

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

*"And now, I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and grant you the inheritance among all those made holy".*

*St. Paul Acts 20:32*

St. Paul the apostle seems to be proclaiming these words in the window which is our third subject in a series of articles on stained glass windows in Or-

leans County. This particular window is located in the sanctuary of St. Pauls Episcopal Church at Holley, N.Y. St. Paul is posed in this window holding a book and pointing upward to heaven as though he were giving a benediction. The book incidently, is one of the typical symbols usually associated with St. Paul in religious art. Upon seeing this window, one cannot help but immediately notice the very dominating eyes in the portrait. You have the feeling he is looking right through you. Shown with a heavy beard, this figure has a very strong, dominating and masculine quality to it. The robe is a rich ruby color which in this case, I believe, denotes creative power. Over it is draped a yellow or gold mantle which symbolizes the goodness of God. The sky is a sapphire blue which is significant of heaven.

The tracery (wooden dividers) of the Gothic Revival Style window partition into numerous panels. At the very peak is a crown which symbolizes reward and glory. The overall color scheme consists of vivid reds, rose tones, lavender, various shades of blue, gold, and brown. It's a very pretty window because of these colors. It is also an unmistakable example of 19th century stained glass work due to depth of color, character of glass and overall design.

The three bottom panels carry a design of a white flower which is symbolic of purity. In these panels we also find pertinent information which states: "Presented by Mrs. Evangeline A. Johnson A.D. 1894. Mrs. Johnson was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Armstrong of Holley where he was a physician for forty years before his retirement in 1906. The Armstrongs were among the first members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Their daughter Evangeline, was born around 1865. In 1892 she married Robert Wood Johnson of New Brunswick, New Jersey. He, with his brother in 1886, founded Johnson & Johnson, the well-known pharmaceutical company which today has many diversified interests. After Robert W. Johnson died, Evangeline married John D. Dennis, Mayor of Westminster, England. She died in 1919 and is buried in England.

In any day and age no work of art is ever created at small expense. I'm sure back in 1894 this large window depicting a life size St. Paul was considered expensive. It's easy to understand, knowing Mrs. Johnson's background, how she was able to afford it. At that time the church was brand new. Many others also came forth with beautiful appointments and furnishings for the enhancement of the interior. Such gifts made possible the building of a more costly edifice than could otherwise have been erected.

St. Paul's Church was formed as a mission in 1890. In 1893 the mission was incorporated as St. Paul's Episcopal Parish of Holley. Plans for the church were drawn and donated by Addison Forbes of Rochester and on June 19, 1894 ground was broken at South Main and Jackson Streets. The cornerstone was laid July 28, 1894 and the church was consecrated on January 31, 1895. It is constructed in the Gothic Revival Style of Medina Sandstone quarried near Holley. On the Main Street side of the church one can even find inscribed on a flying buttress, the name "Addison Forbes, Architect."

Through many gifts of talent and art objects, St. Paul's Church stands today as an outstanding historical landmark in Orleans County.

*"... We should remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'."*

*St. Paul Acts 20:35*