



- Praying with the Windows of St. Joseph the Worker Shrine
- The St. Joseph Windows



The St. Joseph Windows



“ Almighty God, you entrusted to the faithful care of St. Joseph the beginnings of the mysteries of humankind’s salvation. Through his intercession, may your church always be faithful in her service so that your designs may always be fulfilled.”

The stained-glass windows of the Shrine – there are eleven (11) of them, all depicting the life and attributes of St. Joseph.

The panels at the bottom of each window represent the various trades and professions of workers in the City of Lowell.

The emblems in those stained-glass panels are unique and are a very special feature of St. Joseph the Worker Shrine in the heart of downtown Lowell. The late Fr. Eugene Noury, OMI, the first Director of the Shrine, conceived of this idea and brought it to fruition.

All of the windows follow a chronological and biblical order
(beginning at the left front of the Shrine)



Window 1 An Angel Appeared to Joseph

The angel of the Lord appeared to him in his sleep, saying: ***“Joseph, son of David, fear not to take Mary as your wife, for what is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”***

Let us Pray

Blessed Joseph, ever trustful in God’s watchful care, you could sleep undisturbed as the Lord gently guided your dreams along the lines of His designs. May we follow his example and confidently rest in the assurance that our paths too are being lovingly traced before we are even aware of them. Amen



An Angel Appeared to Joseph Main Window

Our heavenly Father chose St. Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, to be the foster father of Jesus and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

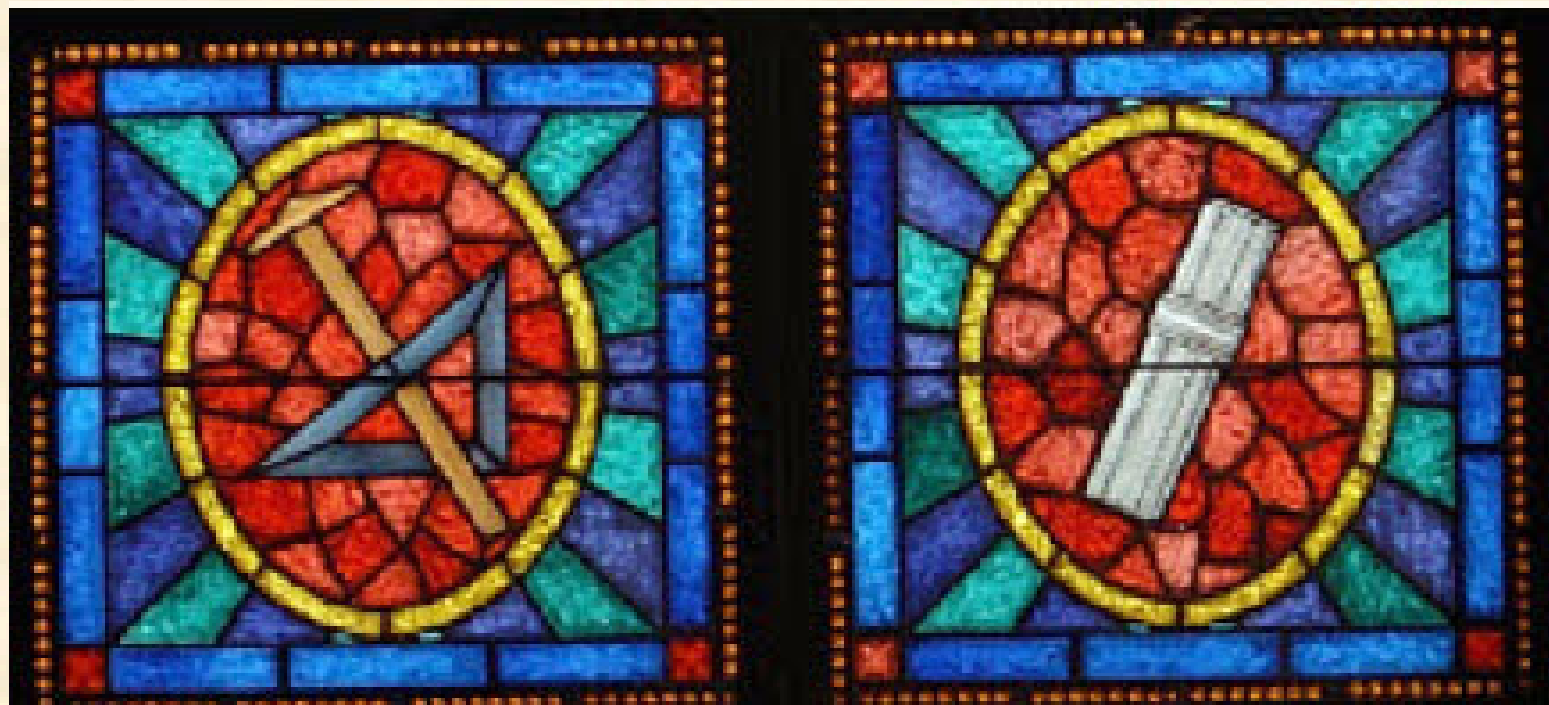
After they were betrothed, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that Mary would bear a child who would be the Son of God.

