



*St. Joseph Parish*  
*Spring City, Pennsylvania*  
*1919—2019*

*Rooted*  
*In Holy Ground*  
*Raise Us to New Life*



*Centenary Windows*





## *Rooted In Holy Ground*

### *Raise Us to New Life*

**AS parishioners and visitors enter St. Joseph's their first greeting is from our Welcome Mat that proclaims: *This is Holy Ground.***

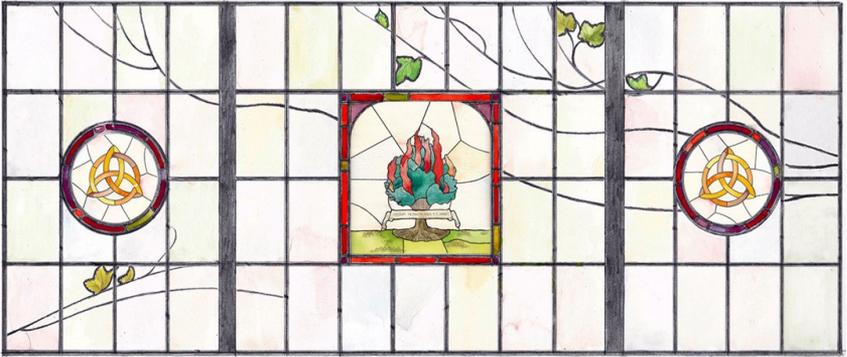
**Our centenary theme above reminds us that we are invited not only to enter onto Holy Ground but, more importantly, to have our lives *rooted* in Holy Ground: striving each day to deepen our life of Faith so the good Lord can raise us to New Life.**

**Our parish centenary celebration blessed us with the opportunity of replacing our old windows with the beauty of stained glass. St. Joseph, the namesake of our Church community, became a special focus of this project.**

**This little booklet is meant as a help to understand the symbolic meaning of these Joseph themed windows. We pray that these windows never be just objects that we look upon. We pray that they speak to us, touch us.**

**Their "vocation" is to help all who encounter them enter into and be rooted in God's Holy Presence and that, precisely, is our vocation too.**





## *Reading the Centenary Windows*

**IN** earlier times, when most of the population were illiterate, men, women and children could “read” the Bible through the stories illustrated in the beautiful windows of their Church.

**Our Centenary Windows encourage this “reading” in many ways.**

**Each of the windows is “paired” with another. The windows on the left side of church connect to those on the right side.**

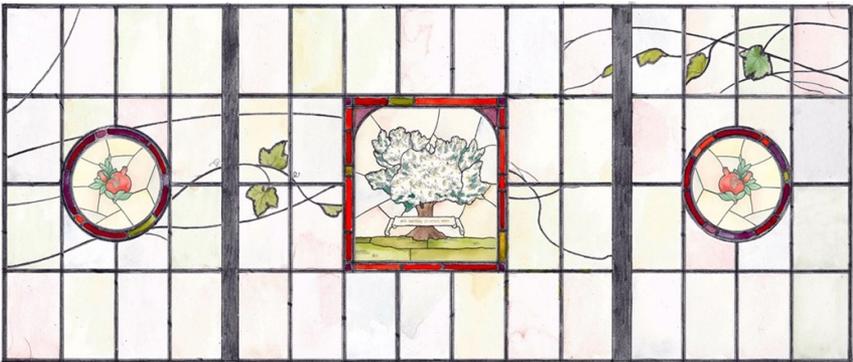
**Our first set of windows illustrate our 100th Anniversary theme: *Rooted in Holy Ground, Raise Us to New Life.***

**The second, third and fourth sets connect events in the life of St. Joseph with the life of the Old Testament Joseph.**

**The continuing mission of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church and Mary as Mother of the Church are seen in the fifth set.**

**The last set (nearest the altar) beautifully portrays symbols traditionally associated with Joseph and Mary.**





## *Pattern of the Windows*

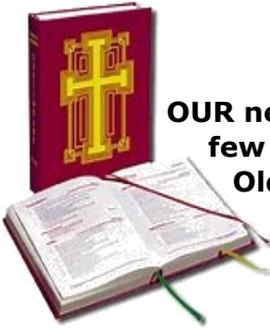
Each window has a central image with round medallions on either side. A vine gracefully connects the windows just as Christ, the True Vine, brings together All of Creation, All of History and All People of All Times.



