



## St. Mary's Stained Glass Windows

The stained glass windows of St. Mary's have often been admired for their beauty, intricacy and detail. Little is known about their installation other than what is written by Marion Axtman after the death of Msgr. Matthew J. Fletcher, pastor of St. Mary's from 1917-1955. Apparently they were one of the first large expenditures for St. Mary's and were needed since at that time the windows were simple, ill-fitting, temporary panes of amber color glass which were costing the church money in wasted fuel. Although there were donations made for this purchase at the start of the parish, "Fr. O'Driscoll [pastor from 1914-1917] had found it necessary to use the money elsewhere" said Msgr. Fletcher. Since new windows were a necessity, Msgr. Fletcher felt they may as well get "good ones from the beginning." He used \$3,200 from the church treasury and ordered them from a place in Chicago called the Munich Studio. The windows, made by "an old Bavarian", were sold by an Irishman named O'Shanahan. The salesman told Msgr. Fletcher that he left Ireland and came to the United States because the police were looking for him during the Land League days of the late 19th Century. After the sale, O'Shanahan told Msgr. Fletcher that the church could pay "when and if [they] had the money" and because of this generous and gentle attitude they were the first of many debts to be paid in full for the young parish.



The choice of what to portray on the windows must have been a thoughtful process although nothing is written down about where the ideas came from or how the final design was made. It is clear, however, that the windows are very appropriately designed to reflect our respect for and honor of Mary. The intent of the artist was to reflect a Catholic admiration of Mary through a portrayal of her most holy prayer, the Rosary. It is interesting to note that all four mysteries of the Holy Rosary are now represented with the Joyful and Glorious Mysteries shown in the windows, the Sorrowful Mysteries in the Stations of the Cross, and the newest addition of the Luminous Mysteries in the paintings behind the altar in the sanctuary. They were begun in 2009 and completed in 2011 by Craig Gallagher, an artist out of St. Michael, MN.

Each window, along with the other stained glass windows in various places throughout the church, have been dedicated to former parishioners at one time or another as shown by the names listed below each picture. Some appear to have been donated by living members of the parish while others look to have been given in memory of certain people or families posthumously.



Beginning on the south side of the sanctuary we see that each window shows one of the Joyful Mysteries. The first is the Annunciation. *Mary is visited by the Angel Gabriel who announces, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with thee." Mary wonders at this greeting but the Angel assures her, "Fear not...you shall conceive in your womb, and give birth to a Son." Mary is troubled because she made a vow of virginity but the Angel again reassures her and reveals that her child will come by the Holy Spirit and be called the Son of God. Mary answers, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to your word."*



Donated by Our Lady of Lourdes Sodality



Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Pourpore & Family

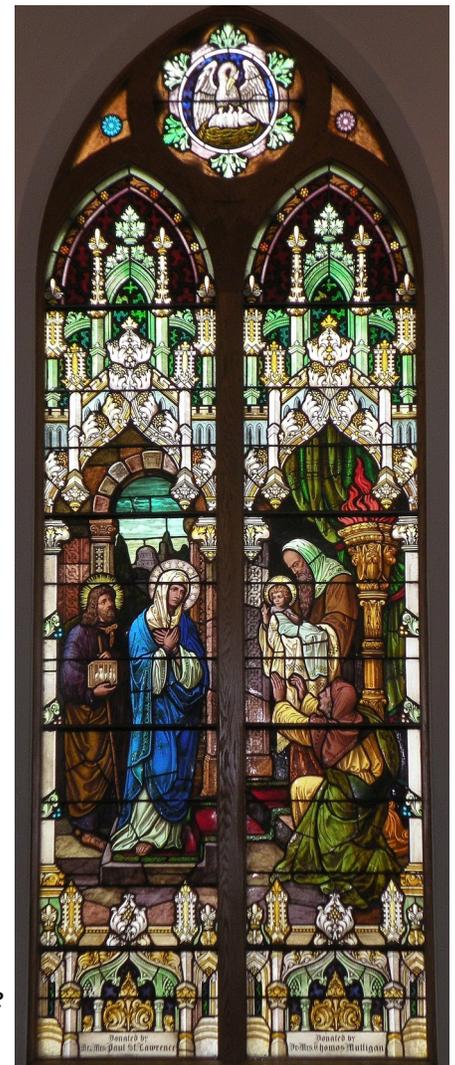
The Second Joyful Mystery, the Visitation. *Mary's cousin Elizabeth conceives a child in her old age and Mary makes the 80 mile journey to visit her. Upon her arrival, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy and she exclaimed, "Blessed is the fruit of your womb. How have I deserved that the mother of my Lord should come to me? Blessed is she who believed that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled." Mary replies, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit finds joy in God, my Savior." Mary continues to serve Elizabeth in charity for three months until the birth of John the Baptist.*