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED
JOSEPH SON OF DAVID. FEAR NOT
WIFE. FOR WHAT IS CONCEIVED IN
TO HIM IN HIS SLEEP, SAYING,
TO TAKE UPON THEE MARY THY
HER IS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

An Angel Appeared to Joseph Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of the window symbolizes the Holy Trinity, Almighty God who chose Joseph for the sublime roles of being guardian of Mary and foster father of Christ Incarnate, Jesus.



The bottom panels depict on the left a carpenter's square and on the right an engineer's slide rule.



Window 2

The Marriage of Mary and Joseph

“...and Joseph did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary to be his wife.”

Let us Pray

Lord God, through the prayers of Mary, the virgin Mother of God and of her husband, Joseph, strengthen the bonds of love between all husbands and wives and unite our Christian families in peace and love. Amen.



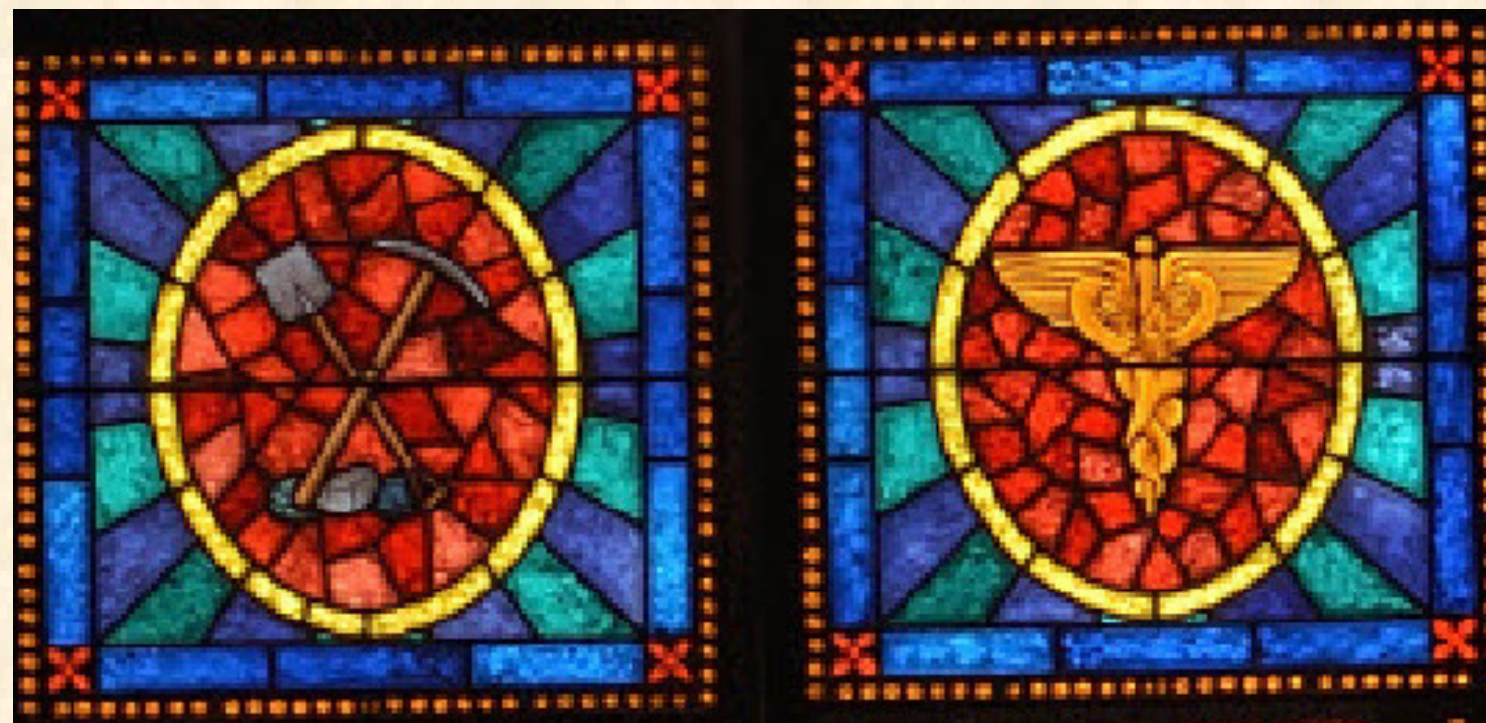
The Marriage of Mary and Joseph Main Window

This window depicts the nuptials of
Mary and Joseph

The Marriage of Mary and Joseph Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of this window displays the symbols of a festive harp and two rings.



