

The Two Large Windows in the Narthex

The two largest stained glass windows are in the narthex on either side of the Baptismal Font. Like most older churches, St. Augustine (from which the windows were taken) was cruciform, or in the shape of a cross. The “cross piece” of the church, called the transept, was the location of these two magnificent windows

The window on the Eola Road side of the font depicts Christ entering our world at the Nativity. The bright colors of the robes of the Magi, on the left side of the window stand in stark contrast to the muted earth tones worn by the humble shepherds on the right.

The other window depicts Christ leaving our world at the Ascension. Jesus, standing on a cloud and flanked by two angels, is at top of the center panel. He is surrounded by the apostles and His mother, Mary.

A Brief History of Our Lady of Mercy....

The original parish of 58 families was called “The Catholic Community of Fox Valley” until it was re-named “Our Lady of Mercy” on August 28, 1988. The parish maintained an office in the Fox Valley Commons, and our founding pastor, Fr. Tivy, lived in the Rectory of Ss. Peter and Paul until the completion in July 1989 of the present rectory at 801 South Eola Road. St. Anne’s in Oswego became our second home for celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism, Marriage and Funerals. Weekend and Holy Day Masses were celebrated at Waubonsie Valley High School.

On September 20, 1997, after years of hard work and dedication, we celebrated the first Mass in our new home, the present church at 701 South Eola Road. A mere decade later, in 2007, our Parish Life Center was completed. It houses parish offices, a large multi-purpose room and meeting rooms for our many organizations and Religious Education program.

From our modest beginnings, the parish has grown to approximately 3,900 families. There are more than 60 organizations engaging in a variety of ministries and we are anticipating more than 200 baptisms and 30 weddings this year.

Whether you are a new parishioner or just visiting, we hope you enjoy our beautiful church and the wonderful people here at Our Lady of Mercy. Please be sure to let us know if there is any way we can help you on your journey with Christ.

Welcome to
Our Lady of Mercy Church
701 S. Eola Road
Aurora, IL 60504
(630) 851-3444

Stained Glass Tour

Visitors to Our Lady of Mercy are often struck by our beautiful stained glass windows. It is rare to find a newly built church with any stained glass at all, much less stained glass of such quality. The windows and many of the Church fixtures are the gift of St. Augustine's Church and Cardinal Bernardin of the Archdiocese of Chicago. In the main body of our church there are 10 windows depicting scenes from the life of Christ. They are arranged in chronological order, beginning on the left side of the church with the window closest to the rectory and ending with the front window on the right hand side. The two large windows near the Baptismal Font are of the Nativity and the Ascension of our Lord.

The east side of the church:

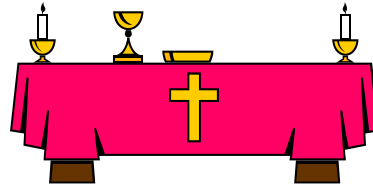
1. The Annunciation An angel appears to Mary to tell her that she will bear a son by the Holy Spirit. The purple coloring and texture of the angel's wings are particularly beautiful. There is also a dove, representing the Holy Spirit, emitting a ray of light which illuminates Mary's head.

2. The Presentation Mary and Joseph bring their firstborn son to be dedicated to God at the temple in Jerusalem. A prophet named Simeon tells them that the boy is the Messiah of the Lord. Note the rich drapery of Mary's gown. Joseph is carrying a cage containing the required offering of two turtle-doves.

3. Finding Jesus in the Temple When Jesus was twelve, the family traveled to Jerusalem for a festival. On the way home they noticed that Jesus was not with any of the relatives. They rushed back to Jerusalem and found the boy sitting with the teachers, asking questions and astounding everyone with his understanding. Note the Hebrew letters on the books and scroll. As in the other windows, Jesus' halo always contains a cross.

4. The Giving of the Beatitudes This takes place on the shore of Lake Galilee. Note that everyone's eyes are riveted on Jesus as He gives them the eight secrets to happiness. His audience consists of men, women, the old, the young, the rich and the poor, but they all find an incredible peace listening to Jesus' teachings.

5. Jesus Blesses the Children The group sits under an apple tree as Jesus teaches that "you must become like a little child to enter the kingdom of heaven". Notice the peaceful faces of the mothers as they listen to Jesus' words. Coincidentally, this window is closest to our Children's Chapel



The windows which form a beautiful backdrop for the altar and tabernacle are all images of music and musicians.

The three windows high above the tabernacle depict three figures from our tradition closely associated with music:

King David, as a shepherd boy, soothed his father's sheep by playing his harp and singing. In this window he is holding a harp. The Old Testament reports that David loved to sing and improvise his own accompaniment. Many of the 150 Psalms are attributed to David.

Pope Gregory the Great can be easily identified by his miter (the distinctive hat worn by bishops and popes). Gregory was a great reformer of the church, but his best known work was in the field of music. As he traveled around the Catholic world in his day, he was delighted by the music he heard. He decided to collect and publish this music for Mass. We know it as "Gregorian Chant."

St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music and musicians. She was a young woman from a wealthy Roman family in the early days of the church when Christianity was an illegal religion. Tradition says she played the organ and sang continually in her heart to God. As a Roman Christian she was condemned to death. A soldier struck her three times in the neck with his sword, but she lived for three more days before she died, singing songs of praise to God.

The windows below these three are images of angels playing different instruments. There are also two of these angel windows in the Priest's Sacristy.

The west side of the church:

10. Mary is Crowned Queen of Heaven Jesus is seated on a throne wearing a crown and holding an orb topped with a cross, signifying dominion. With his other hand he is placing a crown on a kneeling Mary, naming her Queen of Heaven. A dove, representing the Holy Spirit, is hovering nearby. The five chubby faces of the "cherubim" tell us that this scene is taking place in heaven.

9. Peter is Given the Keys Once again, the wounds on his hands and feet indicate that this is the risen Christ. While looking into the eyes of a kneeling Peter, Jesus points to three sheep, telling Peter to "feed my lambs." Peter holds in his hand the "keys to the kingdom" just given to him by Christ. To further stress the idea of Peter as the first Pope, the artist chose as his background the basilica of St Peter's in Rome.

8. Christ Is Risen Jesus is emerging from the tomb. The wounds are clearly visible on his hands and feet and he is dressed entirely in white. He is carrying a banner signifying triumph. The two Roman soldiers guarding the tomb cringe in fear on the left side of the window, their swords, spears, and shields useless against the risen Christ.

7. Agony in the Garden Jesus is kneeling in prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. In the foreground, the apostles are asleep on the ground, Peter with a sword. An angel has come to minister to Jesus, offering him a cup. Especially beautiful is the background of trees against a starry night sky.

6. The Last Supper Jesus is seen elevating the bread with a paten underneath. The cup is on a table in the background. The faces of the twelve apostles reflect their distinctive personalities and ages. Peter, an older balding man with a gray beard, is kneeling in the lower right portion of the window, while Judas (the only apostle without a halo) is seated in the lower left panel.