## *The Centenary Theme*

Our first set of windows is shown above. The window on the left symbolizes the Burning Bush which Moses saw when God commissioned him to lead His people out of slavery. "Take off your sandals," God tells Moses, "for this place is Holy Ground." The Latin phrase in the scroll is translated—*Rooted in Holy Ground*. Next is + *C Annis*, the Latin for a Hundred Years: reminding us of this momentous parish anniversary. The round medallions are symbols of the Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit into Whose Holiness we wish to come.

The companion window on the right side shows a flourishing olive tree. Its Latin inscription asks the Lord to: *Raise us to New Life*. The medallions are of bursting pomegranates, symbols of overflowing life: Christ bidding us to live the Life that conquers death.



## *Reading the Windows*

**OUR** next three sets of windows portray just a few of the ways that the life journeys of the Old Testament Joseph and St. Joseph mirror one another.

## *Reflection and Prayer*

**We remember that just as our two Josephs are chosen and beloved, so, too, are we. *Lord, may we live our lives as Your Chosen and Beloved ones. Amen.***

### *Joseph—Beloved Son*

**Here we see the touching Old Testament moment when Jacob gives his son the special robe he has prepared for him.**

**Joseph the Beloved Son of Jacob and St. Joseph the Chosen Spouse will face many challenges in fulfilling the vocations God has given them.**



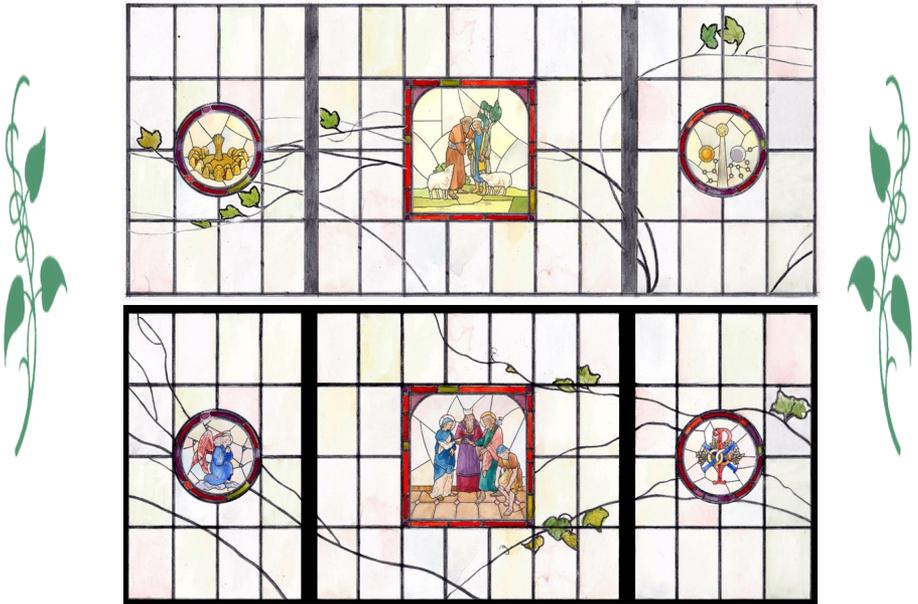
### *St. Joseph—Chosen Spouse*



**This window is a traditional depiction of a legend concerning the wedding of Mary and Joseph. Mary's husband was to be the man whose staff would blossom. Joseph's staff blossomed with lilies revealing that God had chosen him for Mary's spouse. The disappointed man to the right breaks his unfortunate staff in two!**

**A priest joins the couple's hands. Joseph places a ring.**



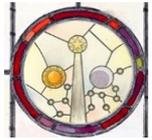


### *The Medallions*



Both Josephs had dreams that spoke to them of their missions. The dreams of the youthful Old Testament Joseph represented in these medallions did not endear him to his brothers.