The bottom left panel shows a pick and shovel, representing the laborer's trade; the bottom right panel represents the medical profession.

Window 3

The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem

“And Mary brought forth her first born Son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the Inn.”

Let us Pray

Lord our God, with the birth of your Son
your glory has broken onto the world.
As Joseph waited through the night hours of the
darkened earth, watching for the coming of your
promised Son,
so may we also rejoice in welcoming him as Lord
and true light
of the world. Amen.





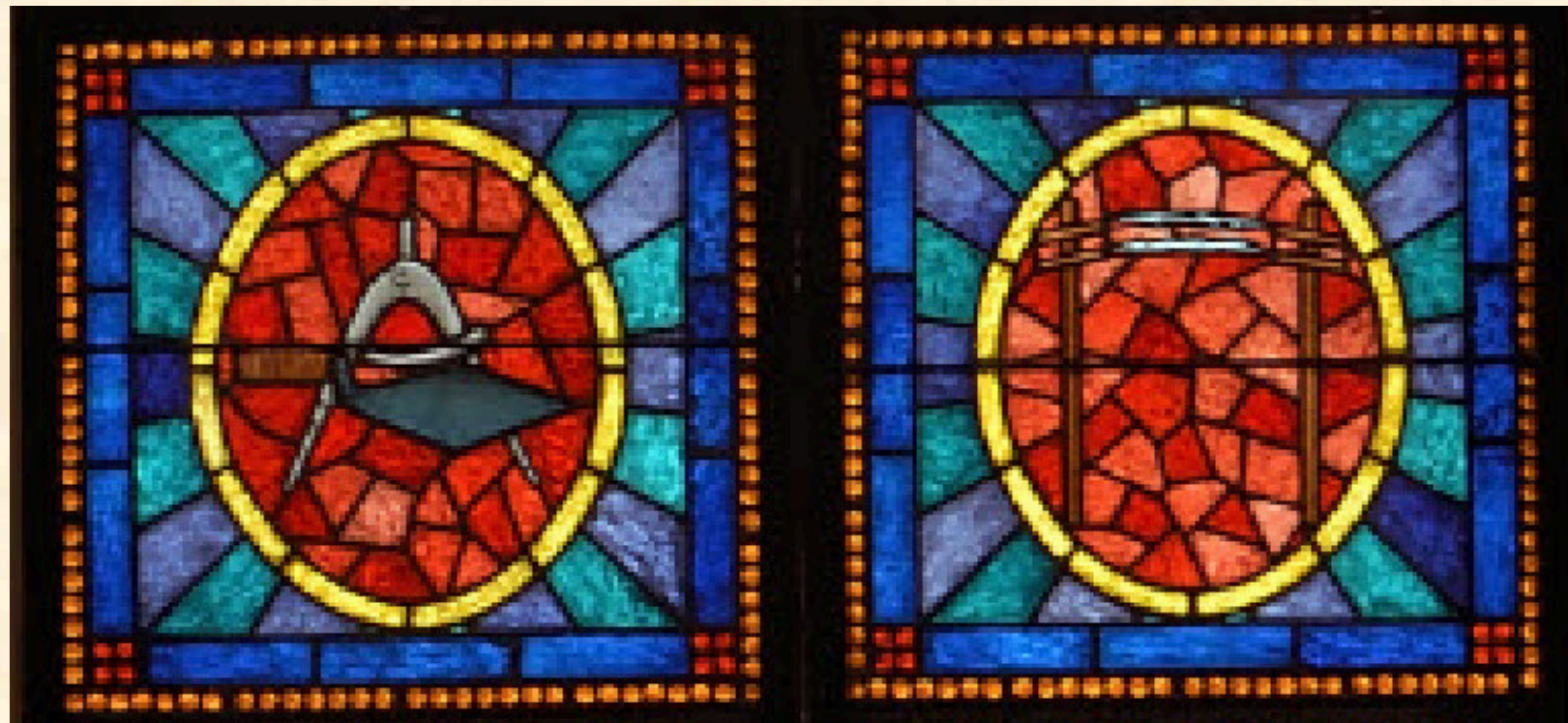
The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem Main Window

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to register in the census. They could find no place to stay except in a stable. There Mary brought forth her son and laid him in the manger of a stable.