The Third Joyful Mystery, the Nativity. *To comply with Caesar Augustus' decree, Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem but as the time for the birth is near, they find no room at the inn. Jesus is born in a cave and wrapped in swaddling clothes. He entered the world in poverty to teach the lesson of detachment from earthly things.*

*The angel announces to the shepherds, "Today there is born to you in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord." The Shepherds came to pay homage and the Magi came to adore the Holy Child and give Him gifts.*



Donated by Mr. & Mrs. C.P.  
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The Fourth Joyful Mystery, the Presentation. *The Law of Moses required the firstborn male child to be consecrated to the Lord and although Jesus was not subject to the law, to teach obedience, he submits to it. Simeon, after recognizing the child, prays, "Now you can dismiss your servant in peace. You have fulfilled your word. This Child is destined to be the downfall and rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed." After fulfilling all the Law requires, Joseph and Mary return to Nazareth.*

The Fifth Joyful Mystery, the Finding of Jesus in the Temple. *After going with His parents to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, the twelve year old Jesus is unknowingly left in the city as Joseph and Mary set out for Nazareth. One day into the journey His parents realize Jesus is missing and return immediately to search for Him. After three days they find Jesus in the temple among Doctors who are amazed at His wisdom and Mary*

*says, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been searching for you in sorrow." Jesus answers her, "Why did you search for me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?" Jesus returns to Nazareth and is subject to them.*



In Memory of Rev. Daniel Hughes D.D.

In Mem. of Denis & Bridget Sullivan

In Mem. of John & Susan Murphy

*guards placed in front of the tomb by the chief priests for fear His body would be taken, Jesus rises on the third day with an earthquake as the stone is rolled away. Although the women coming to anoint His body are frightened, an angel calms their fears, "He is not here. He has risen as He said." Jesus then appears to Mary Magdalen, Peter and two disciples on the way to Emmaus. That evening he appears to the apostles behind locked doors and says, "Peace be unto you...do no be afraid." He then breathes on them and gives them the power to forgive sin.*

The windows on the north side of the sanctuary depict the Glorious Mysteries. The first is the Resurrection. *After the body of Jesus was laid in the tomb on the evening of Good Friday, His soul descends to the dead to announce to the Just the tidings of their redemption. Despite*



In Memoriam Mr. & Mrs. Edward O'Connor & Edward J. O'Connor  
In Memory of My Father: Donated by Rev. M. J. O'Driscoll 1st Pastor of St. Mary's Church

The Second Glorious Mystery, the Ascension. *Jesus remained on Earth forty days to prove He had truly risen and commissions the apostles to preach the gospel to every creature. He promises to be with them forever and send the Holy Spirit to enlighten and strengthen them. On the height of Mt. Olivet, accompanied by His Mother, the apostles, and the disciples, He ascends on a cloud with jubilation from the angels in Heaven and His wounds are an endless plea before the Father on our behalf. The disciples then return with joy to Jerusalem.*



In Memory of Lizzie Koch Miss B.

Koch

In Memory of Donated by Mrs. G. &

John Lynch

The Third Glorious Mystery, the Coming of the Holy Ghost. *The apostles with Mary the Mother of Jesus gathered in the upper room where Jesus had the Last Supper to pray and a sound like the rush of wind filled the whole house. The Holy Spirit descended on them in the form of tongues of fire and the apostles boldly preach without fear of the Jewish leaders while the multitudes are confounded as they each hear the apostles speaking in their own native tongue. Peter went forth and baptized three thousand and the Infant Church began to grow.*



In Memory of Nic Simmer Donated by  
Mrs. N. Simmer & Joseph Simmer  
In Memory of William Flinn Donated  
by Mrs. William Flinn