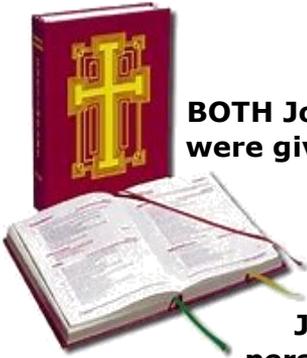
In one dream Joseph saw eleven sheaves (his brothers) bowing down to an upright sheaf (himself). In another dream eleven stars and even the sun and moon (his mother and father) were out-shown by his brilliance. These dreams foretold Joseph's future role and mission.



In the St. Joseph window, the angel with hands clasped represents the angelic visits to both Mary and Joseph.

Joined rings and the symbol for Christ represent the sacredness of marriage and the thriving tree symbolizes the flourishing vigor of joined marital love.





## *Reading the Windows*

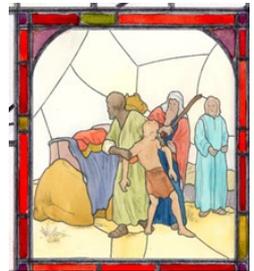
**BOTH Josephs endured many trials: their lives were given over for the sake of others.**

## *Reflection and Prayer*

**As we remember the hardships of our Josephs, let us ask for their faith and perseverance. *Lord, help me to bear trials and hardships in love and fidelity to You, Whose Son bore all for me.***

## *Sold into Egypt*

**Driven by envy, Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery. Here we see Joseph pulled away by the merchant while one of the brothers fingers the profit from the sale. Joseph's next stop is bondage in Egypt.**



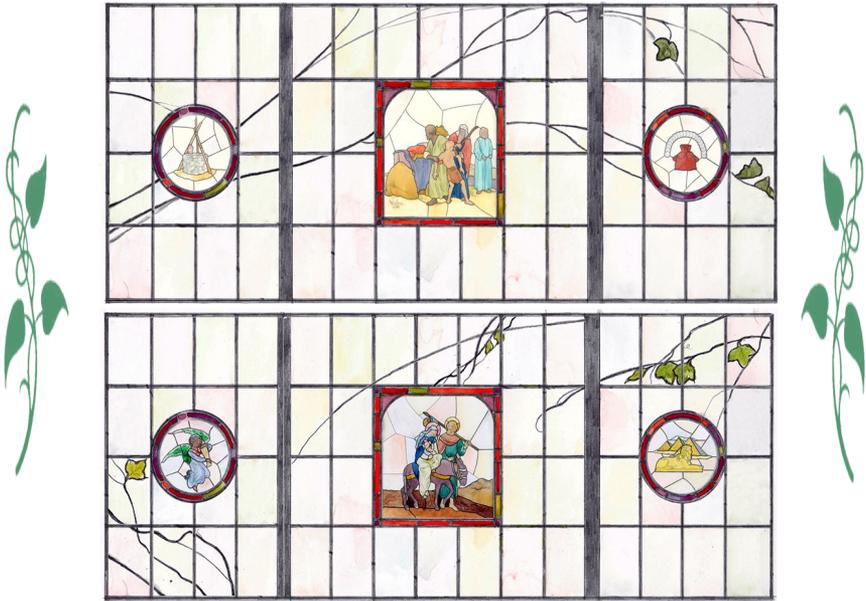
## *Flight into Egypt*



**The Holy Family will also spend time in Egypt, fleeing there to avoid Herod killing the Child.**

**Joseph, who has been warned in a dream to leave immediately, leads his family away from present danger into the same land where, so many years before, God had freed his ancestors from slavery.**



