

# St. Peter Church

## Stained Glass Window Self-Tour

*(This self-tour was originally prepared for use inside the church. It has been slightly modified for the parish website. November 26, 2012)*

In the Middle Ages, stained glass windows in churches were used as a teaching tool to educate the people about their faith. Some churches have the mysteries of the Rosary, images of various saints, symbols which represent certain aspects of our faith.

When the windows were being considered for St. Peter Church, the pastor at the time, Father Len Calegari, wanted the seven sacraments to be prominent since we are a "sacramental Church." In addition, he wanted to recognize certain Saints who have influenced us as Catholics living where we do. Peter A. DeMartini, a third-generation native of San Francisco, the artist and designer of our windows, went to work with suggestions from Fr. Len. Mr. DeMartini noted: ***"One of my goals in art is to bring the outside in. God is in nature as well as His house of worship. We should recognize this."***

Let's begin!

Altar platform area - facing the crosses behind the presider's chair



Right side - Beams of light are coming down from the top with a dove (symbol of the Holy Spirit) circling in the middle. This symbolized the Holy Spirit hovering over creation at the beginning of time. It also symbolizes the Holy Spirit's presence at the first Pentecost which is the birthday of the Church.

Left side - Beams of light move upward again with doves indicating the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.



## Two circular windows on the right and left sides of the church



These are a reminder of Jesus' call to Peter, James, and John to leave their fishing nets and boats to follow Jesus and become "fishers" or gatherers of his people. The anchor is a symbol of Christ and the rocks symbolize Peter whose name means "rock." The blue window on the north side says "Come ye after me" and the red window on the south side says "Be fishers of men."



## Landscape windows - still facing the crosses

These windows depict various scenes of nature in Pacifica. On our right, and going from left to right, the first is Montara Mountain, then Pedro Point, Rockaway Beach and Sweeney Ridge. The windows on our left are a mirror image of these four scenes.

Left-side Windows (Northeast)



Right-side Windows (Southeast)





Left-side Windows (Northeast)



Right-side Windows (Southeast)



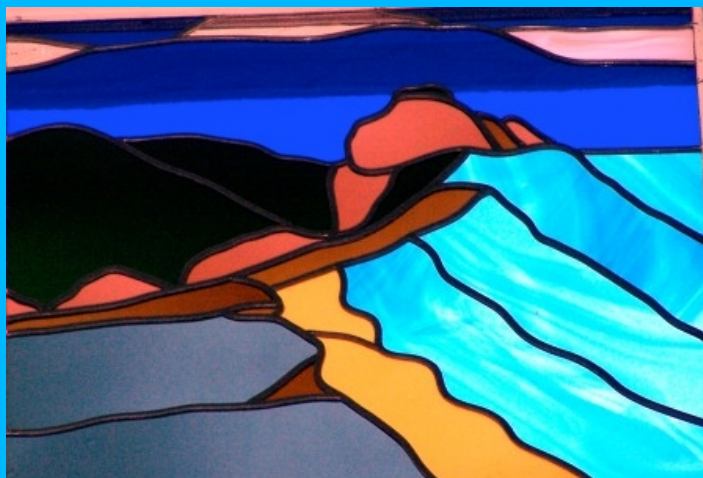


Now if we turn around, the windows opposite these show various water scenes reminiscent of our coast again with one side a mirror image of the other.

Left-side Windows (Southwest)



Right-side Windows (Northwest)



Left-side Windows (Southwest)



Right-side Windows (Northwest)



### Nave windows

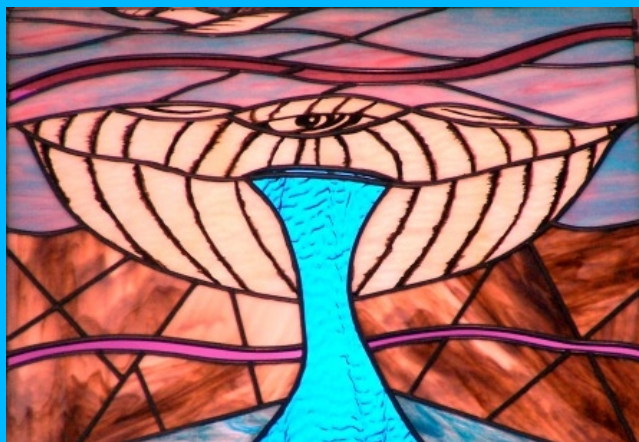
As we go through the descriptions, you will notice a lavender (purple) ribbon which is used to tie the windows together.

1. The first window on our right shows the "Bark of Peter." In early Christian times, a fishing boat was used to symbolize the Church since St. Peter was a fisherman and was selected by Jesus to be the leader of the 12 apostles and later the first Pope. The mast and spar make a cross.