The Fourth Glorious Mystery, the Assumption. *After the death of Christ, Mary lived many years with John and as she nourished the infant Jesus, she also nourished the infant Church as a source of comfort, consolation and strength to the apostles. After her death she taken wholly into heaven so that her sinless body would not succumb to the corruption of decay caused by original sin.*



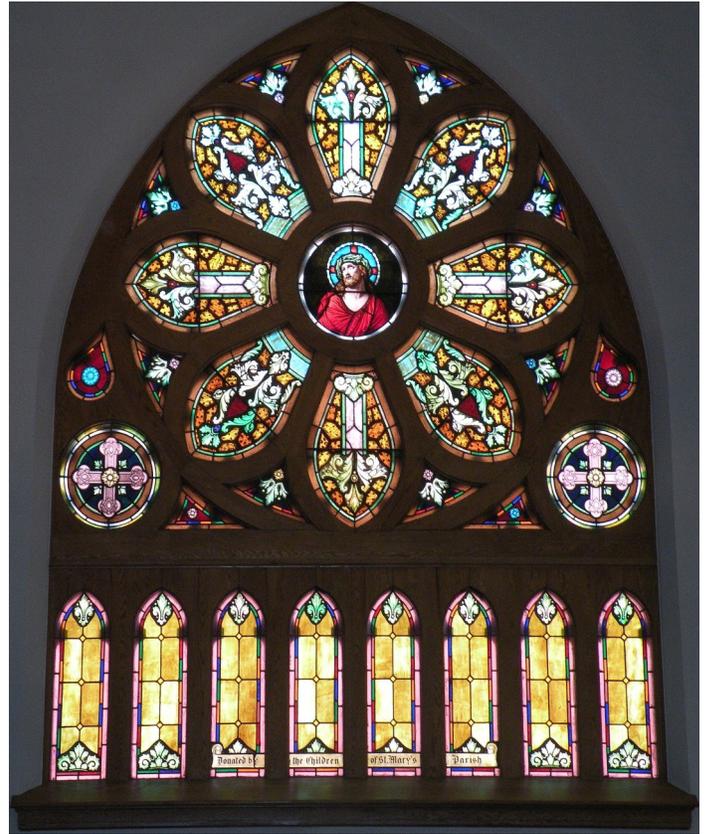
In Memory of Gertrude I. Norman

The Fifth Glorious Mystery, the Coronation. *Mary enters heaven and is crowned by her divine Son as Queen of heaven and earth. She shares fully in the glory of Christ because she shared fully in His suffering and only in Heaven will we see how central her role is to the divine plan of redemption.*



Donated by Perpetual Help Sodality

On both sides in the front of the sanctuary the choice was made to represent the Virgin Mary with the four Doctors of the Eastern (Greek speaking) Church and Jesus with the four Doctors of the Western (Latin speaking) Church. The alcove on the north side of the sanctuary shows Jesus with the crown of thorns above St. Basil the Great, St. John Chrysostom, St. Athanasius and St. Ephraem.



Donated by the Children of St. Mary's Parish



Donated by  
J.T. Neville & Minnie A Neville

Donated by  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Prescott

In Memory of John D. McDean  
Donated by Mrs. McDean

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### St. Basil the Great (330-379)

- Embraced monastic life
- Chosen by his bishop, Eusebius to defend orthodox Christianity against the Arian emperor, Valens in 364
- Became bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia in 370
- Famous for his care of the poor by building a series of hostels and hospitals around Caesarea

### St. John Chrysostom (345-407)

- Became a monk and ordained a priest to serve the Church in Antioch where his eloquent preaching earned him the title “Chrysostom” or “golden-mouthed”
- He was deposed and exiled on trumped-up charges by a Christian Empress and died under the harsh conditions of his exile

### St. Athanasius (295-373)

- Accompanied his bishop to the first great Ecumenical Council, the Council of Nicaea in 325
- Named successor to his bishop in Alexandria
- Stood against the Arian movement and was exiled numerous times by the government eventually fleeing to Rome in 339 for 7 years

