

WALKING WITH PETER



SACRED ART FOR
REFLECTION & PRAYER



WALKING WITH PETER

This prayer booklet contains reflections based on the stained glass windows we hope to one day enjoy in Saint Peter's.

Since Peter is our parish patron, each window depicts an important moment in Peter's spiritual journey. Our hope is that a viewer could prayerfully walk from window to window, similar to the Stations of the Cross, and contemplate the Lord in a fresh way through Peter's eyes. In Peter, we can see ourselves and our own faith journey.

While the actual stained glass will be further refined, these first watercolor sketches convey the colors, composition, and spiritual meaning of each window.



PETER MEETS JESUS

JOHN 1:40-42

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas,” which, when translated, means Peter.

The Scene

Andrew introduces his brother to Jesus, as John the Baptist baptizes in the background. The mountain with the building on top reminds us of Simon’s new name, which means “rock,” pointing to his eventual calling to be the first pope, the rock on whom the Church will be built.

Walking With Peter

Before we can follow Jesus, someone has to introduce us to him. For most of us, our parents introduced us to Jesus when we were little. The Lord is counting on us to be like Andrew, joyfully desiring to help introduce others to Jesus.

For Reflection & Prayer

- What do you think went through Peter’s mind and heart as he first met Jesus?
- What would have happened if Andrew had never brought Peter to Jesus?
- Think about who introduced you to Jesus, and thank God for them.
- How is Jesus calling you today to follow Andrew’s example, helping to introduce someone to him?

THE MIRACULOUS CATCH

LUKE 5:1-11

After he had finished speaking, Jesus said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. (v. 4-6)

The Scene

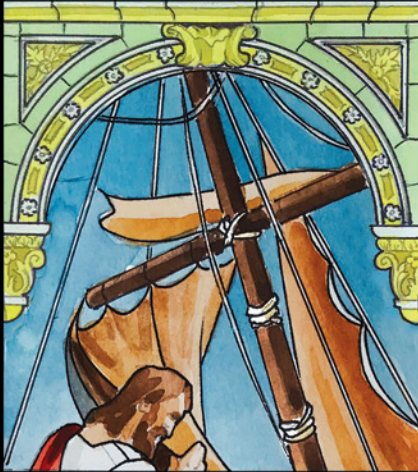
Andrew and the other fisherman struggle with the overwhelming catch. Astonished, Peter drops to his knees in front of Jesus, saying, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” (v. 8)

Walking With Peter

In this moment, Peter has a powerful, personal encounter with Jesus. Perhaps for the first time, his heart is struck with the reality that there is something truly amazing and supernatural about this teacher from Galilee. Even if we have been taught about Jesus since infancy, each of us needs such encounters with him, moments where we recognize his divinity and power and fall to our knees, aware of our need for his mercy and love.

For Reflection & Prayer

- Peter was likely tired and frustrated from a night of fishing without results. When you are overwhelmed, stressed, or tired, do you share your feelings and needs with Jesus in prayer?
- Are there times when you have trusted Jesus and done something he asked, even when you did not understand his reasons, like Peter as he again lowered the nets?
- Have there been times when you have had a powerful experience of Jesus in your life? If so, reflect on them and thank Jesus for those moments of grace.
- At this moment in your life, what might be a way that Jesus is calling you to “go out into the deep?”





DROPPING THEIR NETS

MATTHEW 4:19-20

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” And at once they left their nets and followed him.

The Scene

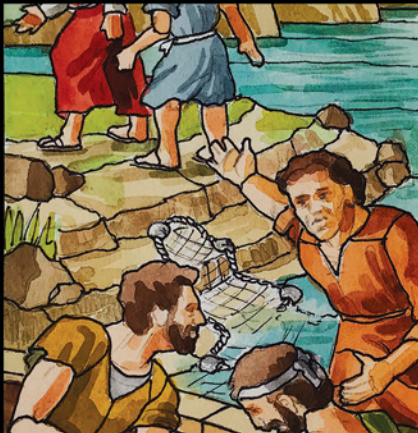
Peter responds eagerly to the Lord’s call, dropping his fishing net to begin to follow Jesus. Peter is leaving behind his old life, turning his back to his fishing gear and companions in order to become a disciple. Andrew excitedly tells his friends about the Lord, pointing to Jesus and Peter as he also prepares to follow. One man begins to listen, but the other is too focused on the catch and the profit it will bring.

