

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

*"But the Lord said to Samuel,
Pay no attention to his looks or
to his splendid height, for I
have passed him by. It is not
what man sees; for man
looks on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart."*

1 Samuel 16:7

*"A Great portent then appeared in
heaven; a woman, robed with
the sun, with the moon under her
feet and a crown of 12 stars
on her head, was pregnant,
and as she agonized in the
pangs of her deliverance, she
cried out."*

Revelation 12:1,2

*"I saw the Spirit come
down from heaven like a
love and remain on Him ..."*

John 1:32

The tenth window in a series on stained glass windows from Orleans County is from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Medina. Actually this is two windows in one and is not meant to be looked at as one singular scene. In the left hand side is a life size figure portrayal of Jesus as the son of God. In this devotional picture he is represented in his nativity, bearded, bearing the wounds of the crucifixion in his hands and with bare feet. He is robed in white which symbolizes light, faith, joy, purity and life. The red mantle draped over this denotes divine love and the Holy Spirit. Its lining is green which symbolizes victory over death, hope of the future and immortality. The mantle also has a gold fringe border which represents the goodness of God. The halo or nimbus can take on a variety of forms depending upon the person depicted. In portraits of Jesus, frequently the halo will be cruciform, with a cross within a circle which refers to redemption through the Cross. This form of halo is used solely for Jesus as we see here.

Perhaps the main symbol or focal point in this side of the window is the flaming heart known as the sacred heart of Jesus. It suggests utmost religious fervor and is typically used in Catholic religious art.

The right hand side of this beautiful window shows the Virgin Mary holding the baby Jesus. This is a purely devotional picture in character and exalts Mary as the Mother of God and the Queen of Heaven as she wears a golden crown encircled with a halo of twelve stars (Revelation 12:1). Although there is no moon under her feet in this representation, there are clouds shown which suggest a heavenly atmosphere.

Mary is robed in a red garment suggesting divine love over which is draped a blue mantle suggesting heavenly truth. The baby Jesus is dressed in white which indicates religious purity. His arms are outstretched as though he were welcoming you unto him. In the apex of each side of the window is a fleur de lis which is a symbol of purity. In the base of the window is the notation "In Memory of Our Deceased Pastors."

The third portion of this window is the quarterfoil



in the very top. This shape in itself represents the Gospels according to the four Apostles: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Within the quarterfoil shape is a dove which is a representation of purity and peace but more especially here it is a symbol of the Holy Ghost, as rays of light appear behind it. The overall predominating colors in this window are rich blues, reds, opaque white and accents of gold. The background around the figures is a stenciled floral design in blues, browns and grey.

It was under the pastorate of the Rev. Peter Berkery that the present St. Mary's Church in Medina was conceived and constructed. Father Berkery arrived in Medina in February 1902 and immediately called a meeting of his parishioners to consider a new church building. Their response was quick to his request and a subscription was started for the project at that first meeting. Things moved quickly so that by Ascension Day, May 26, 1902 Father Berkery turned the first spade of earth for the ground breaking. The cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremony on Sept. 21, 1902 and the sandstone church was dedicated on July 10, 1904. Just a little over two year was required to complete construction and interior finishing. The total cost was around \$75,000 which included innumerable windows similar to the one shown here. Indeed, St. Mary's Church on West Avenue in Medina with its 170 foot spire is an outstanding landmark in Western New York.