—Judas was paid thirty pieces of silver to hand over Jesus to the authorities.
- B. Pillar and Whip**—After being arrested, Jesus was tied to a pillar and scourged with a whip
- C. Crown of Thorns**—To mock Jesus who had been called King of the Jews a “crown” made of thorns and brambles was fashioned and placed on Jesus’ head.
- D. Pliers**—Although not recorded in any of the Gospels, pliers were likely used to pull nails of execution from the cross.
- E. Crosses & Ladder**—The crosses remind us of the two criminals who were executed on either side of Jesus. The ladder symbolizes the path to Heaven given to each of us in Jesus’ death.
- F. Empty Cross**—The white garment resting from the side arms of the cross remind us of Jesus’ resurrection. INRI are the first letters of the Latin inscription which by Pilate’s order, was placed on the cross: “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.”
- G. Dice & Cloak**—Since the clothing that Jesus wore was made from a single piece of cloth and would be worth more whole, soldiers rolled dice for it.
- H. Spear**—After Jesus had died, instead of breaking the bones of his feet, one of the soldiers thrust a lance into his side.
- I. Bowl of Water**—Pilate finds no reason to execute Jesus. He “washes his hands” of the wishes of the crowd.
- J. Fire & Clubs**—When Judas brought the soldiers to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, they used torches to light the way and clubs as weapons.