Walking With Peter

Each of us can grow up knowing about Jesus and have experiences of his power and grace. But there comes a point where, like Peter and Andrew, each of us has to make our own deliberate decision to leave our old lives behind and follow after Christ. This is what we mean by “disciple”: someone who has chosen to follow Jesus and make him the center of their lives.

For Reflection & Prayer

- Are there times in your life when you are like the man in green, more excited by small worldly joys than by following Jesus?
- What are the “nets” in your life, the things that you are called to let go of, so as to better follow Jesus?
- Has there been a time or period in your life when you have made a conscious decision to “drop your nets” and follow after Jesus?
- Is Jesus inviting you to make him the center of your life?
If you have not yet done so, ask the Lord to help you make a commitment to follow him and be his disciple.



JESUS TEACHES THE CROWDS

MARK 2:1-12

Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and Jesus preached the word to them. (v. 2)

The Scene

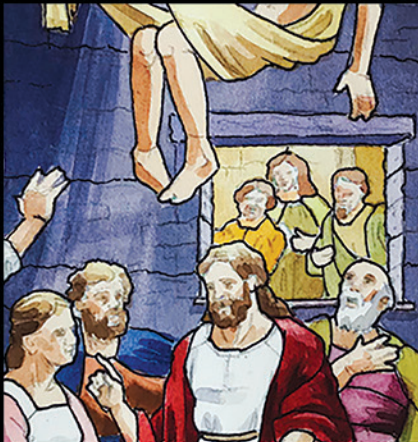
Peter is next to Jesus in the crowded house, listening to the Lord teach. The crowds peer in through the windows, straining to hear his words. All are so intent on the teaching that they hardly notice a paralyzed man being lowered through the ceiling, his friends hopeful for a miraculous cure.

Walking With Peter

Now a disciple of Jesus, Peter follows Jesus wherever he goes. He listens to Jesus teach and is slowly formed by contemplating his words and actions. The same applies to us as disciples of Jesus. We are called to learn from his teachings, both in the Gospels and through his family of faith, the Church. Like Peter, we need to allow our hearts and minds need to be formed by the Teacher of all Teachers.

For Reflection & Prayer

- Is Jesus the primary person forming your mind and heart? Or is it a news personality, a celebrity, etc.?
- How do you allow yourself to be taught by Jesus?
- Are you spending time at the feet of Jesus, like the two in the bottom of the window, listening to him speak to you in the Gospels?
- Are there teachings of our Catholic faith that you find confusing or hard to accept? Ask Jesus in prayer to open your mind and heart, and resolve to seek a good source that explains the Church's teaching on that subject.





JESUS PRAYS EARLY IN THE MORNING

MARK 1:35-38

Rising very early before dawn, Jesus left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him searched for him and on finding him said, “Everyone is looking for you.” He told them, “Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.”

The Scene

As dawn breaks, Peter and two other apostles are seeking Jesus. They finally find him in the countryside outside of town, deep in prayer with his heavenly Father. In prayer, Jesus gathers strength for the demands of his daily ministry.

Walking With Peter

As a disciple of Jesus, Peter not only learns from the Lord’s teachings but also from his example. Over and over again in their three years together, Peter sees Jesus taking time away from his ministry to spend in prayer. Like Peter, we must learn from the Lord’s example, and allow him to show us how to truly pray.

For Reflection & Prayer

- Even Jesus needed time to pray. Do you take time every day to be quiet with God in prayer?
- If you do not currently have a daily habit of prayer, consider what time of the day would best allow you a half-hour or so quiet with God. For many of us, early in the morning works the best, just as it did for Jesus.
- Where can you pray, so as to have fewest distractions, like Jesus did in going outside of town?