2. Our next window symbolizes Baptism which is the first of the Sacraments of Initiation for a Christian. The shell with water flowing has long been used as a symbol of Baptism. Mr. DeMartini said of the sacramental windows: ***“The sacramental windows took me almost a year to design. I bought books on religious symbols and read a lot in the Catholic Encyclopedia. I also went to the library at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park for a day of research. There is not much symbolism for the sacramental acts.”***



3. On your left, opposite the Bark of Peter, the window depicts Eucharist showing a basket filled with loaves of bread, a boat (the Bark of Peter) and fish in the water as a reminder of when Jesus fed the multitudes and they were satisfied. Eucharist is the second sacrament of initiation. Also you see a gold cup with rays coming from it. This indicates Jesus' willingness to drink the cup of suffering to carry out His father's will.



4. This window opposite Baptism shows Confirmation, the last of the 3 sacraments of initiation when the Holy Spirit gives us the special gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The dove and flames go back to the New Testament readings when the Holy Spirit, again symbolized by a dove, came to the apostles and disciples in the upper room. Above their heads were what looked like tongues of fire. Since the Bishop is the usual one to confirm, the crozier (the bishop's staff) and mitre (his hat) are there.



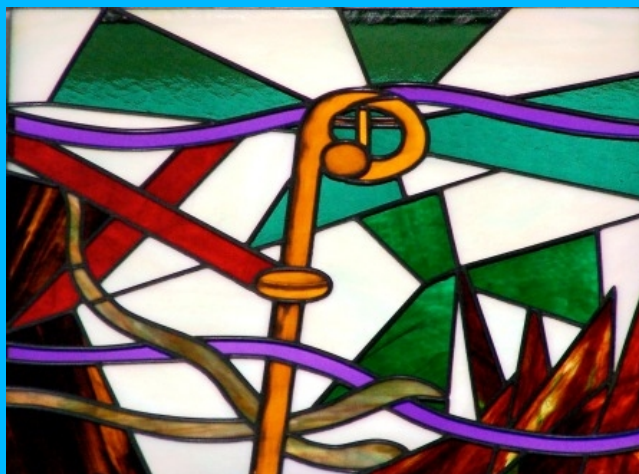
5. Our next window on the left, shows Matrimony which along with Holy Orders is one of our Social Sacraments. The symbol of the two rings overlapping has been used for centuries to express the two persons becoming one, yet remaining individuals. The cross is a reminder that the couple is united with Jesus and the two candles which can be seen on the lower left represent the flames of love that hopefully fills the home. Mr. DeMartini said of the windows: ***"My favorite is the marriage design. There is even the word 'love' in lead in the design."*** (Can you find it?)



6. Still on the left, the next window depicts Reconciliation. Jesus gave the Apostles the power to forgive sins after his resurrection. This was a gift Jesus gave to many people during his lifetime and wanted his Church to bring this gift of healing to people like us. The stole is the sign of priest's authority to forgive sin and the dove with the olive branch in its beak is a sign of peace. The well is a sign of the depth of God's love, the gold thurible holds the incense that sends our prayers for forgiveness heavenward and the cross is a symbol of Jesus' victory over sin.



7. This window depicts Saint Patrick, a great and much loved saint of Ireland and one of the co-patrons of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. The green triangles represent the shamrock that legends say St. Patrick used to explain the Trinity. Patrick was a bishop so we can see the crozier (the bishop's staff). Also according to legend, Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland so we see two snakes at the bottom of the window.





8. Our next window symbolizes Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. Many years ago the Church declared Joseph the "Patron of the Universal Church." Since Joseph was the protector and teacher of Jesus along with Mary, it is fitting that he has this title. The window shows a staff with lilies as a sign of his purity; a carpenter's square, hammer, compass and other tools representing how Joseph made a living.



9. Saint Teresa of Lisieux also known as the Little Flower was canonized in 1925. She always wanted to go to the Missions but her poor health did not allow it. She died at the age of 26 of tuberculosis. Before she died, she said that she would spend her heaven doing good on earth and send showers of roses from heaven shown in the window. Because of her great love of God and her spirit of sacrifice, the window has a gold heart and the letters IHS (I have suffered). (IHS are the first three letters of the name Jesus in Greek (IHΣΟΥΣ), often used as a Christian emblem.) She was named the patroness of the Missions after her death and this is depicted by the monastery in the center of the window.



10. Elizabeth Seton is the first American born saint. A wife, mother of 5 children, a widow, and foundress of the Sisters of Charity who began the first schools for children in the United States and also founded hospitals for the care of the sick. She is not be confused with Saint Louise de Marillac who founded the Daughters of Charity who staff Seton Hospital in Daly City. The hospital was renamed from Mary Help of Christians to Seton after Elizabeth Seton was declared a saint in the 1980's by Pope John Paul 2. Mr. DeMartini chose an eagle which is the U.S. national bird to represent her. (The eagle soars beneath its young giving support.) Medicine and the tongue depressors in the window indicate healer and teacher.



