

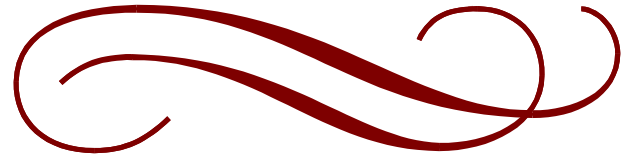
Behind St. Edith Church's Architecture



Church photo taken by: Patricia Drury

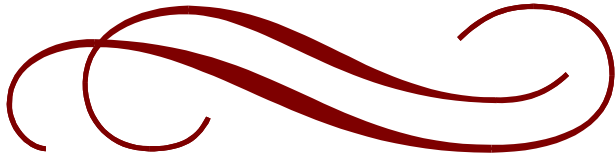
Welcome to our Church!

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When entering the church you are greeted with the baptismal font designed for full immersion. At the peak of the font is a small waterfall symbolizing the living water Jesus offers and into which we are baptized. Next to the font, encased in glass, are the oils used for key moments in our sacramental journeys, the oil of catechumen, chrism, and the oil of the sick.





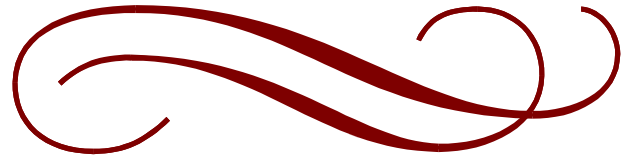
Symbols of the mysteries of our faith are significant and meaningful for Catholics. We revere the cross as it is the sign and symbol of God's unconditional love. From the love of the Cross, Jesus' Resurrection and subsequent Ascension, all of humanity shares in the opportunity of eternal existence within the presence of God. It is this great story of love central in the sanctuary. Told is the story moving from the Cross, through Christ's Resurrection from darkness to light, in jeweled stained-glass windows, and in earthy statuary of key incidents of that Easter Event.

The wooden cross is central in the sanctuary, but now the tree of death becomes the tree of life present in the stained-glass window aligned with the cross. The Tree of Life illuminates and accentuates, with color and depth, the power of New Risen Life. It is a "fruitful tree" representing the living out of a sacramental life. These "fruits" manifest themselves in each of the stained glass sacramental representations.

The power of Christ's Risen Life branches forth and flows through the Easter events presented in sculpted form surrounding the Cross and the Tree of Life. Moving from the bottom right to the top left our eyes and hearts are lifted through Jesus awaking from the dark tomb, Jesus feeding the disciples at Emmaus, his Ascension into Heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.



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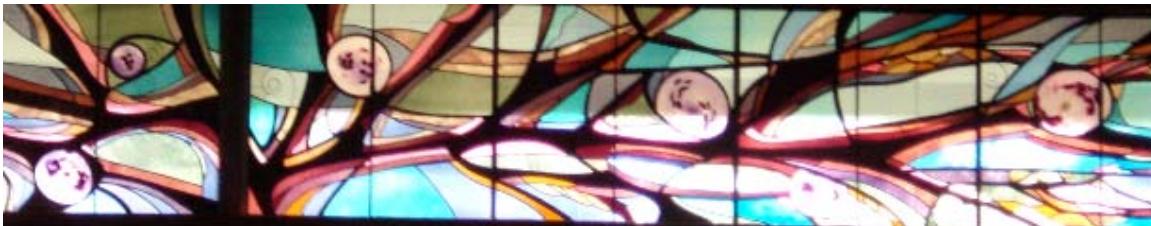
The three vertical stained glass windows reflect on the sacraments, left to right: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. To show how each flows, one into the other, there is a linear movement within each window area which connects with the next window.

The artist, Margaret Cavanaugh, chose the Sacraments to highlight their importance within our lives and journeys of faith. The “fruits” of the sacraments punctuate each window in varying colors. Present, also, are the elements of water, earth, fire and air to make a connection between our lives and nature, and our need to reverence God’s gifts.

Baptism...



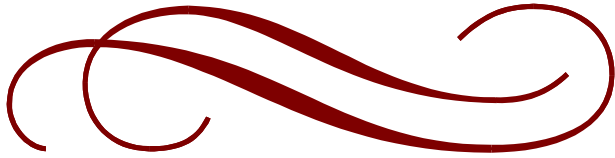
...Eucharist...



...Confirmation



The artist utilizes and moves from color to color as it is in the spectrum. In Baptism are greens and blue-greens. Blues and purples comprise Eucharist and in Confirmation are purples, moving to pinks and reds. These colors move in linear direction. The “fruits” are present, accented with appropriate colors, through the swirling waters of baptism, the vine of grape and stalk of wheat of Eucharist, and culminates with the tongues of fire and the coming of the Holy Spirit that penetrates in Confirmation.



The design concept for the window surrounding the tabernacle is “Under the shadow of your wings, I sing for joy.” The linear movement is one of centering. Private meditation before the Blessed Sacrament elicits this form of prayer. The eyes (seen here as beveled jewels) cast light in every direction. The “eye,” in the ancient tradition, suggests the Eye of God, and the “eyes,” are the windows of the Soul. Angelic wings in art are often seen with many eyes. The feathers of birds such as peacock and the pheasant have “eyes.”



You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.” For he will rescue you from the snare of the fowler, from the destroying pestilence. With his pinions he will cover you, and under his wings you shall take refuge.” Psalm 91: 1-4