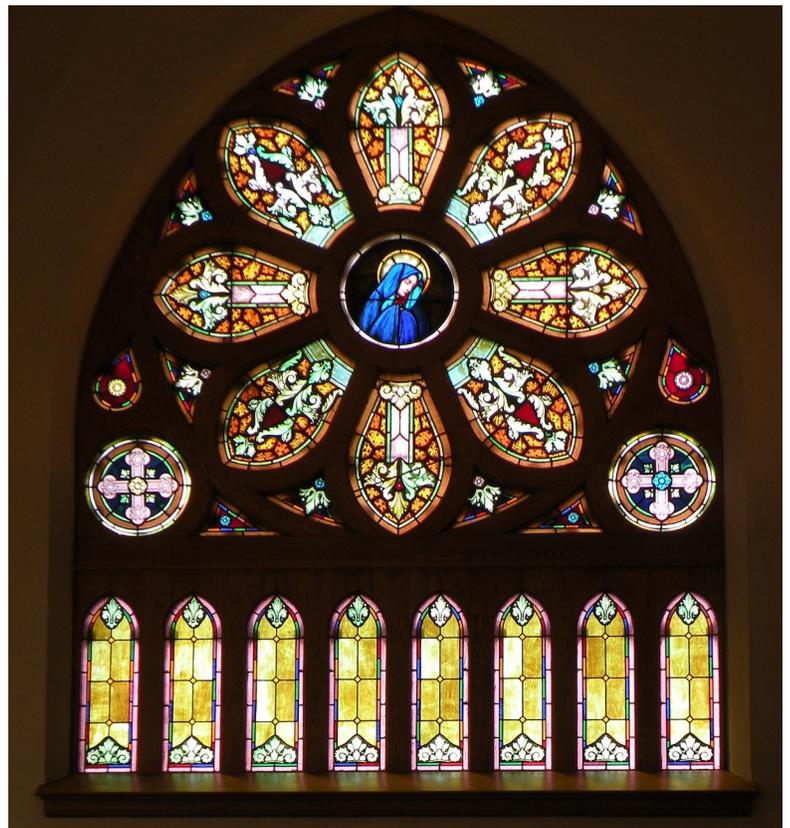
### St. Ephraem (306-373)

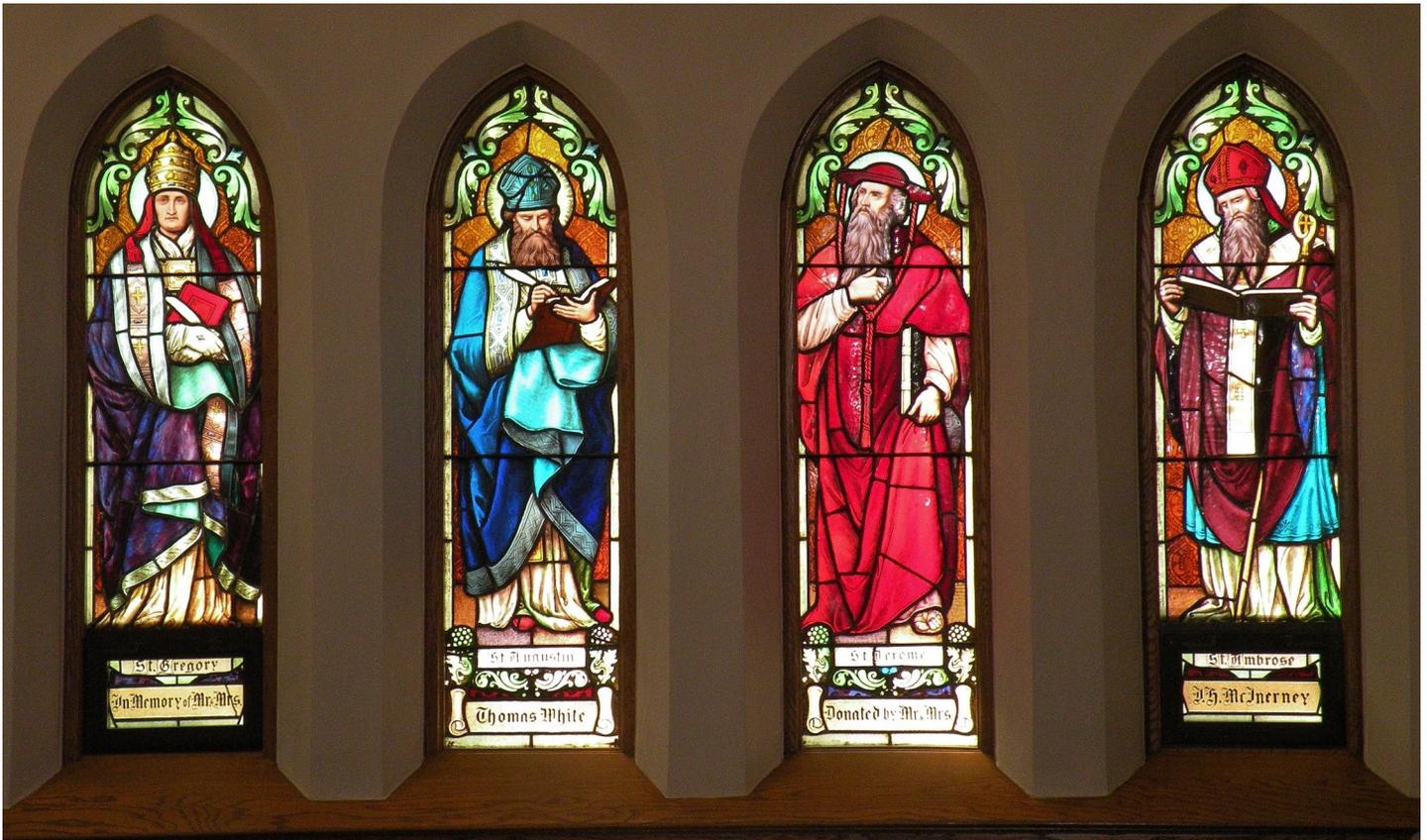
- Feast Day: June 9
- Known more as a deacon than a priest
- He stressed Mary’s virginity and is the first to describe her as the Bride of Christ
- Credited as being the founder of the School of Nisibis