The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of this window features angels with trumpets announcing the nativity of the Messiah.



The lower left panel features a compass representing the drafting trade; the panel on the right represents electricians.

Window 4 The Circumcision

“The angel said to Joseph: Mary shall bring forth a son and you shall call his name Jesus.”

Let us Pray

Good St. Joseph, like the Patriarchs before you, you were faithful to the holy prescriptions of the Covenant by formalizing the entry of Jesus into God's chosen people; help us to reverence the traditions bequeathed to us and to honor the heritage of our ancestors in the faith. Amen.





The Circumcision Main Window

In order to comply with Jewish custom, the child was circumcised and given the name Jesus.

The Circumcision Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of the window represents the hand of God the Father acknowledging as his Divine Son, the Child this day was given the name Jesus.



The lower left panel with paint brush and glass cutter represents painters and glaziers; the panel on the right with wrench and shears represents plumbers and sheet metal workers.

Window 5 The Purification

“They took him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.”

Let us Pray

God our Father, Christ your Son became man for us and was presented to You in the Temple by Mary and Joseph.

May he free our hearts from sin and guide us to the Light. May he bring us into your Presence at the end of our earthly journey. Amen.





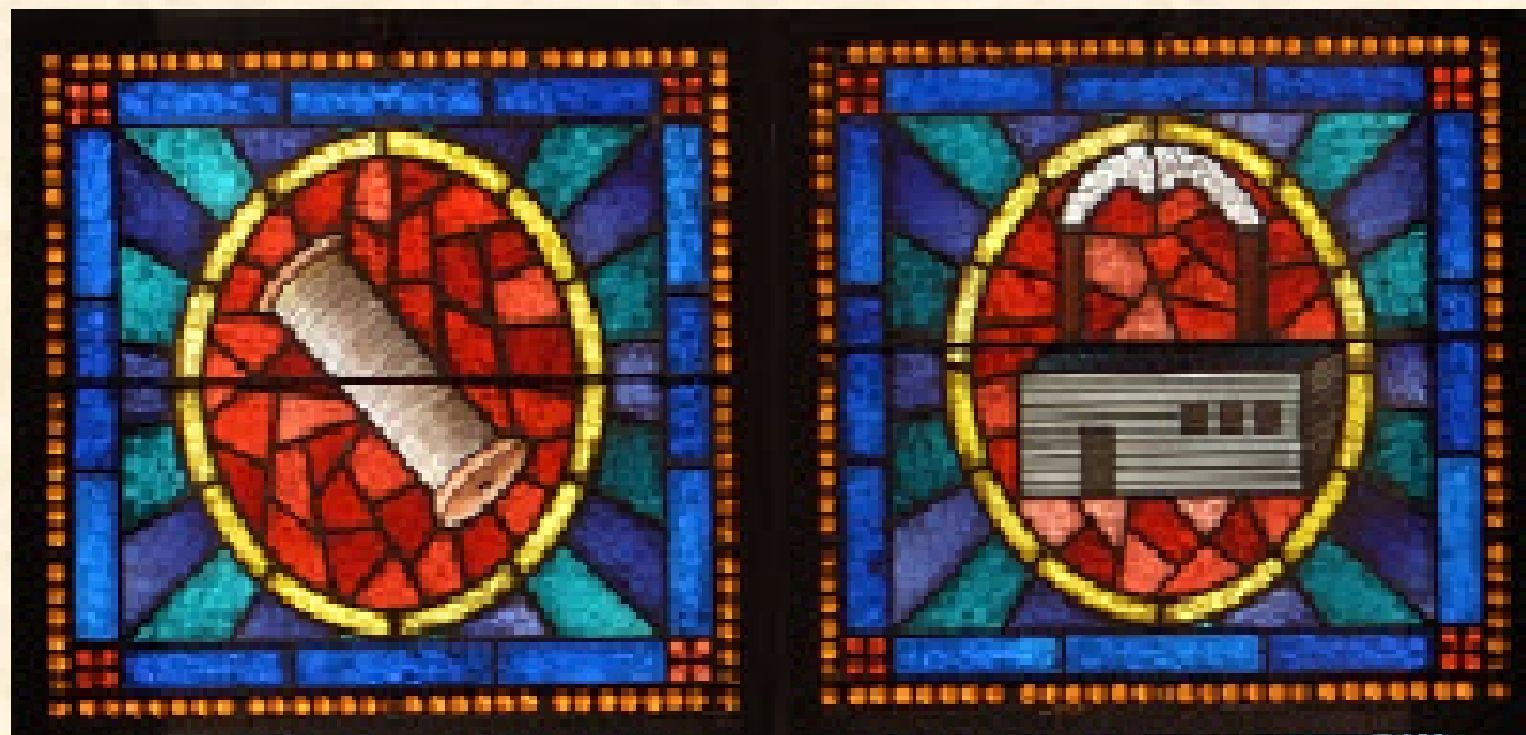
The Purification Main Window

Simeon, the aged priest, who had longed to see the *Child of the Promise* prayed over the Blessed Mother and her Child; he took the infant Jesus from her into his arms, speaking in rapture of joy over Him and thanking God that He had fulfilled His promise. He ended with his "*Nunc Dimittis*"- declaring that he could now depart this world in peace.

The Purification Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of the window represents a fruitful vine.



The lower panels on the left and right complement each other to represent yarn and the textile mills employing local workers.

Window 6 The Flight to Egypt

“Joseph arose and took the child and His mother by night and withdrew to Egypt.”

