

Church Window Tour three of four St. Therese Church - Series on the Saints

This tour starts with the window to the left of the front confessional (now an AC unit) by the organ.



St. Kateri Tekakwitha- (1656-1680) She was an American Indian maiden of the Mohawk Tribe inhabiting New York area and was baptized by missionaries to the New World. She, therefore, symbolizes the New World, the Indian Nation, and the United States of America.

The chieftain headdress (bottom of window in dark blue), the tepees (center), and the Thunderbird (Top right in blue), are all symbols of her people.

This window is one of four special windows that cover the four corners of the Nave of the church, they are dedicated to the four races of mankind.

This window is in honor of "Lily of the Mohawk"

This window is one of the four ethnicities of humankind.



St. Boniface-(680-755) Patron of Germany.

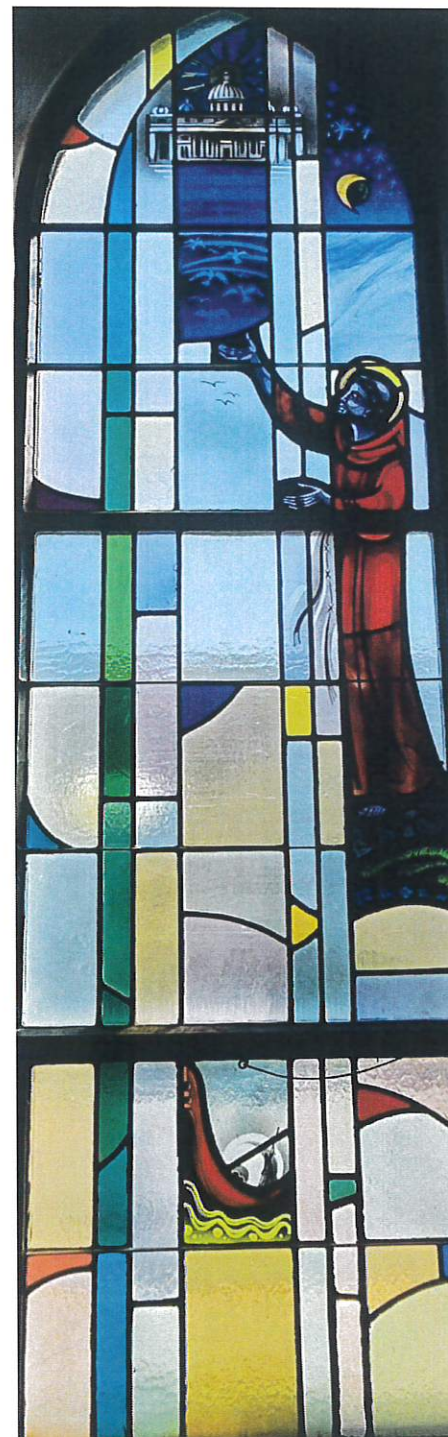
This window honors the martyr St. Boniface, his baptismal name was Winfrid. He was actually born in Devonshire, England, and gained fame there for completing the first Latin grammar into the English language. He had been assigned to Mainz, Germany. He became known as "The Apostle to Germany" for his role in Christianizing the Country.

The eagle (in yellow square) is a church symbol of honor and glory rising to God in the heavens. It represents also the spread of the word of God, St. John, the Gospel Writer, is depicted as a winged eagle. Boniface contributed in spreading this word.

The green and brown to the left of him is an oak tree that is split and severed, recalling his task of driving out paganism among the ancient Germans who worshipped trees and physical things in nature. He was martyred in 755 by pagans in Germany.



St. Patrick- (387-461) Patron of Ireland. Patrick was not a native of Ireland. His birth place is uncertain. At 16 he was taken captive to Ireland where he was forced into slavery as a herdsman. He escaped and made his way across the English Channel only to return to Ireland years later. He resolved to preach the Gospel and make converts among the pagan Celts. He was unbelievably successful. The shamrocks (located in the lower green strip), the harp (in the upper left corner), are symbols of Ireland. The Shamrock's three leaves represented the Trinity (1 God 3 Persons). The lion (in orange) is for England, and the Thistle (in yellow) is for Scotland. Patrick spread the word of God to those countries as well. The pagan farmers prayed at wells and springs (area to the right of the orange lion) to their pagan deities that their water supply for crops would be adequate. Under St. Patrick, those same wells, like the circle of stones, became holy wells for Christians gathering to pray together.



St. Francis of Assisi-(1182-1226) Patron of Italy. St. Francis is beloved by all because of his love for the poor, the afflicted, the helpless among humankind, and his great love for animals. He is especially honored by the Italian people. St. Peter's Basilica (pictured at the top) and the gondola from Venice (pictured at the bottom) remind us of his roots in Italy where he was born. The Moon and stars in the upper right corner are to remind us of his "Canticle of the Sun" Calling Brother Sun and Sister Moon, as if creation is related to us. Francis saw all of creation as brothers and sisters called to live in harmony with each other. Francis is the first recorded person to receive the stigmata (in 1224) he received the wounds of Christ on his hands and feet. He is the founder of the order of Franciscan Friars.



St. Wenceslaus- (907-935)

Patron of Czechoslovakia.

He was born in Prague of a father converted to Christianity and his mother, Drahomira, who was wretched, cruel, refusing to embrace Christ. He did have a saintly grandmother, St. Ludmilla, who educated him in Christian virtues. His mother despised this and had her murdered. Ludmilla became a martyr and Saint.

