

Bethinking of Old Orleans

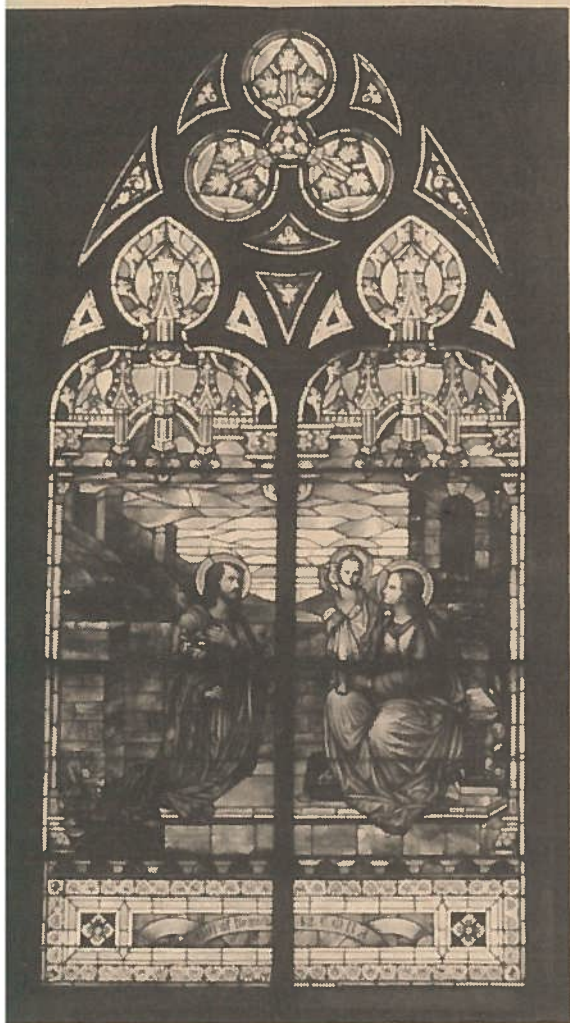
C.W.Lattin County Historian

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LUMINARIES IN THE FIRMAMENT



The Cobblestone Society and Museum at Childs, N.Y. has published a 64-page booklet "Luminaries In The Firmament" - A Guide To Stained Glass Windows, In Orleans County, New York. Innumerable stained glass windows, either black and white or color photos are represented in this publication.

The book by C.W. Lattin, Orleans County Historian with photos by Dr. James Orr and Foreword by Valerie O'Hara Murray of Pike Stained Glass in Rochester, N.Y. will be released on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 1 from 2 - 5 at the Swan Library in Albion. The cost per book will be \$12.95 before December 1, 1992 and \$14.95 thereafter, for this limited edition of 1,000 copies. Locally, it will be available at Curvin's in Medina, Swan Library in Albion, Holley Community Library, Lift Bridge Book Store, Brockport and Beech and Crow Books in Childs.

The book in three parts, begins with narrative windows arranged in the chronological order of the life of Jesus. The second part contains devotional windows which are more allegorical in nature while the third portion represents windows which are unique.

Over twenty churches of various denominations are represented with close to sixty windows from the 1860's to the 1960's included. To qualify for inclusion in this book the windows had to be of a rural nature with the exception of several very unique designs.

These two companion windows dating from 1896, are from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic

Church in Albion. The Holy Family which appears in the east transept was the "Gift Branch 42 CMBA" which was an organization within the church many years ago known as Catholic Men's Benevolent Association. Rich liturgical colors including reds and blues are used here. The other window portraying St. John the Baptist and his followers is located in the west transept. Here, the colors are not so sumptuous, but are drab tones of grey and brown predominating.

These windows were not placed by accident. Naturally, when people are in church on a Sunday morning, bright sunlight comes shining through the Holy Family especially highlighting the baby Jesus. Therefore, the subjects in the west transept are down-played not only by placement but by color scheme. This was only natural as the Holy Family would be considered important than St. John the Baptist and his followers. He points upward as though saying "... Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his path straight. (Luke 3:4)

In the base of this window it notes "In Memory of Rev. John Castaldi." He became the first resident priest at St. Joseph's Parish serving from 1862 to 1895 when he died. He was born in Piconza, Italy in 1834 and came to America in the 1850's. He first served churches in Buffalo, Batavia and LeRoy before coming to Albion. At that time St. Joseph's Parish was relatively new, having been formed in 1852. Rev. Castaldi served thirty-three years during which time he built a rectory, opened a parochial school and established a cemetery.