

Understanding the Mass

Stained glass windows

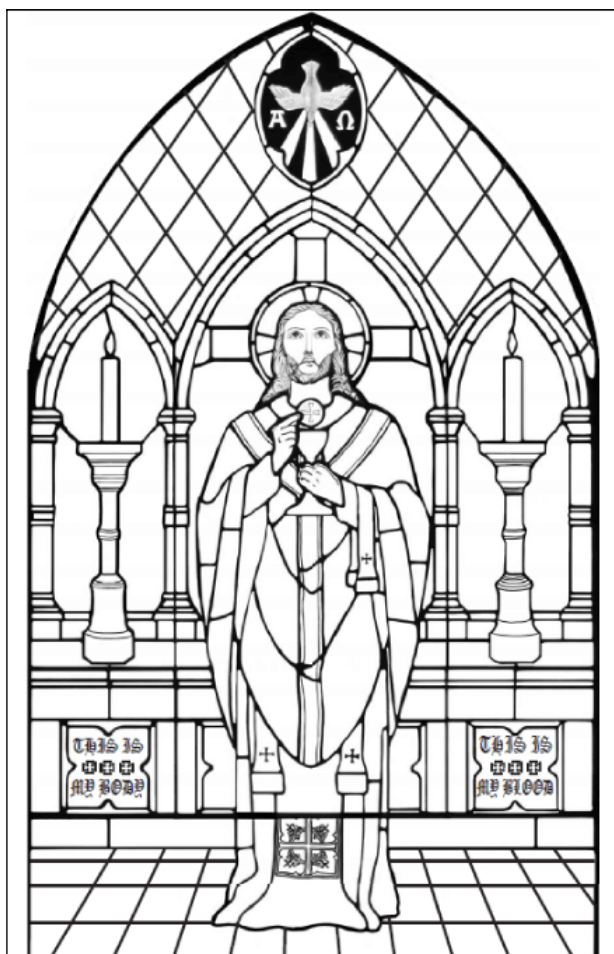
Each week, we are explaining the different parts of the Mass - what is in the church, what we use in the Mass, and why (and how) we celebrate Mass the way we do.

*Today our topic is **Stained glass windows**.*

As you enter the church, you may see **stained glass windows**, at the front of the church or to the sides. These windows have been made of coloured glass. They are called “stained” glass because there is a special paint or stain that artists use which they put on clear glass and then put it into fire to make the colour permanent.

Stained glass windows can be simple patterns or detailed designs showing stories from the Bible - the Old and New Testaments - and images of Jesus, Mary, angels and saints.

Stained glass windows date back to the 7th century - that’s more than one thousand years ago! Stained glass was especially popular in the Middle Ages. It was used in many churches to show different Bible stories because most people did not know how to read or write, so these glass pictures were an important way for people to learn about their faith.



Sometimes there are words as well as pictures in the glass. These can be an explanation of the pictures, quotes from the Bible, or the names of saints who are shown.

The words can also be the names of people who used to live in our parish, who donated money to pay for the windows, or whose families donated money in their memory. If you notice any names, you might like to pray a special prayer for those people.

1. List the colours you can see in the stained glass windows in your church.

2. What is in your church’s stained glass?