Let us Pray

Blessed Joseph, ever faithful Guardian of Jesus and Mary, with courage and trust in Divine Providence, you uprooted them to a foreign land for their protection.

May all heads of families courageously shoulder their responsibilities in providing for the welfare of those under their care. Amen





The Flight to Egypt Main Window

At the word of an angel, Joseph took Jesus and Mary to Egypt and stayed there until the angel told him to go back to Nazareth.

The Flight to Egypt Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of the window with palm and sword represents the two opposing forces: the palm is the Child Jesus seeking to bring peace and love, while the sword represents King Herod who sought to destroy Jesus – hence the message of the angel to the Holy



The panel on the lower left with the harp represents musicians while the panel on the right with the book of learning represents teachers.



Window 7 Finding of Jesus in the Temple

“Son, why have you done this to us? Behold in sorrow your father and I have been looking for you.”

Let us Pray

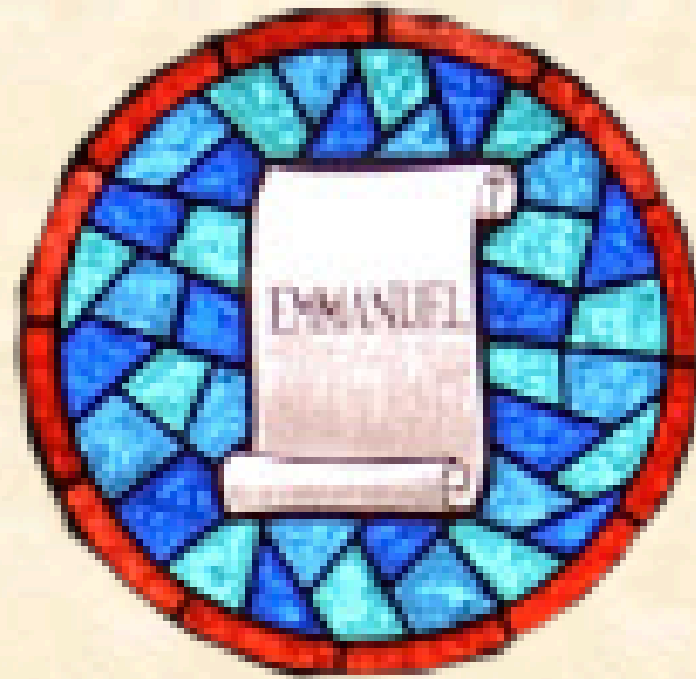
Blessed Joseph, ever faithful Guardian of Jesus and Mary, with courage and trust in Divine Providence you uprooted them to a foreign land for their protection. May all heads of families courageously shoulder their responsibilities in providing for the welfare of those under their care. Amen.



Finding of Jesus in the Temple Main Window

When Jesus was twelve years old, he was lost in Jerusalem. For three days, Mary and Joseph looked for Him with great anxiety and found Him in the Temple.

Finding Jesus in the Temple Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of the window: Emmanuel with the Scroll, signifies that *“God is with us.”*



The lower left panel represents postal workers while the panel on the right with the scales of justice represents attorneys and judges.



Window 8 Jesus at Nazareth

““My Father has never ceased working and I too must work.”

Let us Pray

God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe,
in every age you call us to develop and
use our creative gifts for the good of others.
With St. Joseph as our example and guide,
help us to do the work you have asked and so come
to the rewards you have promised. Amen.