JESUS WASHES PETER'S FEET

JOHN 13:1-11

Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" (v. 4-9)

The Scene

Jesus and the Apostles are in the upper room, where they have been eating the Last Supper. Peter tries to stop Jesus from washing his feet. In the background, Judas slips away into the darkness to betray the Lord.

Walking With Peter

Peter was at the Lord's side as he cared for the sick, the poor, and all who were vulnerable or outcasts. Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve. In one of his final acts, Jesus gives both Peter and us an unforgettable lesson on how he expects us to serve others.

For Reflection & Prayer

- In Peter's place, what would your reaction have been?
- How might Jesus be calling you to "wash someone's feet" today? A phone call to someone who is lonely, an act of kindness towards a family member?
- Ask Jesus to help you become more aware of the opportunities he is giving you to serve as he served.





PETER DENIES JESUS

JOHN 18:15-26

Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself... One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed. (v. 18, 26-27)

The Scene

Peter is in the courtyard of the house of the high priest, where Jesus was first brought for questioning. He denied Jesus upon entering the gate and now, as he stands around the charcoal fire with the servants and officers, he denies Jesus twice more. In the background, Jesus is being led to Pilate. He looks straight at Peter, knowing what has just happened.

Walking With Peter

Peter loves Jesus. Just hours earlier, Peter said he will gladly give his life for Jesus. (John 13:37) Yet, when the time comes for Peter to be courageous, he falters. This is what we so often experience as disciples of Jesus. We seek to follow him with all of our heart, and yet like Peter, we often fall. We fail to love Jesus with our whole heart. We will stumble in sin. We fail to live out our calling as disciples because of our weakness and imperfections.

For Reflection & Prayer

- How might Jesus be feeling, as he knows that Peter is denying him?
- Have there been times when you have doubted your faith, or not stood up for Jesus in front of others?
- In everyday life, what are ways that you find yourself like Peter, turning away from Jesus despite your love for him? Ask Jesus for forgiveness and strength.



JESUS FORGIVES PETER

JOHN 21:1-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He then said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my sheep.” (v. 15-17)

The Scene

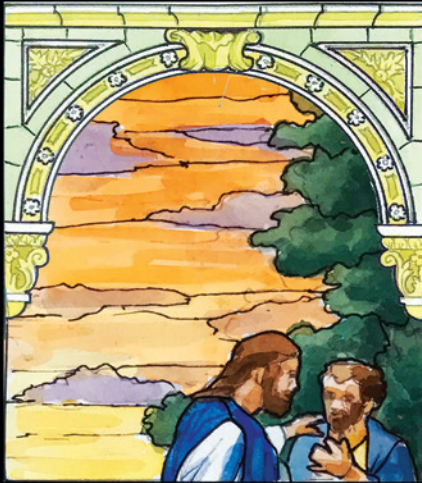
Peter and several apostles were out fishing after the Resurrection, unsure of what to do. At dawn, Jesus appeared to them on the shore. He has prepared a breakfast of fish and bread over a charcoal fire.

Walking With Peter

Jesus gives Peter the opportunity to replace his three denials with three professions of his love. The Lord has intentionally chosen to build a charcoal fire, symbolically revisiting the scene of Peter's sin. When we fail like Peter in our love for Jesus, we should follow Peter's example of repentance, recommitting our hearts to Jesus.

For Reflection & Prayer

- In the verses following this exchange with Peter, Jesus alludes to Peter's eventual martyrdom. The boat in the background, with its lowered mast forming an upside-down cross, serves as a reminder of how Peter will ultimately give his life for Jesus, crucified upside down.
- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are like Peter, being lovingly forgiven by Jesus. Has it been a while since you experienced the Lord's mercy in this way?





PETER PREACHES ON PENTECOST

ACTS 2:14-41

Peter raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you. ... God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah. ... Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” ... Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (v. 14, 36, 38, 41)

The Scene

Through the windows of the upper room, we see Mary and other disciples, lifting their hearts to God in prayer and receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter begins to preach to the crowds in the streets. The Church is starting to bear fruit and gather her children together, as symbolized by the blossoming fig tree and the mother with her children.

