

Meaning of the Church Windows For the Church of the Sacred Heart

The windows get their symbolism from the Twelve Promises of Christ that were given to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 1670's. She was a French nun and Jesus called her "the Beloved Disciple of the Sacred Heart" and the Heiress "of all Its treasures". These Twelve Promises are given to all who honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Starting in the middle cove on the organ side then going toward the back; there are two Promises on each cove:

First Promise: "I will give them all the graces necessary for their state in life."

The white **burning candle** stands for grace; surrounding the candle - the **wedding rings** for the married state; the **gold and purple stole** for the priesthood; the **white lily** for the chastity of the single and religious life.

Second Promise: "I will establish peace in their families and homes."

An **olive branch** stands for peace and protects the roof of a **humble home** giving peace to all who live there.

Third Promise: "I will comfort them in all their trials and tribulations."

Green branch of thorns and **red droplets** of blood stand for the troubles and trials of everyday life. In the background a graceful flow of **blue water** washes away the wounds and brings healing and comfort.

Fourth Promise: "I will be their secure refuge during life, and, above all, in death."

The **brown tree** stands for the tree of life as Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. Death is shown as a **golden lamp** burning oil as Jesus is our Light even in death. On the right side by the tree is a **turquoise pitcher** for oil. In the Last Rites, oil is used for anointing before death.

Windows by old Baptistry:

Right side: Large **candle** burning brightly represents the Easter Candle, the Light of Christ which we all share from the time of our Baptism.

Center: A **large golden dove** represents the Holy Spirit who fills us with God's love at Baptism.

Left side: Flowing **blue water** symbolizes washing away our sin.

Looking from vestibule, left entry door:

Fifth Promise: "I will shed abundant blessings on all their undertakings."

The **church steeple** stands for our religious works and the **tower of a satellite** stands for our worldly works. God's light **shining rays** on both.

Looking from vestibule, right entry door:

Sixth Promise: “Sinners will find in My Sacred Heart an infinite ocean of mercy.”

Sin is represented by the **scarlet being washed away** by an overflow of God’s graces from above.

Large window up above:

The **cross with the Sacred Heart of Jesus** represents the Light of Salvation which is for all of us as a result of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Back corner cove by the usher’s room going toward the front:

Seventh Promise: “Lukewarm souls will become fervent.”

A **yellow and brown net full of silver fish** is being drawn to the **star**. By our own example we should attract people, like fishers of men, and become fervent.

Eighth Promise: “Fervent souls will rapidly grow in holiness and perfection.”

The large **X P** (a Chi Roh) are the Greek letters for Christ’s name. The red, orange, yellow and white **flames** get brighter, representing souls becoming more intense as they ascend to Christ, imitating His perfection.

Ninth Promise: “I will bless every place where an image of My Sacred Heart is exposed and honored.”

The **white candles** with flickering red flames and burning **incense** with rising **gray smoke** are ancient symbols of a holy place.

Tenth Promise: “I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.”

The large **shepherd’s staff** in gold and a **gray chain** of sin with the end links broken by the staff. The good shepherd will free his people from the bonds of sin.

Eleventh Promise: “The names of those who promote this devotion will be written on My Heart never to be effaced.”

This shows Christ’s face as it is imprinted on **Veronica’s veil**. Just as He left a picture of His face in gratitude for Veronica’s kindness, so will He imprint our names on His memory if we develop in ourselves the love of God.

Twelfth Promise: “I promise thee, in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving their Sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.”

This promise is represented by Jesus’ **heart burning red** with love for all surrounded by **nine white crosses** for the nine consecutive first Fridays.