



There are twelve stained glass windows in Saint Joseph church. They are memorial windows, which means donated in memory of someone or out of generosity. So, there is something “living” about these works of art which silently surround us when we enter the church and offer our prayers or worship to God.

The windows are the work of Ann Cunningham who was working out of her Omaha studio at the time she was commissioned to prepare windows for the permanent worship space of Saint Joseph Church in Springfield.

On the occasion of the dedication of the permanent worship space, which was August 25, 1991 or 16 years ago at the end of this week, three of the windows had been completed and were already installed.

Archbishop Daniel Sheehan remarked “One of the purposes of art is to raise human beings to higher thoughts and greater deeds. These works of art raise our minds and hearts to Almighty God.”

As you face the altar, two windows are to your left – the EUCHARIST window (given by Mike and Karen Liebenritt in memory of Emily) and the BAPTISM window (given by Patricia and Orville Kreifels and one of the three original windows).

As you face the altar, two windows are to your right - the HOLY ORDERS window (given by Robert and Elizabeth Kros and one of the three original windows) and the CONFIRMATION window (given by Ed Finley in memory of Mildred Finley and one of the original windows).

Along the back wall, on the right side, is the ANOINTING window (given by Bill and Shirley Williams in memory of Kari Lynne) and the MARRIAGE window (given by Lois Rex and Randy Beck in memory of Ed and the RECONCILIATION window (given by Frank and Catherine Cockrill).

There are three stained glass windows inside the Chapel. The WORD and SACRAMENT windows are set in the back wall of the Chapel on either side of the tabernacle. These windows (WORD donated by George and Harriet Green and SACRAMENT donated by Robert and Pauline Washtak) enhance the entire chapel in memory of Emily Liebenritt by Mike and Karen Liebenritt.

On the left wall of the Chapel is a backlit stained glass window of the ANNUNCIATION. It was given by Msgr. James Cain who served as pastor of Saint Joseph Parish from 1995 – 2002.

The oldest stained glass window is set in the far right end of the gathering space as you enter the church. It depicts our parish patron, SAINT JOSEPH. This window was originally donated to Saint Columbkille Church in 1926 in memory of Joseph M. Schram, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schram. In 1989 the window was given to Saint Joseph Parish by Fr. Robert Steinhausen, pastor of Saint Columbkille who served as pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in its first two years as a mission of Saint Columbkille.

The final window is high above the glass doors which open into the worship space of the church. It is the HOLY SPIRIT window, the largest of all the windows, reminding us of our bond with God in Christ.

WE NEED YOUR HELP?

We are looking for any pictures, newspaper articles or memorabilia regarding our church, the pastors, the members, the RE students and any activities sponsored by our church or any of the groups such as the K of C, the Ladies Guild, etc. Since the beginning of our church JoAnn Ostransky kept a detailed scrapbook, (actually 2 of them) depicting everything that happened at St. Joseph. When Fr. Chuck left and Fr. Matt came, JoAnn needed to give up this job and no one came forward to continue it. We would like to keep it going and to do so we need to fill in a lot of time gone by. So if you have anything that would be of help, we would like a copy of your pictures, news articles, etc. We can make the copies for you if needed. Please contact Fr. Gutgsell or Sharon VanTassell if you can help this most worthy cause. It is our history.