Jesus at Nazareth Main Window

Jesus returned to Nazareth with His parents, and there He grew in stature and wisdom. This window represents Jesus growing-up as a teenager in respectful obedience to His parents. At Nazareth, Joseph worked hard for Jesus and Mary. Later, Jesus also worked with Joseph in the carpenter shop.



Jesus at Nazareth Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of the window pictures Pope Pius XII who established the *Feast of St. Joseph the Worker* in 1955.



The lower left panel represents writers and editors while the panel on the right represents printers and the typographical industry.

Window 9 The Death of Joseph

While we live, we live as the Lord's servants, when we die, we die as the Lord's servants. In life and in death, we belong to the Lord."

Let us Pray

Blessed Joseph, faithful servant, at the end of your life's journey, in your passing, you must surely have been accompanied by those entrusted to your care, Jesus and Mary – a circle of love that not even death could break. We too invoke your intercession at the hour of our death so that we might also remain forever united in that family circle your forged, a bond that links us to God Himself. Amen.





The Death of Joseph Main Window

Tradition tells us that Joseph died in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Hence, he has become in our devotions, Patron of a peaceful and saintly death.

The Death of Joseph Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of this window features Pope Benedict XV who occupied the Chair of Peter at the time of the Fatima apparitions.



The panel at the lower left represents the tools of the mechanic's trade whereas the right panel represents meat cutters.



Window 10

St. Joseph Protector of the Universal Church

“In whatever tribulation, they shall cry to me and I will hear them and be their Protector.”

Let us Pray

Blessed Joseph, your paternal care extends from the intimate community of nurture that is the nuclear family to the extended family generated by Jesus, the Church. It further encompasses the realm of all in this world who recognize Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Guide us in ever strengthening the bonds that unite us in this communion of grace for the uplifting of all the world. Amen.



St. Joseph Protector of the Universal Church Main Window

This window is unique in its composition – encompassing the Universal Church. From God, the Holy Spirit symbolized by the Dove, distributes God’s love and blessings to the Universal Church, giving St. Joseph an intercessory role.

The window dedicated in 1964 to St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, reflects the more ecumenical times in which we now live. Depicted in the window is St. Joseph casting beams of paternal affection and protection toward St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, toward St. Joseph the Worker Shrine in Lowell, as well as toward Holy Trinity Orthodox Church and a representative Protestant church, thereby encompassing the larger Christian community of Lowell.

Marking the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being declared patron of the Universal Church (originally proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1870, in the wake of the First Vatican Council), Pope Francis (in the wake of the Second Vatican Council), proclaimed a yearlong (2020-2021) celebration dedicated to the foster father of Our Lord and Brother, Jesus. In his apostolic letter, Pope Francis said that all Christians can discover in St. Joseph, who often goes unnoticed, “an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.”