The alcove on the south side of the sanctuary shows the Virgin Mary above St. Gregory the Great, St. Augustine, St. Jerome and St. Ambrose.

### St. Gregory the Great (540-604)

- Son of a Roman Senator and became prefect (mayor) of Rome
- Gave away wealth and entered the monastery of St. Andrew
- First monk to be elected as Pope
- Promoted sacred music and handed down plainsong that we now know as Gregorian Chant





In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas White

Donated by Mr. & Mrs. D.H. McInerney

#### St. Augustine (354-430)

- Rebellious teenager who cohabitated with a girlfriend, joined an exotic cult and ran away from his mother
- Brilliant and renowned teacher of public speaking who was appointed by the emperor to teach in Milan
- After hearing St. Ambrose preach he was baptized, renounced his secular career and became a monk, then priest, then bishop of Hippo on the N. African Coast

#### St. Jerome (345-420)

- Became a monk in Rome
- Served as secretary to Pope Damasus then settled in Bethlehem and founded a monastery
- His translation of scripture was used in the Latin rite for over 1,000 years

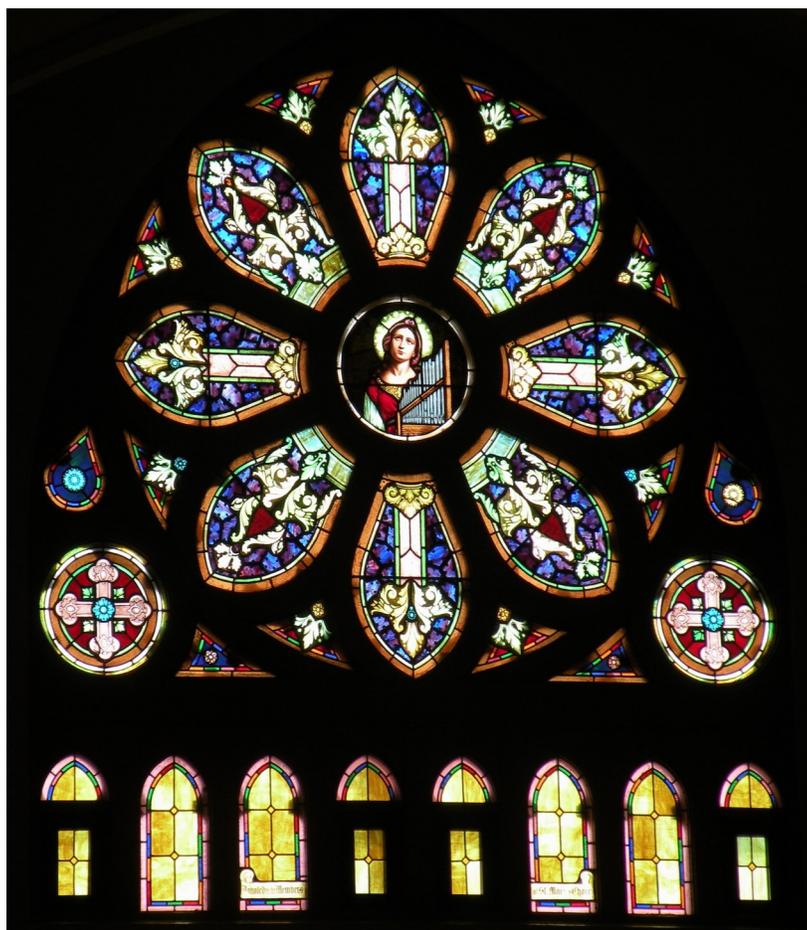
#### St. Ambrose (340-397)

