



The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew

The Whiteman Windows

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On Easter Sunday, April 7, 1969, three lancet windows above the high altar were dedicated as a memorial to the Reverend John B. Whiteman, Rector from 1907-1952, and Rector Emeritus from 1952 until his death in 1967. They were designed by Christy R. Rufo, using glass from England, France, and Germany; and incorporate symbolism relating to the sacraments of the church and to Whiteman's areas of interest and community service. In dedicating the windows, Rev. Jack Sanders, then pastor of the church, described their symbolism and its relationship to the life of Rev. Whiteman: "God gives His own Holy Spirit through the Sacraments into the lives of believers, and through these lives, His Spirit of love goes into the world... John Whiteman, as a recipient of the Spirit, carried that Spirit of love and concern out into the world; especially into this immediate community."

A pair of hands emerging from a cloud at the top of the center window represents God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth. The rays of light issuing from the hands are a reminder that God's Spirit sustains all of creation and enters believers through the sacraments, represented in the ruby medallions. Three scallop shells, the symbol of St. James, for whom this parish is named, appear to the left of the hands, and the seal of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts appears at the right.

Six ruby medallions represent the following:

Baptism: a shell with water flowing from it indicates the washing away of sins through baptism

Holy Communion: a chalice and host flanked by wheat and grapes symbolize the body and blood of Christ spiritually taken and received in the Lord's Supper

Confirmation, Ordination, and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: symbolized by a dove and tongues of flame

Penance: crossed keys and a hand raised in blessing represents the power given by Christ to His church on earth to forgive the sins of the penitent sinner

Holy Matrimony: two entwined gold rings above two lit candles, backed by a cross, signify the enlightenment of family life through the gospel, and the joining of two people in marriage as the mystical union between Christ and His Church

Resurrection: a Phoenix (the mythical bird of the Egyptians, who, when burned, arose from the ashes), those who fall asleep in Christ will rise again

THEME: The Sacraments in the Church

The word Sacraments means “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace given unto us; ordained by Christ himself, as a means whereby we received this grace, and a pledge to assure us thereof.” Christ has ordained two Sacraments only, as generally necessary to salvation:

1. Baptism, and
2. the Supper of the Lord.

Additional Sacraments depicted include: Confirmation, Ordination, Penance, Holy Matrimony, and Unction of the Sick (rf. Medical symbol).

Two central doctrines of the Church are included:

1. our Lord’s Resurrection, and
2. the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

READING THE WINDOWS

The memorial consists of three lancet windows above the High Altar. At the top of the center window is a pair of hands issuing from a cloud. This represents Holy Being: God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth. The three rays of light from the hands reminds us that His Spirit sustains all people and all of creation. In a special way the Holy Spirit enters believers through the Sacraments, and, in the lives of believers, is taken into the world where they live and work. We use the word “special” because of the unique way Holy Being is made know to us in Jesus Christ. It is from the stance of Christian faith-commitment that the windows come alive with meaning.

Sequence I: The primary theme is carried in the six ruby medallions.

Lancet Window on the Left:

Baptism is depicted by a shell with water issuing from it. By Baptism we are made members of Christ’s Church, die to sin, and are born new to righteousness.

Center Window of Four Medallions:

1. Holy Communion is depicted by a chalice and Host with the wheat and grape signifying Christ’s body and blood, which are spiritually taken and received in the Lord’s Supper for the strengthening and refreshing of our souls.
2. Confirmation, Ordination, Gift of the Holy Spirit all depicted by the Dove. In Confirmation, we receive the strengthening gifts of the Holy Spirit. In Ordination, the Holy Spirit initiates three orders of Ministers in the Church: Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. The Gift of the Holy Spirit is to all believers as commemorated on Pentecost Sunday (Whitsunday), thus the tongues of flame.
3. Penance is depicted by the crossed keys and the hand raised in blessing. This represents the power which Christ gives to His Church to forgive the sins of penitent believe.
4. Holy Matrimony is depicted by two entwined gold rings over two candles signifying enlightenment of all family life through the gospel as centered in the Cross of Christ, the joining together of two people in Holy Matrimony signifies the mystical union that is between Christ and His Church.

Lancet Window on the Right:

The Resurrection of our Lord is depicted by the Phoenix, a mythical bird of the Egyptians, which was supposed to appear at Heliopolis once in every 500 years and build a pyre, on which it was burned, a new phoenix rising from the ashes. Also, this symbol signifies belief in the life everlasting to which we ascribe in the Apostles' Cree.

Sequence II: Center Window

A series of eight symbols arranged two on either side of each ruby medallion. These symbols illustrate the many areas of interest of the Reverend John B. Whiteman, and show that believers, strengthened by the Sacraments in the Church, go out into all walks of life to put into action their faith; commitment to Jesus Christ, the Lord.

As you view this series of symbols, you should be able to identify yourself as being included in the windows.

Begin reading with the symbol to the left of the Chalice; then move to the symbol to the right of the Chalice; then read left to right down the remaining three medallions.

1. Industry and labor, depicted by factory, cogs, saw, and trowel.
2. Law, depicted by man's law: book and gavel superimposed on God's law: tablets of the Ten Commandments.
3. Science and research, depicted by beakers, computer wheels, and tape.
4. Medicine, depicted by the doctors' and nurses' caduceus, with single rode and snake, the symbol for Moses and St. Luke the physician.
5. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, depicted by Raphael the chief guardian angel, protector of children.
6. The Fleur de Lis, with numeral I, depicts Boy Scout Troup #1 of St. James Parish, founded by Mr. Whiteman. His interest in Girl Scouting is depicted by the three-leafed clover.
7. The ship and cross is the symbol of the Ecumenical Movement – Christian unity. OIKU MENE is Greek, meaning "one of many."
8. Education is depicted by the lamp of knowledge superimposed on the sword and book, symbol for St. Paul, missionary educator. Christ, the light of the world, is the way, the truth, and the life.

To the left and right of the hands, at the top:

1. Three scallop shells, symbol for St. James for whom this parish is named
2. The seal of the Bishop of Western Massachusetts

Overall Composition

The background field is a Gothic Leaf pattern reminiscent of 13th century windows. The border is made of a decorative bursting pomegranate, signifying the Resurrection of our Lord, Pomegranates also signify immortality, fertility, hope, and unity of the Church.