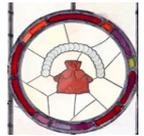


## *The Medallions*



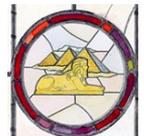
**This medallion illustrates the well in which the brothers first imprisoned Joseph. When they saw the caravan coming they sold him to the merchants.**

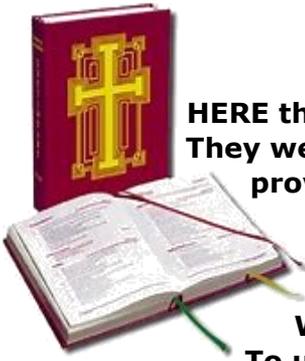
**The next medallion shows the twenty pieces of silver which the brothers received for Joseph and the purse in which they placed the money of their betrayal.**



**The angel reminds us of the warning dream which sent the Holy Family into Egypt. The wheat in the angel's hand is a reference to the "Miracle of the Wheat". According to legend, when Herod's soldiers question peasants as to when the Holy Family had passed, they told them it was at the time of sowing the wheat. Yet the wheat is now full height. Of course the wheat grew to confuse the searchers!**

**The pyramids and sphinx remind us of Egypt, the destination of both Josephs.**





## *Reading the Windows*

**HERE** the mission of both Josephs is shown. They were the Chosen custodians: protecting, providing, nourishing those in their care.

## *Reflection and Prayer*

**What are the gifts God has given to me?  
To us? What has been entrusted to us?  
*O Lord, may we shelter these gifts from harm.  
Through You, With You, and In You, may we  
protect, provide, and nourish all You have given.***

## *Provider for the Nations*

**Joseph is depicted as a high Egyptian official. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream as predicting seven years of abundance and seven years of famine. The baskets represent the abundance of wheat and grain he protected. In the time of famine all came to Joseph to seek nourishment for their people.**

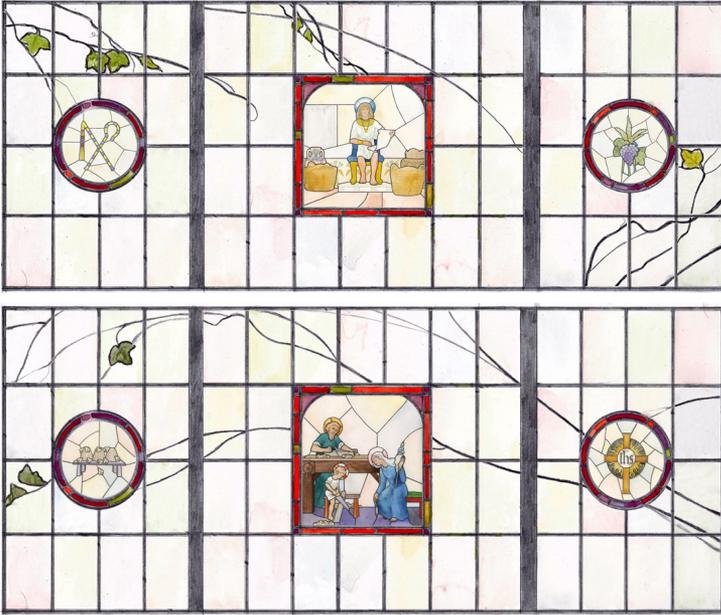


## *Provider for the Lord of Nations*

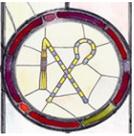


**Here the Holy Family is shown in a very traditional depiction of their everyday life. Mary hand spins wool into yarn. Joseph takes his place as Provider and Teacher using a hand planer and Jesus, his student, uses a saw under the watchful eyes of his parents.**



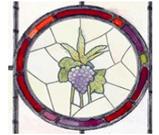


## *The Medallions*



The crook and the flail are symbols that were used in Ancient Egyptian society. The crook is a sign of rulers while the flail, which is used to separate grains from the husks, signifies the fertility of the land.