Walking With Peter

Peter is now continuing the Lord’s ministry, praying and teaching as Jesus did. As disciples of Jesus, we too are sent out into the world to continue his ministry. We share in the Lord’s priestly ministry as we offer him our daily prayers and sacrifices. We share in his prophetic ministry as we joyfully share the Gospel with our family, friends, and neighbors.

For Reflection & Prayer

- Consider the immense change in Peter and the apostles at Pentecost. Before, they were scared of being arrested like Jesus and put to death. Now, they joyfully go into the streets and preach Christ!
- Have you experienced the Holy Spirit acting in your life, or God giving you unexpected strength to serve him?
- You probably won’t be preaching in the street like Peter, but how are you being called to share your faith in words and deeds?



PETER HEALS THE BEGGAR

ACTS 3:1-10

Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk." Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God. (v. 6-8)

The Scene

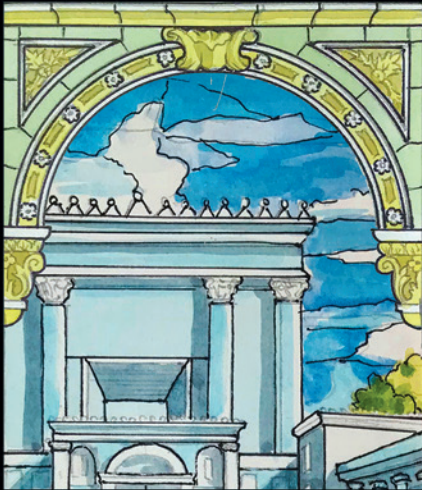
With the Temple and its gate in the background, Peter works his first miracle, with John at his side. To the astonishment of those nearby, Peter raises up the lame beggar, just as Jesus did in Capernaum at the start of Peter's journey with Jesus.

Spiritual Meaning

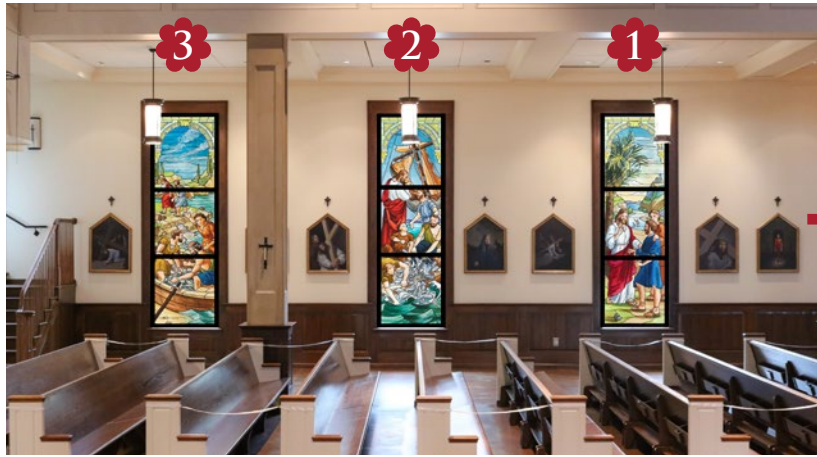
Jesus continues his kingly ministry through Peter, caring for those who are in need of love and compassion. He even works miracles through Peter! The Lord wants to continue his ministry of service through us as well. He is counting on us to reflect his goodness and love in the world today.

