

A Symbolic Voyage Through the Rosary

Have you ever looked at the stained glass windows at Visitation and wondered what they meant? They signify the Rosary and each of the 15 Mysteries (the last 5, the “Luminous Mysteries”, were added by Pope St. John Paul II in 2003, long after the windows were installed.)

Beginning with the first window approaching the Altar

The Joyful Mysteries



The Annunciation

The Lily is a symbol of virginity and purity, recognizing the virgin Birth of Jesus



The Visitation

The two Angels represent the Archangels sent to Mary and to Elizabeth her cousin to foretell the upcoming births of our Lord and of St. John the Baptist, who are symbolized with the circle. The Locust depicts St. John the Baptist, depicting his life of fasting and prayer in the desert. The Monogram consists of the initial letters for the Greek word for Jesus Christ



The Nativity

The Epiphany Star represents our Lord being the Light of the World overcoming the darkness of sin. The Chi Rho, a symbol for Christ is an abbreviation of the Greek name for our Lord. The manger suggests the lowly and simplistic manner in which our Lord was born



The Presentation

A Gift of Doves symbolizes the ritual of purification required for all male babies. The Daisy signifies the innocence of the Christ Child



The Finding in the Temple

The symbols of Pillar and Scroll depict the scholarly atmosphere of Christ's first revelation of His divine knowledge

The Sorrowful Mysteries



The Agony in the Garden

The Cup stands for the bitterness of our Lord's sufferings. The Olive Branch signifies the Garden of Gethsemane (at the Mount of Olives)



The Scourging

The Pillar and the Whip symbolize the trial and condemnation of our Lord, the humiliation and pain that Christ endured when Pilate's soldiers stripped Him, tied Him to Him a pillar and whipped Him with leather thongs weighted with metal



Crowning of Thorns

The Chi Rho, again a symbol for Christ with the Crown of Thorns interwoven into a royal crown suggests a divine purpose behind His endurance of the painful trials put upon him



Carrying the Cross

The Cross depicts the agonizing journey from the Praetorium to Golgoths, shouldering His heavy burden of the Cross, His conversations with people along the way, and the moment of comfort offered by Veronica and her Veil



The Crucifixion

The Cross and abandoned Garment depict the final degradation of Christ's body and spirit before His death

The Glorious Mysteries



The Resurrection

The Phoenix is an excellent symbol of Christ's Resurrection. It is a mythical bird which dies, bursts into flames only to rise again from its own ashes, typifying Christ's own earthly death and arising again in His glorified Body



The Ascension

Taken from the Old Testament account of Elijah's ascent into Heaven on a flaming Chariot, it typifies Christ's Ascension in that they were both taken up bodily into Heaven



The Descent of the Holy Spirit

The Dove signifies the Holy Spirit and the Presence of God coming down in Tongues of fire as gifts on Pentecost



The Assumption

The Lily signifies the purity of the Blessed Virgin throughout her life as well as upon her death.
The Palm symbolizes her victory over sin and death



The Coronation

The Dove indicates the presence of the Holy Spirit at the Crowning of Mary. The Crown represents her title as Queen of Heaven. The Roses typify the Virgin as the Mystical Rose and also radiate the joy of the occasion. The seven Stars signify her attainment of perfection



Rosary Symbol

The Monogram of the Virgin comes the letters A.M.R. which means Ave Marie Regina, Hail Mary, the Queen, as the Queen of the Holy Rosary