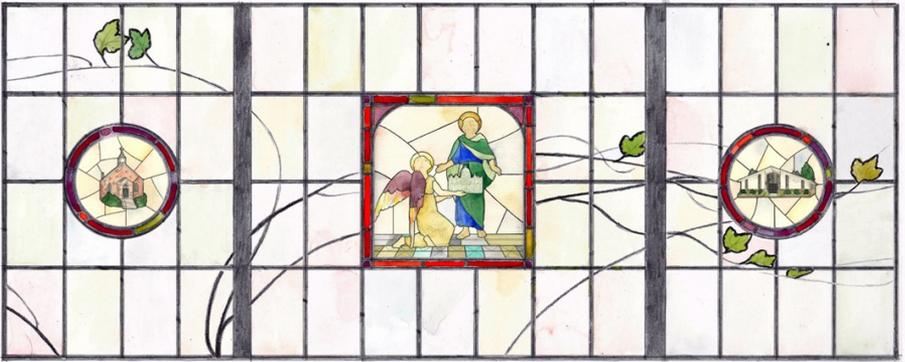
Wheat and grapes remind us of Joseph's interpretation of dreams. These are also symbols of the Eucharist, Christ's sacrifice and provision.



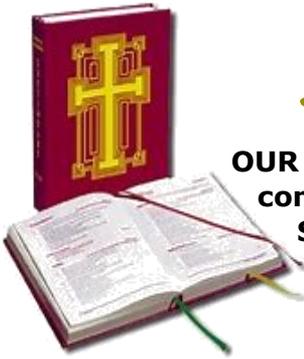
Here we see three beehives: the beehive being a symbol of a community that works together for the benefit of all. Using three beehives reminds us both of the Holy Family and the Holy Trinity. The bees are exaggerated in size as is often done in symbolic work.

This symbol includes a cross and the sun. IHS, a monogram of the name of Jesus (the first three letters of the name in Greek), placed in the flaming circle of eternity suggests the title: the "Sun/ Son of Righteousness."





## *Reading the Windows*



**OUR next set of windows again complement each other showing St. Joseph's and Mary's ongoing roles in the History of Salvation.**

## *Reflection and Prayer*

**Our faith reveals to us that we are all God's children meant to be united in Christ across all countries and across all time.**

**As Joseph and Mary continue their missions: Joseph as Protector and Provider, Mary as Mother and Bearer of Christ, may we reflect on our own unique mission and calling.**

***Lord, help me nourish the faith You have given me. May I bear and share the gift of Christ and the treasure of His Church.***





## *Joseph — Patron of the Universal Church*

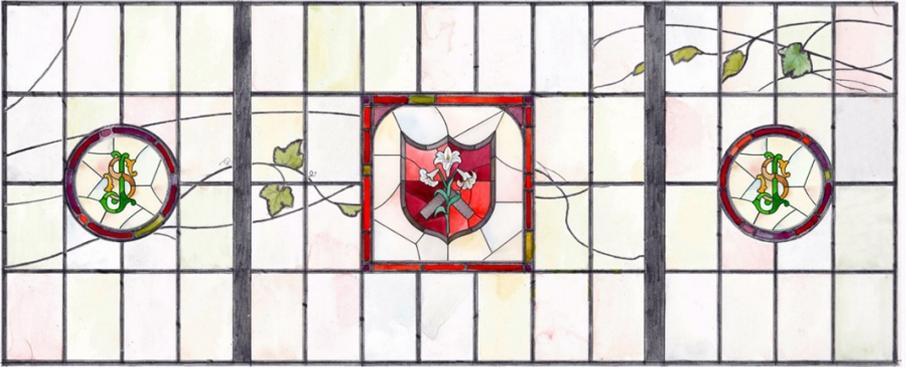
**Our central image shows St. Joseph being presented with the Basilica of St. Peter, a symbol of the universal Church community. St. Joseph's outstretched hands convey his love, his care, and his intercession. Just as Joseph was chosen as Protector and Provider for Jesus, he continues this role for Christ's Church.**