For Reflection & Prayer

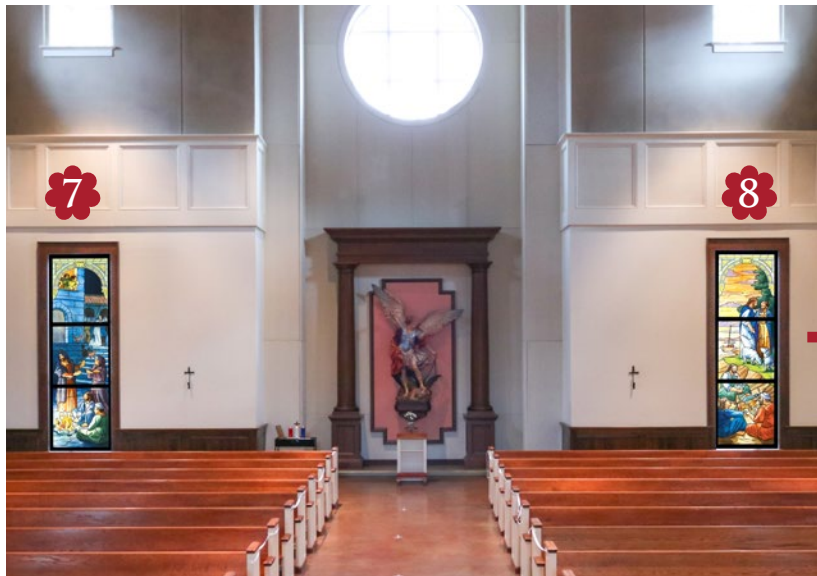
- Peter inspires us with his humanity and faith, even his failings, as he grows in the Holy Spirit and becomes the leader Jesus always knew that he could be.
- You are "ordinary" just like Peter, and yet God desires to bear eternal fruit for his kingdom through you, too. What might God have in store for your life?
- How might you use your gifts and talents to serve your family, neighbors, and your brothers and sisters at Saint Peter's?



WALKING WITH PETER



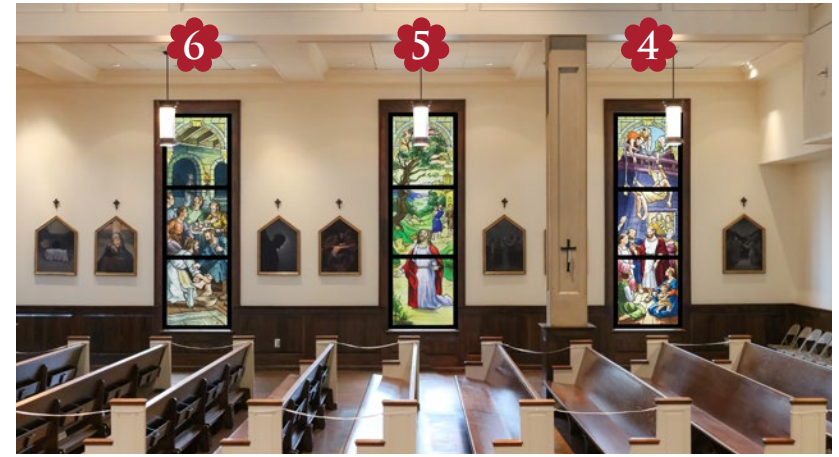
Beginning on the left side near the first Stations of the Cross, the first three windows invite us to contemplate our call to be a disciple of Jesus. Like Peter, we are introduced to Jesus, we begin to believe in him, and we are invited to “drop our nets” and follow him.



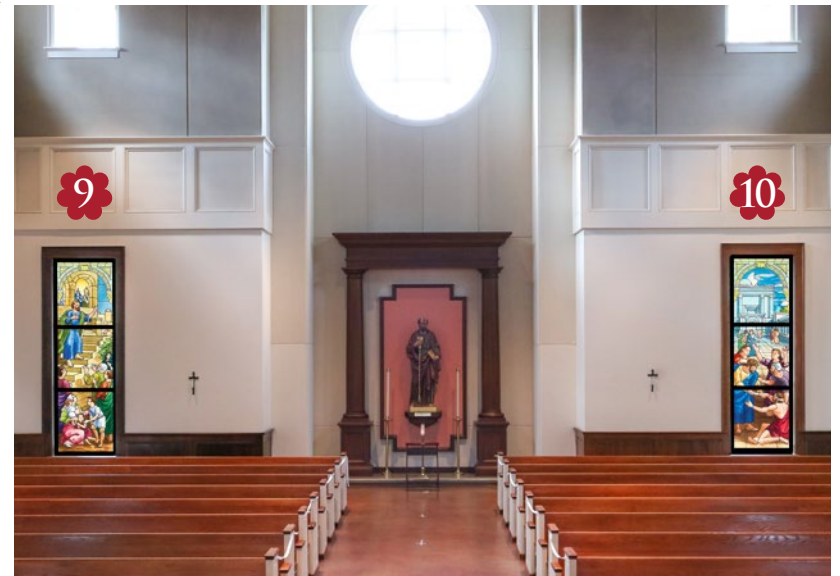
The third set of windows, to the left and right of Saint Michael, remind us that Peter had successes and failures. Just like Peter, we will have many ups and downs as disciples of Jesus.