St. Joseph Protector of the Universal Church

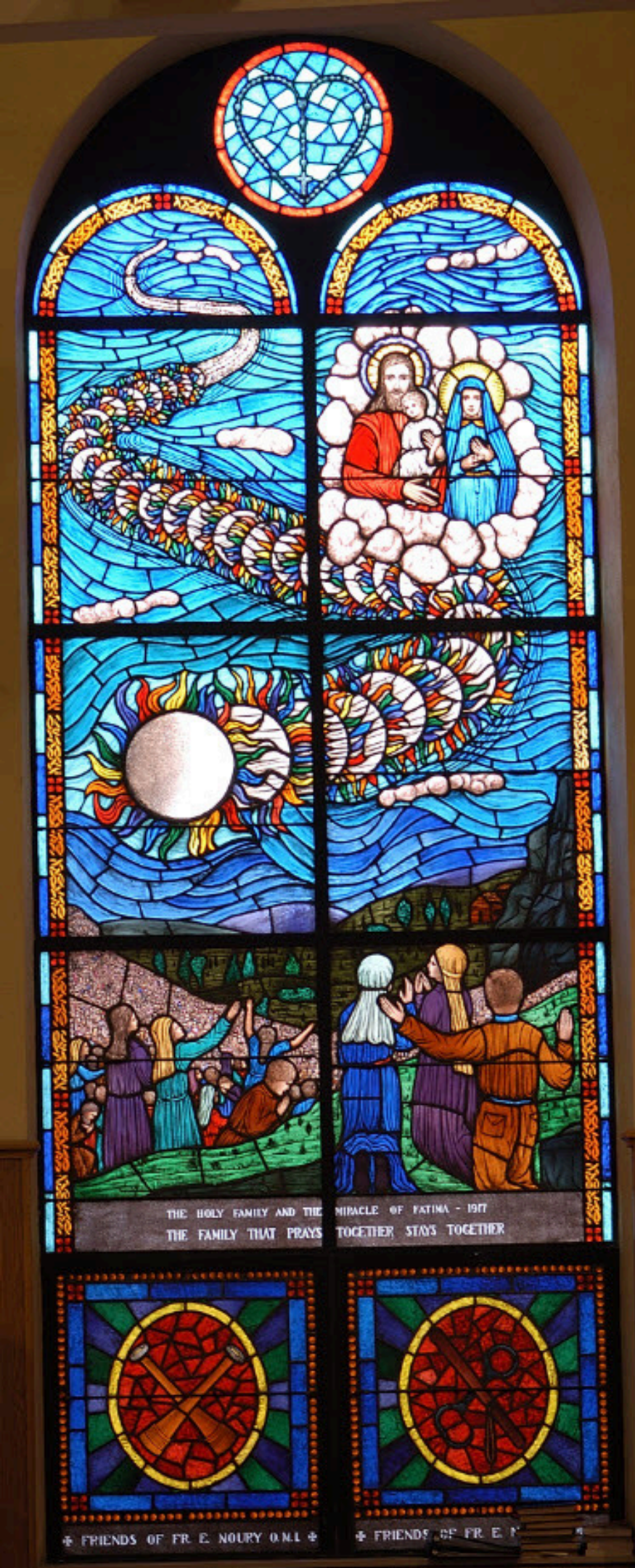
Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of the window depicts Pope Pius IX who originally proposed St. Joseph as ***Protector of the Universal Church.***



The panel on the lower left featuring an anvil represents blacksmiths while the panel on the right with the saw and hammer represents carpenters.



Window 11 The Holy Family and the Miracle at Fatima 1917

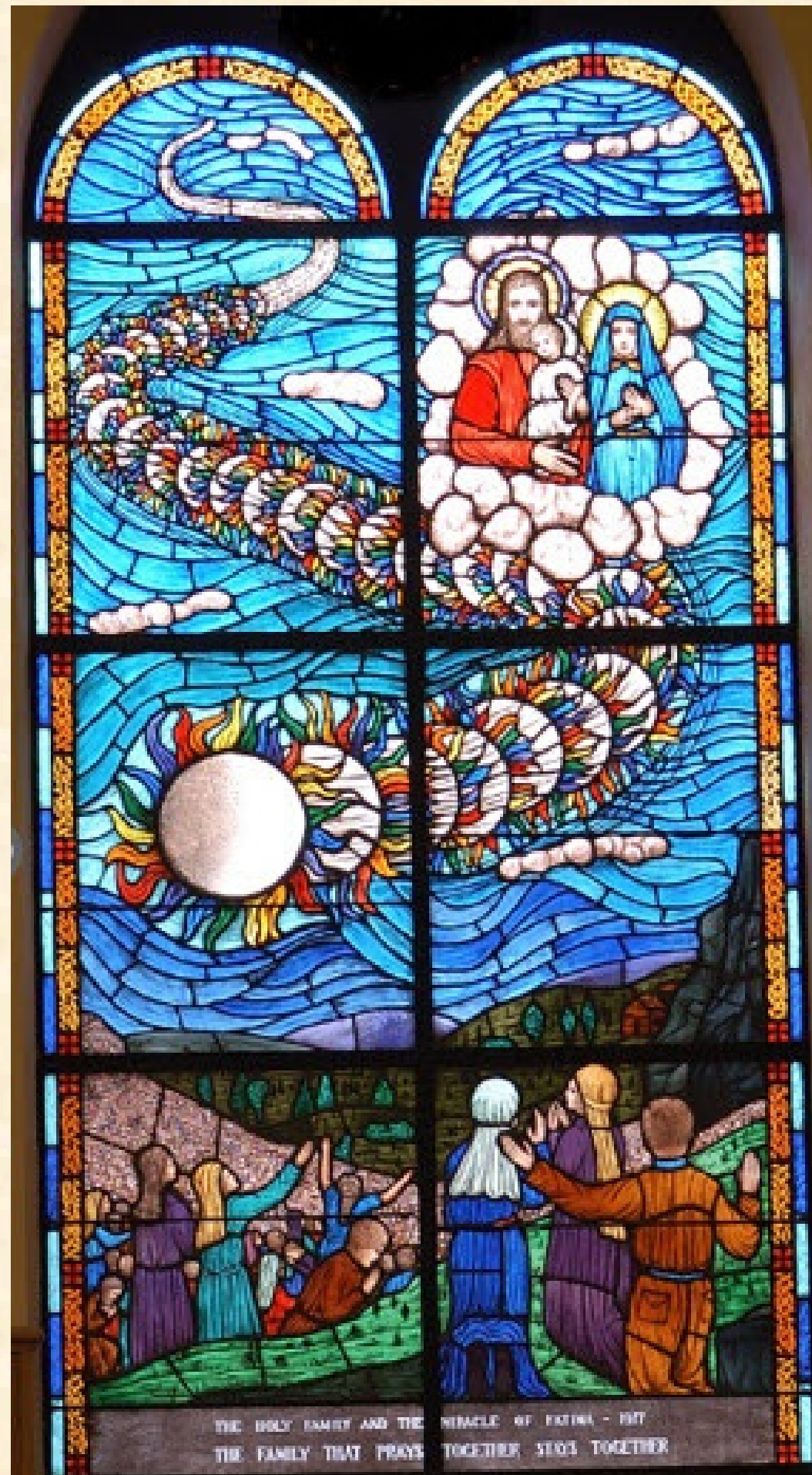
“The family that prays together stays together”

