

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

*"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.*

*And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

*And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

*He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.*

*And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.*

*And he left them and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.*

*Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me."*

Matthew XXVI, 36-46

us!' (Judges 9:8). The olive branch has traditionally symbolized peace...and the dove came into him in the evening; and lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off; so Noah knew that the

Our stained glass window subject this week is taken from the Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ. This devotional illustration might well be entitled "Prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Olives" or "The Agony in the Garden." After the Last Supper, Jesus, knowing of His betrayal, retired with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane. Here we see Him kneeling by a rock deep in prayer. "And an angel from heaven appeared to Him to strengthen Him, and in agony He prayed yet more intensely, and His sweat fell to the

His head is embossed with a halo which zone of light represents His divinity. A beam of light shines down onto Him from God. This too, represents His divine nature and suggests a life-giving spirit from heaven. In the background we see here two olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane. The olive is a true Biblical tree which by its rich yields of oil symbolizes the providence of God toward His children. "Once the trees went out to anoint a king over them, and they said to the olive tree 'Reign over waters were abated from off the earth (Genesis 8:11). In this passage, the olive branch is symbolic of the peace God made with human kind. In the foreground by the rock we see a thorny bush which is Acacia or Acanthus known as Acanthus spinosus. It was from this bush that the Roman soldiers fashioned the crown of thorns. "And the soldiers

platted a crown of thorn and put it on his head." (John 19:2). The thorny bush in this scene simply alludes to the fate of Jesus and His ultimate suffering and crucifixion. The rock before which Jesus is leaning symbolizes the Lord and His steadfastness.

In this window Christ is wearing a white robe symbolic of religious purity over which He is clad in a red mantle symbolic of His divine love. The sky in the background is made of dark rich blue pieces of glass. The olive trees are done in various shades of greens with orange colored fruits. The window is made of glass which has been painted and fired to achieve the design and color and measures approximately 36 inches in diameter. It is located over the communion table in the front of the sanctuary in the Congregational Church.

The window was the gift of Cary Fish in 1952 in memory of his parents, Tracy A. Fish (1876-1936) and Lottie M. Fish (1877-1951). Mr. and Mrs. Fish were residents of the Town of Gaines. Tracy Fish was secretary of the Orleans County Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. His son, Cary B. Fish (1902-1960) later operated the same insurance agency. Following the disastrous fire which destroyed the old Gaines Congregational Church on December 24, 1950 and the subsequent building of the present church which was dedicated September 14, 1952, Cary Fish wanted to do something for the congregation. It was through his association and friendship with the late Lester Canham that he was so inspired to purchase this window for \$250.00. The window came from Buffalo and it is believed it had been a display model in an exhibition of windows and church accouterments at the time. It is interesting that neither Cary Fish nor his parents were members of the Congregational church as they were Presbyterians. We might note here that the Eddy memorial window in the First Presbyterian Church in Albion also depicts the same scene of Jesus in Gethsemane as the Fish memorial window in the Congregational Church.

