

Tour 4 of 4: Chapels in back of the Church, and God's Holy People

(found in the windows between the confessions on the Rectory side of the Church.)

Pieta, St. Therese shrine room (Old **Baptistry** area)



The two windows in this section depict the saving graces of rebirth and salvation by the waters of Baptism.

In the middle notice two things: The Easter candle (White with X's down the center, with its flame burning brightly (red flame with glow of circle in orange and yellow). The Easter candle is a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world, and that we, through baptism, have a share in that light. To the left of the candle is a water fountain. Recall Jesus words to the woman at the well that says, "The water I will give will become in you a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The flowers to the right and at the top, and the fruit in top left reminds us that we are children of God called to bear good fruit, and, like flowers, we are called to bring new joy to the world, just as Springtime brings new life.

The fish at the bottom and also in the adjoining window will be explained in the next window.



In the top part of the window, we see the Hebrew word "Abba" which means Father, and a crown above, representing His Kingdom. It is God the Father who is concerned for His children's salvation, which he offers us through the gift of His Son Jesus, in the Sacrament of Baptism. The living waters are flowing from the Father's love.

In the middle is a cross on a shield. This is the protective shield of FAITH. There are 3 water droplets in the blue stream above and below the shield, they represent Faith, Hope, and Love.

The fish at the bottom in this window, remind us that just as fish need water to live, we also need the baptismal waters to give us life.

Memorial Chapel

This Chapel is dedicated towards peace in the world and the United States as leader towards such peace. Although dedicated to peace, they also remind us of the evil instruments of war. Unfortunately, often peace has been attained only as a settlement of war.

The gates to this Chapel are marked with the Military symbols:



The Indian Head Unit- Found on the bottom left. This was special to Fr. Nee who served as chaplain for this unit, and he also served as chaplain for the other seal on the bottom right in WWII.



The U.S. Marine Corps- The Eagle, Globe, and Anchor.
"Semper Fidelis"
(Always Faithful)



The U.S. Navy- showing a Ship and an Eagle



Top Center below the cross (which symbolizes the loyalty of God before all earthly loyalties).

Red, White, & Blue calling for loyalty, love, & respect, for all citizens of the U.S.

The U.S. Army- contains Chest Armor, flanked by military canons, mortars, muskets and flags. And the year 1775 in roman numerals.

U.S. Air Force- It incorporates a twisted double-ended staff or rod, a cluster of radiating lightning bolts and wings, symbolizing speed.

38th Infantry Regiment

Nicknamed the "Rock of the Marne". Fr. Nee was chaplain to them in WWII.



At the top of this window are rows of white crosses in the red background. These represent the brave soldiers who gave their lives in war to gain peace for their fellow countrymen. This chapel is also a memorial to honor them.

Christ, the Prince of Peace, with arms outstretched offer peace the world cannot give. He offers the green olive branch of peace (to his left). The unhappy instruments of war fill the remainder of the window: Explosions on Jesus body symbolize the bullets and bomb. Barbed Wire, Fighter Planes, Rockets, Canons, Rifles, Tanks, Ships, and Submarines and underwater mine, are all depicted here. The ray of hope to exterminate those evils is in the American Flag above, and the Seal of the United States in the blue circle. Our hope is in our nation to be a world leader of peace.



The King of Peace, from his right hand lets droplets of green fall, the color of Hope, Change, and New Life. The leading nation in the world must also be a leader in peace.

The story of the United States is centered around the freedoms its people now live in. The Liberty Bell and the Statue of Liberty, remind us of the independence our forefathers fought for, and in which we now live.

At the bottom stands a world globe, a world in struggle. The circle of blue girding one half of the earth represents loyalty to One Nation (one cause). The other half has green, a hope for universal peace and new life. This is what we have to pray for to triumph, so that all the world can be gathered as brother and sister united to God.

God's Holy People- Modern day windows

These windows show the life of our parishioners at the time of the church being built. They make up the "Bricks and Mortar" of our Church. The laity are what supports our Church. These windows have the life cycle from pre-birth, to death, to eternity. Features of everyday chores and work.



These windows start to the left of the 9th Station.

This window is dedicated to the beginnings of life. In the middle of the window is a child within the womb awaiting birth. Below this is a tiny circle, which is a female egg cell, and a sperm that traveled to finally enter the egg. It is the beginning of new life and how man and woman can become participants in God's creative design to bring about a new creation.

To the right are daisies, the flower of innocence.

Above is a young Mary with her mother Anne. Mary is the model of purity, and Mary learns from her mother. It reminds us that parents are important in nurturing their children in ways that are Holy and Pure.



Marriage window

This window shows a young Jesus working with his earthly father, Joseph, while his mother is performing household chores.

In the middle panel is a tree of life with wedding bands. The circle of the rings reminds us of love that lasts forever. The tree is a reminder that from the fruit of marriage, through their children, will continue the cycle of life.

In the bottom panel, in blue, are three wedding couples. The middle one is the day of their wedding. Above are the couple in middle age, and below is the couple in old age. This is to remind us that marriage is forever.



Children Window-

At the top is a royal crown above the chalice and host on an altar. It reminds us that our first realization of God comes at the age of reason when we begin to learn about God and start to have a deeper relationship with him in the Holy Eucharist.

Most of a young child's life is centered around play. We see balloons above the boys head, the kite, and below we see a child's doll. Play is an important part of growing up and honoring God.

As a child we begin our spiritual growth, which can be nurtured by the people and things that surround us. Children like to play roles like mommy with their dolls, and play priest at Mass.