Let us Pray

Lord, may the inspiration the Blessed Mother
showered upon the world
in the mystical happenings at Fatima in 1917
continue to move our world to a greater sense of
urgency in reforming our personal and family lives
and in preserving God’s good creation for
generations to come.

May our devotion to the Holy Rosary with its power
to move heaven and earth become more and more
a part of our daily prayer. Amen.

The Holy Family and the Miracle at Fatima 1917 Main Window



The Lady kept her promise to tell them who she was. She announced: ***“I am the Lady of the Rosary.”*** Her face grew grave as she imparted her last message to the children. ***“People must amend their lives, ask pardon for their sins and not offend Our Lord anymore for He is already too greatly offended.”***

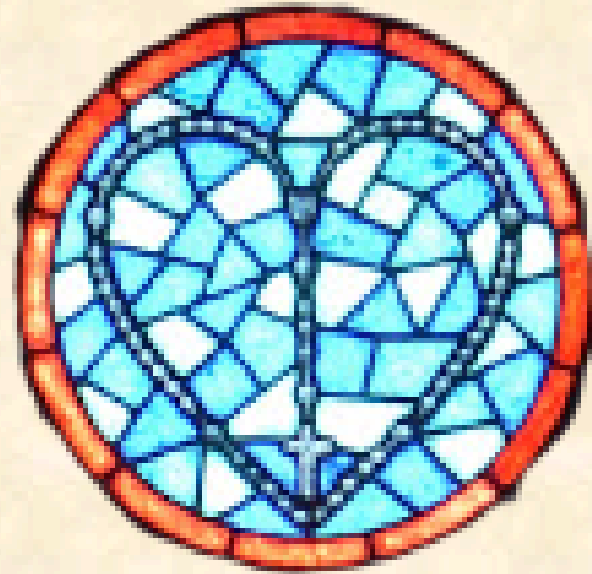
As she took her leave of the children, she opened her hands and from them rays of light extended in the direction of the sun. A great cry of astonishment echoed from the multitude, by now observing the first awe-inspiring manifestations of the *Miracle of the Sun*.

Meanwhile, the very heavens seemed to be revolving as the sun spun madly on its axis like a gigantic wheel of fire, painting the rocks, the trees, the faces of people with sunshine such as the human eye had never seen before. Three times it stopped and three times the mad dance was resumed. Then, while the crowd went to its knees in abject terror, the sun suddenly seemed to be torn loose from its place in the heavens.

While people looked at one another, still trembling from their terrifying experience and not yet sure that some further disaster would not overtake them, suddenly a cry of astonishment was heard on every side; their rain-sodden garments had suddenly dried and everybody felt comfortable and warm. It was a gracious maternal gesture on the part of the Blessed Mother in the wake of the great miracle they had just witnessed.

Meanwhile, the visionaries (the children) had been permitted to behold a vision of the Holy Family in a series of heavenly tableaux. First there was Our Lord as a grown man dressed in red and blessing the multitude. Then he appeared as an infant with St. Joseph and His Blessed Mother.

The Holy Family and the Miracle at Fatima 1917 Medallion and Bottom Panels



The medallion at the top of this window portrays the rosary in the form of a heart – reminding us that the family that prays together stays together.



The lower left panel with hose nozzles represents firefighters while the panel on the right represents the police.