In the circular window, we hope to one day depict Peter walking on water.

Digital renderings show where each stained glass window would be installed in the sanctuary of Saint Peter's Catholic Church.



Continuing to the other side of church, the second set of windows invite us to imagine Peter's life as a disciple. Peter grew spiritually as he walked beside the Lord and witnessed his threefold ministry as priest, prophet, and king. Are we allowing the Lord to form us in a similar way?



The final set of windows, to the left and right of Saint Peter, shows us how Peter follows the Lord's example and begins to pray, preach, and serve just as Jesus did. The Lord wants to work through us too!

In the circular window, we hope to one day depict Peter his mission to be the “rock” upon which the Church is built.

How did the project come about?

When our church was built in 2006, the intention was to one day fill the clear windows with stained glass. In September 2020, we formed a small committee to explore the possibility. The committee interviewed several traditional stained-glass studios, and chose Redfern Art Studio. (www.redferneartstudio.com) Over the course of several months, the committee brainstormed themes and gradually worked with the artist to come up with these designs. At this time, we are trying to share the concepts with the parish and see whether there is interest in moving forward.

Who is the artist?

Carl Fougerousse is a Catholic artist who lives in Savannah with his wife and four children. A graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, he owns a small studio that specializes in stained glass and other forms of sacred art for Catholic parishes. The committee was very impressed by the beauty of his work, his understanding of Catholic art, and the faith-filled way he approaches his work. Carl is the creator of these initial designs, and he is also the one who would create our windows with the help of his team.

How will the windows be further refined?

When Carl begins work on a particular window, he creates a full-size drawing and makes greater refinements, using live models in costume to capture nuances in faces, hands, and clothing. The actual glass will have more color and richness than can be depicted by watercolor painting.

When would this project happen?

This project will be dependent on families coming forward to gift a window to our parish community, in thanksgiving to God or in memory of a loved one. Each window will have an engraved plaque at its base. One couple has already stepped forward to gift the eighth window to the parish, showing Jesus forgiving Peter, in honor of their son – an artist who loved stained glass. If the parish supports the project, the first window could be installed in a couple of months, and additional windows could arrive every five weeks or so.

What is the cost for each window?

Our windows are each 33 square feet, and stained glass is an expensive form of art, both in materials and the labor. The glass is hand-blown and imported from Europe, and each window represents hundreds of hours of careful work. As a result, the cost to gift one of these ten windows is \$40,000, which covers the design, fabrication, installation, and all other aspects. Beautiful sacred art is like a sermon for the eyes, touching minds and hearts in a way that words alone cannot. These windows will inspire parishioners and visitors to our church for generations to come.

How have similar projects occurred in other parishes?

Parishes typically find that there is a lot of enthusiasm for stained glass. Sometimes, families or parish organizations team up to sponsor a window together. We hope that this booklet helps you to appreciate the spiritual inspiration that the windows could provide, and that the reflections here bring you encouragement and beauty during these difficult times. Please help spread the word, and if it is God's will, he will open the door for the windows to become a reality.

To learn more, please visit www.stpetersbeaufort.org/stainedglass.



The designs in this booklet will be given more refinement as they are made into windows, similar to this example from Redfern Art Studio.

Thank You!

We are grateful to the members of the Sacred Art Committee, who have been meeting regularly for the last four months to help us get to this point: Deacon Bill Lacombe, James Langley, Diane Rolfe, Mary Shepherd, Anna Sudomerski, Tracey Tims, and Father Andrew. We are also grateful to the parish staff for their feedback on the designs, as well as the members of our Parish Council and our Finance Council.

As Jesus passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

Mark 1:16-18



SAINT
PETER'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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