Young Adult/Teen

Window- Childhood is not all play. This window has teens in school. Notice the mathematical equations, numbers, letters, test tubes, books, musical instruments, and work tools, in the upper left corner. These are all used in school for growth in our mental development. The flame in the upper middle represents both the enlightenment in secular knowledge and the flame of the Holy Spirit, our spiritual knowledge.

Children's artistic nature must be given a chance to mature, through studies and sports. Below are two students at their desks and above them are basketball and baseball items, and below them football and tennis items. Below the girls feet are tree branches indicating the need for outdoor activities which also develop children's growth.

The wheat symbolizes the need for both physical & spiritual nourishment.



Adulthood- Choice of career assumes priority in one's life. In our area, at the time of the windows creation, central to our area were jobs at the steel mills. Depicted in this window are the smokestacks in Homestead, the pouring of steel, the hard hat worker at the furnace.

Below is the Pittsburgh skyline, her bridges, and even the point.

The brown panel to the right of the city was when our city was smokey. Since then, our city has worked on clean air, and we no longer have the smog.

The tunnels of Pittsburgh are also in these windows. A close up picture of the point and tunnels are below.



The steel industry has led to many new advances. A plane zoom through the deep blue sky at the top. In that same blue panel, a mother and children are preparing to board. The man in purple carrying his suitcase.

To the right stands a tower for television, electricity, and telephone (a phone dangling from the tower).

To its right and slightly below it is a rosary, its chain made from metal, but it also is there to remind us to slow down from the busyness of the work week. That we need to balance life with prayer.

In the center top picture is a ship with a compass below the waves. Below that, in the yellow window, are miles of railroad tracks, all made from steel. To its left, in grey, is a globe and cross of keys.

They remind us to turn to the sacrament of penance when we fall into temptation. God is always ready to open the doors of His Grace.

In the bottom panel is a highway with a cloverleaf. If you look at the window close up, you can see a traffic signal with its red light lit.



Old age- This window reminds us that we have moved through the cycle of life. The earlier windows from birth, child, teen, adult, and now end of life here on earth. The stick entwined with the two snakes is the symbol for healing medicine. This is needed more and more as we age. It may prolong our life, but only for a time. We see on the left, pictures of an aged person with a cane, in a bed, and in a wheelchair. To the right is a blue cross, and on the altar below it rest the Holy Oil used in the Anointing of the Sick, our spiritual strength for those who are ill. In the bottom panel, "the martyr's palm" (represents victory, eternal life, triumph in faith over death), hangs over the old man's head. As we grow old, we are called to strengthen our faith in God's goodness, and be a helpful example to the young, as we show our trust in God.



End of earthly journey-

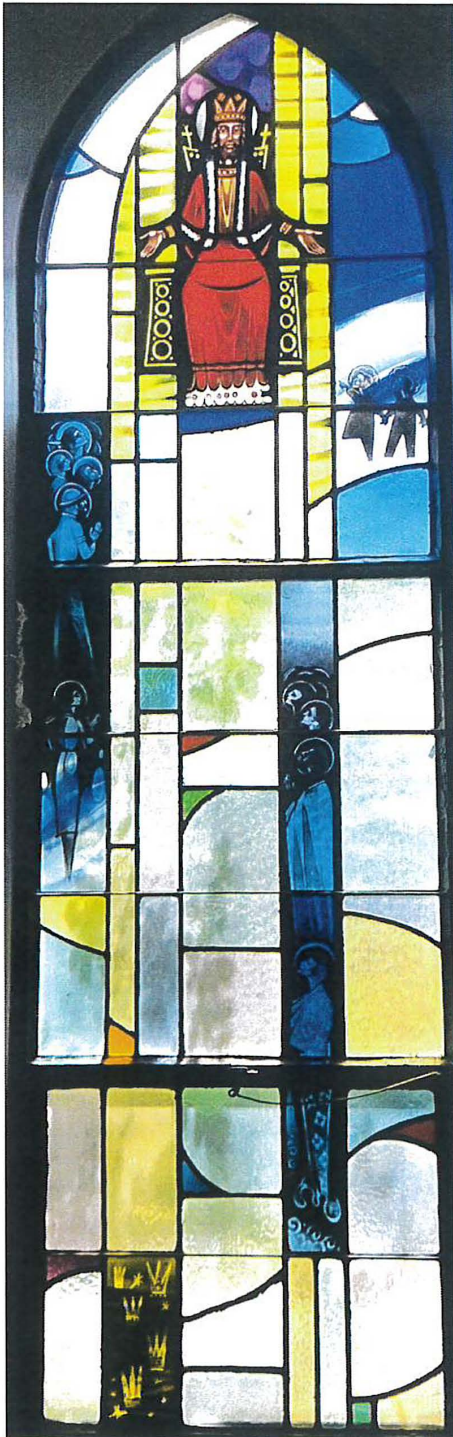
A person awaiting their crown of glory. They were cleansed by the good fires of purgatory and are now preparing to enter eternal glory.



I was able to enlarge and lighten this window to see its details. The hourglass at the bottom showing we are out of time, and death awaits in the form of the Grim Reaper.



In the orange area are the scales of justice prepared to weigh that departed life's good against evil. The scale is balanced so that the soul is admitted into those red flames of purgatory to purify the soul for its heaven bound journey.



Final Judgement- Jesus our King sits on the throne of judgment.

Summing up what life from birth to heaven is all about.

At the bottom rest golden crowns of sainthood for all who had made time for God in their lives throughout the flurry of daily living.

People of all ages and ethnicities come to receive the gift of salvation. Children on the top right. To the far left, among the people, is a steel worker in a hard hat.

In the middle right there are people of all colors represented.

The King of Heaven has his arms outstretched in welcoming love and accepts all who spent their lives in love of him. He is welcoming their souls into the Communion of Saints.