11. The third window on your right depicts Holy Orders --the other Social Sacrament. It continues the priesthood of Jesus. The stole symbolizes the priesthood; the bell tower symbolizes the call to prayer; the well shows the waters of baptism; the oil lamp depicts the use of blessed oils - chrism at Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordination, the oil of the sick, and the oil of the catechumens; the balance scale (like the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores balance to our lives) symbolizes the mission of the priest to reconcile and heal the Body of Christ.





12. The next window shows the Anointing of the Sick which, along with Reconciliation is our other sacrament of healing. The bed, pitcher of water, jar of ointment for healing, a chair for someone to be with the sick, a cross and the green screens to provide privacy for the sick person are shown in the window. Mr. DeMartini said that the blue crescent moon represents the glory of the Virgin Mary. When we pray the Hail Mary we ask her to "pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death."



13. Depicted in the next window is Saint Francis of Assisi, a co-patron of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, along with St. Patrick. Francis is a wonderful reminder to us to reverence all of God's creation. The cross with four red spears represents the stigmata that Francis received having the wounds of Jesus in his two hands, feet, and his side. The small gray birds and green trees remind us of his love of all God's creation.



14. Mary Magdalene is shown in the next window. She was a woman who deeply loved Jesus, stood beneath the cross and anointed him for burial. According to Scripture, Jesus appeared to her under the guise of a gardener after he rose from the dead and, when Mary recognized him, he sent her to be the first witness to Peter and the others that he had risen as he said. The window shows long flowing hair, an arm holding a jar of ointment, a cross, a book and a ship.



15. Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, is symbolized in the next window. Shown is the Maltese cross which dates from early history. The four arms of the cross represent the four cardinal virtues: Prudence, Temperance, Justice and Fortitude and the eight points on the cross are reminders of the eight beatitudes. John prepared the way for Jesus and told the people Jesus was the one who was to come. He was also the one who baptized Jesus in the Jordan River before Jesus began his public life. At Jesus' baptism the heaven opened and the Spirit of God came down like a dove, so we see the dove. The crown shows the kingship of Jesus when God said that Jesus is His son.





16. Pope John Paul II, a native of Poland, was Pope when this Church was built. The window shows the Vatican and the Polish flags and the Papal cross. The three beams of the Papal cross represent different things to different people, but some of the interpretations include: the Trinity; the three crosses on Calvary; the Pope's power or it could simply be an extra bar of authority over the two-bar Archbishop's or Patriarchal cross. Mr. DeMartini stated: ***"I planned to put another of the saints in this spot, but the pope died as I was designing, so I made the window for him in his honor."***



17. Saint Peter's Window is best seen from the parking lot at night when the light is on behind it. It shows a pair of crossed keys which remind us that Jesus symbolically gave Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven. In ancient times being given the keys to a city or a kingdom meant that you had authority and responsibility for what went on in that place. This is why there are stories about St. Peter opening and closing the "pearly gates" and deciding who can come into heaven.



Go to the chapel

18. Jubilee Window Several people asked about the Scripture quote at the lower part of the Jubilee Window over the altar. It is taken from the Hebrew Scripture - Isaiah 61:1 and refers to the restoration of Jerusalem. Jesus later read it from the scroll in the synagogue in Nazareth as he began his public ministry. "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because Yahweh has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to captives, recover of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord." This was his mission and this is what a Jubilee Year is all about ... good news (especially for the poor), healing, freedom, justice, and jubilation. The key symbols are the dove, representing the Holy Spirit, the orange California poppies, our state flower, and the scroll with the beginning lines of the quote from Isaiah on a pale gold background. The rest of the design just adds color and form.





19. On the left side of the Chapel, the window depicts the Eucharist. Mr. DeMartini said, *"Imagine that you are looking down on the altar table and the elements of bread and wine are there. Around the edges of the windows are grapes and wheat. Above the table is a cross and a sunburst behind it."* These symbolize that the Mass commemorates and reenacts in an unbloody manner the great mystery of our faith: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."



20. Above Mary's statue in the Chapel is the window dedicated to Mary, mother of Jesus, mother of the church and the first disciple. Mr. DeMartini chose a heraldry shield as the background with a crown to symbolize Mary as the Queen of heaven and earth. The sword reminds us of Simeon's words when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus as a baby to the Temple and Simeon said, "This child is destined for the rise and fall of many in Israel and your own heart a sword shall pierce." The "M" of course stands for Mary and is a heraldry monogram. Lilies of the Valley surround the window. This is one of Mary's titles in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin. The moon is an ancient feminine symbol of purity.



We hope you enjoyed your tour. Come and pray with us again!

Windows designed and installed by Peter A. DeMartini, Leaded Glass Works, 11290 Damin Road, Columbia, CA 95310 (290) 532-7739