**The left medallion of this window shows an image of the original parish church of St. Joseph, Spring City. The right medallion shows our present church building.**

## *Mary — Mother of the Church*

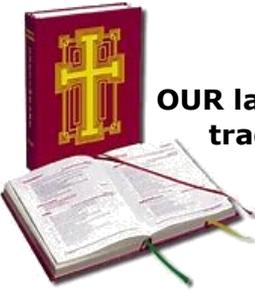
**Mary is seen in a traditional pose sometimes called *Mary of the Mantle* or *Mary, Mother of Mercy*. In medieval art this pose showed all the different persons of the church under her mantle. It mattered not whether you were lord or lady, king or queen, stone mason, field hand, peasant or beggar. All were equally under her love and care. All were her sons and daughters. Here we see her taking all in this present age under her mantle of mercy and love.**

**The medallions for this window are the same as Joseph's, symbolizing Mary's care and guidance of our parish in the past, present, and always.**



## *Reading the Windows*

**OUR last set of windows beautifully portrays traditional symbols of Joseph and Mary.**



### *Symbols of St. Joseph*

**The central medallion of this Joseph window copies the floor medallion which greets us as we enter the Church's narthex.**

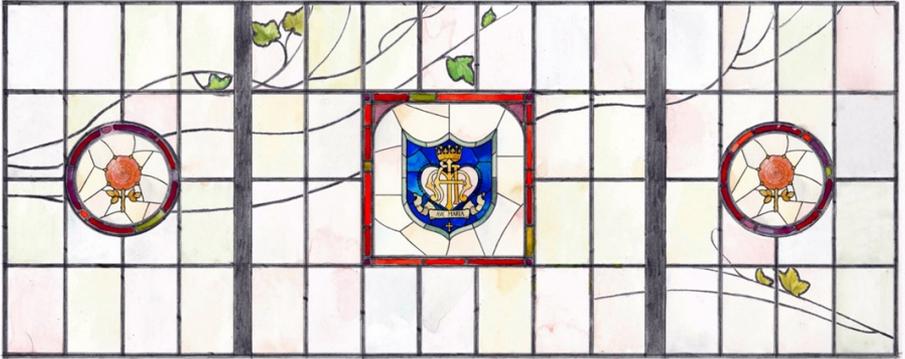


**The carpenter's square symbolizes St. Joseph's occupation and also is a symbol of accuracy and truth.**

**The lilies remind us of the legend of his staff blossoming as the Chosen Spouse.**

**The "S" and "J" for St. Joseph form a stylish monogram in the round medallions.**





## *Symbols of Mary*



The Mary window combines many symbols of Mary. The intertwined A and M stand for Ave Maria—the first words of the Hail Mary. The heart and the crown remind us of Mary as our Queen and loving Mother. Around the heart are the beads of the Rosary. In this devotion, we enter, with Mary, the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of her beloved Son.

The small medallions are roses. These flowers were considered in classical culture as the most noble of flowers and so the most fitting to be a symbol of the Mother of God. The rose also reminds us of the Rosary which in Latin was called a rosarium, a rose garden given to Mary.

## *Reflection and Prayer*

How are saints like stained glass windows? The answer? They let the Lord's Light shine through.

*Lord, may we be like these windows. May we be windows to our world, shining Your Light, Your Beauty, Your Wonder, Your Transforming Joy.*



*St. Joseph Parish  
Spring City, Pennsylvania  
Centenary Windows*

*Designed and Fabricated  
Beyer Studio—Philadelphia*