He became king of Bohemia upon the death of his father (Crown above his head).

His brother remained a pagan and eventually killed him to gain the throne, thus, Wenceslaus also became a martyr. Many miracles happened at his tomb as pilgrims came to honor him, but his brother had his body removed and it now rests in St. Vitus church in Prague. The cross represents his victory over death. And the ornaments in the window are typical Bulgarian designs.



Ss. Cyril & Methodius-

(826 & 827- 869-885) Patron of the Slavic people.

This window honors these two brothers (Cyril at the top, and Methodius below). They were considered Apostles to the Slavic people through their missionary work and teaching the faith.

Cyril is pictured with a paper as he was instrumental in helping the people to read.

Methodius became a bishop and helped create the Slav alphabet.

Both converted many people to Christianity.

Below are two decorated eggs which are characteristic of the Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Orthodox Serbs, and Bulgarians who venerated them.



St. Stephen- (977-1038)
Patron of Hungary.

He was born at Gran, which at that time was the capital of Hungary. He became king of Hungary, and was the first Christian King to reign over Hungary. His kingly crown and the coat-of-arms of his kingdom are pictured in the bottom two windows.

He overcame his pagan and rebellious neighbors and placed all his dominions under the protection of the Blessed Mother Mary to whom he gave constant devotion.

At the top of the window is the Basilica of Budapest which Stephen dedicated to Mary.

He holds in his hand the Cathedral of Koschus.

He died on the feast day of Mary's Assumption (August 15) in 1038.

He is called the "Apostle of Hungary" and hailed as the founder of independent Hungary.



St. Nicholas- (270-343)
Patron of the Croats.

There are over 20 saints named Nicholas. This Nicholas is the 4th century bishop of Myra.

He started the giving of gifts at Christmas time. Legend has it, he secretly threw bags of coins into a window of a poor man who could not afford dowries for his 3 daughters. Gift giving on his feast day, December 6, is an extension to our Christmas. Pictured above is the collegiate church of his bishopric and the bell tower of his church (on left). He is pictured with a basket of eggs decorated in the custom of the Croats for Easter. The branch in his hand symbolizes new life, peace, and triumph of Christianity over the winter season.

The symbol on the bottom has a crown, two birds, a coat of arms, a chalice and radiant rays. Symbolizing Royalty, Divinity, Peace, Loyalty, Holiness, and Spiritual Elevation.



St. Stanislaus- (1030-1099)
Patron of Poland.

He gave away his vast fortune to the poor and became the first priest, then bishop of Cracow. In the purple window is the Church of Our Lady of Cracow.

Above is the chalice of Dobravka.

Pictured below is Our Lady of Czestochowa.

When the saintly Stanislaus, as bishop, reprimanded his king, Boleslaus II, for his evil ways, the king ordered him killed. When all the officials, at the risk of their own lives, refused to kill the pious bishop, the king himself slew him as he was saying the Holy Mass. That explains the dagger in the chalice at the top.



St Casmir- (1458-1484)
Patron of Lithuania.

St. Casimir was the third of thirteen children of King Casimir IV of Poland. The young Casimir became king of Lithuania and used the cross like the one above his head (in orange), and again in the staff at the bottom of the window.

Because he was a just king, the symbol of the scales of justice are located at the top of the window.

Devoted to the Blessed Mother, he prayed to her the "Hymn of St. Casimir", parts of which may be known as "Daily, Daily, Sing to Mary".

Daily, daily, sing to Mary;
Sing, my soul, her praises due. All her glorious actions cherish, With the heart's devotion true. Lost in wond'ring contemplation, Be her majesty confessed! Call her Mother, call her Virgin, Happy Mother, Virgin blest!



Our Lady of the Orient –

This is the 2nd of the four windows representing the four ethnicities.

St. Kateri was the first window of the series of four. These windows are on the four corners by the four confessionals.

This window honors the faithful from the eastern world.

Blessed Mary is wearing oriental garb, and art from the orient surrounds her. Pagoda (eastern architectural style) is in the yellow part of the window.

Trees are frequently revered as dwelling places for deities. We see to the left a tree with crosses, as a sign of Jesus and His divinity. Below is a Japanese script which is the word for eternity.



St. Martin de Porres.

Directly opposite the Our Lady of the Orient window.

Martin was a Dominican lay brother, born in Lima, Peru, to a white Spanish knight and a black freed-woman from Panama. He was a close friend of St. Rose of Lima.

The flames in upper purple part of the window, contain crosses of the martyrs from Uganda, Africa.

Above and below St. Martin are chains of slavery. He spent his life defending these Africans kidnapped into slavery. He is the patron of social justice.

The lower panels show samples of African art and tribal face paintings.

This window represents the third of the four ethnicities.



Our Lady of Guadalupe-

(Front Confessional area)

Our Lady of Guadalupe represents the New World. This image of Mary miraculously appeared on Juan Diego's Tilma in 1531 after he had a vision of her.

Designs of the Aztecs and the silverwork of the Incas decorate the window. The circular item in the center window resembles a shield used by the indigenous Mesoamerican cultures. In the center is a symbol representing the Aztec calendar or the sun.

The flowers in the bottom left hand corner represent the miraculous flowers that were given to Juan Diego by Mary to show the bishop as proof of her appearance. Flowers of this kind were not in bloom at that time of the year.

This window is the fourth of the four ethnicity windows.