- Feast Day: December 7
- Son of the Roman prefect of Gaul, followed his father's career in law and politics and became the Imperial governor of Northern Italy
- The people demanded he become bishop after the episcopal see of Milan became vacant so he was baptized, ordained deacon then priest then bishop all in one week
- Passed down sacred music through hymns and psalm tones known as Ambrosian chant
- Attracted a then ambitious professor of public speaking named Augustine to the Catholic faith, Augustine was later baptized by Saint Ambrose

The window in the choir loft is St. Cecilia, the patron Saint of church music. It is believed that she was born around the 2nd or 3rd Century but the exact dates of her birth and martyrdom are unknown. It has been said that while marrying a youth named Valerian she heard music in her heart which is the reason she is now the patron saint of music. She later informed her husband that her virginity was pledged to God and that an angel of the Lord protected it. Valerian wished for proof and after being baptized by Pope S. Urban (223-230) he saw the angel with flaming wings and crowns of roses and lilies which the angel placed on their heads. Valerian's brother, Tibertius, was also later converted and the two men devoted their lives to burying the martyrs of the city. After being arrested by the prefect, Turcius Almachius, they were put to death.

Cecilia, by her preaching, converted many and was arrested for it. She was condemned to death by suffocation in the bath houses but although she was shut in for a day and a night she did not die. Almachius found out and ordered her head cut off but after trying three times without success the executioner left her to die. St. Cecilia lived three days longer while crowds came to collect her blood with sponges and napkins as she continued to preach. After her death she was buried by Pope Urban. Although a church dedicated to St. Cecilia dating from about the 5th Century was known to exist it had fallen into disrepair. In 821 AD Pope Paschal I (817-824) had a dream that the Saint's remains along with those of her husband could be found in the Cemetery of St. Celestas. He searched and found the remains he suspected to be St. Cecilia and Valerian which the Pope relocated to the church of St. Cecilia where he founded a monastery in their honor. The remains were exhumed in 1599 by Cardinal Paul Emilius Sfondrati, who rebuilt the church, and were said to be incorrupt.

The story of St. Cecilia's death is not disputed but the name of the prefect, Turcius Almachius, has been questioned as there is no record of a prefect with that name in the empire. Furthermore, the emperor at the time, Alexander Severus, is not known to have persecuted Christians. An Italian Archaeologist, Giovanni Battista de Rossi has written his agreement with Venantius Fortunatus, and Latin poet, hymnodist and Bishop of Poitiers, France, who thought St. Cecilia's martyrdom actually came between 176-180 AD in Sicily under the emperor Marcus Aurelius.



Donated by the Members of St. Mary's Choir

The window of the Virgin Mary has been moved several times in recent history. At one time it was located in the entry to the right of the stairs as one enters the church but was later relocated to the front of the main sanctuary by Fr. Jerry Finnestad. Fr. Daniel Mrnarevic later relocated it to the right side of the sanctuary where it currently sits.



Donated by Miss Anna & Miss Mar-