

Chancel: This is the chancel, part of the church reserved for the minister, choir and altar or communion table.



The chancel window is supposed to be Line Symmetrical with the exception of the icons. Line Symmetry occurs when two halves of a figure are **mirror images** of each **other** (also called reflectional symmetry). There are two obvious errors in the Line Symmetry of the Chancel window. Can you find them?

The Chancel Window:

- Center: Risen Lord with Easter Cross in left hand pronouncing benediction upon the worshiper. However, I have always viewed this a Jesus calling us to follow him. The cloak is red of royalty and divine power. He wears a Tri-radiant, or three rayed Halo, or Nimbus. This type is worn only by Christ and the other members of the Trinity. Sometimes it is seen about the head of the Lamb, which represents Christ or about the head of a descending Dove, symbolizing the Holy Spirit.
- Top – crown meaning victory. The knotted rope with four loops around the four Gospels representing the harmony of the Gospels. Four books with one message the Good News.
- Upper Left to Right
 - Christ with Mary Magdalene washing his feet. Luke 7:36-50
 - Christ with doubting Thomas. John 20:24-29
 - Christ talking with Nicodemus. John 3:1-21
 - Christ raising the daughter of Jairus. Luke 8:40-56
- Lower Left to Right
 - The good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37
 - Christ visits with Mary and Martha. Luke 10:38-42
 - Christ before Pilot. John 18:33-38
 - Christ blessing the little Children. Luke 18:15-17
- Lower Center – Madonna and child with a Lily which depicts purity and innocence.
- Blue: the heavens, divine love (note how blue our Chancel window is), truth, constancy and fidelity.



The Cross: Solid brass is flowery in type, having three petals at the end of each arm. The circle about the crossing is symbolic of eternal life. Engraved within the circle is Chi Rho the monogram of Christ made up of the first two letters, Chi and Rho, of the Greek word Christ. In almost the exact form shown here on the cross, this symbol was adopted by Emperor Constantine for his banner in 312 AD.



Alter or Communion Table: it connotes both fellowship and sacrifice, for it was around the table at the Last Supper that Jesus prepared both the Disciples and Himself for His death. In the front of the Alter, is a carving of De Vinci's Last Supper. Two angels are in prayer and positioned to show supporting the Altar.

Dossal: the curtain that hangs behind the altar. Its color represents the Church season.

Retable: raised step or ledge upon which the Cross is placed. Also called gradine.

Missal Stand: the stand on the altar on which the Bible or service book is placed.

Candles and Candlesticks: when on the altar they remind us of Christ, the Light of the World.

Shields of the 12 Apostles: Almost all of what we know about the Apostles is from legend and tradition and many of the legends and traditions are contradictory. But these symbols seem to be fairly uniformly adopted. Beginning at the left front (by the pulpit).



1. Matthias – Two bladed axes and an open Bible. Matthias replaced Judas. Tradition says he preached in Judea and was killed by the Jews with a two bladed ax.
2. Jude (called Thaddaeus, Lebbaeus or Judas son of James) – Sailing ship with cross shaped mast. Jude traveled with Simon the Zealot to distant lands and was martyred in Persia.
3. Simon the Zealot (Simon the Canaanite) – Fish lying on a closed Bible, denoting that he was a fisher of men by spreading the Gospel. Martyred in Persia with Jude.
4. James the Less (son of Alphaeus. Has been called Jesus' brother or cousin) – A Saw. He worked around Jerusalem and probably was its first Bishop. According to 2nd century legend, he was pushed off the parapet of the temple at the age of 96 and killed with a blacksmith's hammer and then sawed into pieces.



5. Peter (Simon or Cephas, son of Jonas and brother of Andrew) – Two crossed keys for the keys to Heaven and Hell per Matthew 16:19. He was the leader of the Apostles and the first Bishop of Rome. Origen (185-254 AD) says he was crucified upside down (by request because he felt he did not deserve to die as Jesus did) during the reign of Nero.
6. Thomas (Didymus, the twin) – Carpenter's Square, Spear and Arrows. Legend says he worked in Persia and in India where he built a church with his own hands, hence the carpenter's square. He is said to have been shot with arrows, stoned and left dying. A Pagan priest then ran a spear through him. He is the patron saint of architects.

7. Matthew (called Levi, son of Alphaeus) – Three Purses. These refer his being a tax collector before he became a disciple. He is said to have preached in Egypt and in Ethiopia where he was martyred by the sword in 90 AD.
8. Bartholomew (thought to be the same as Nathaniel) – Open Bible with Flaying Knife upon it. He preached in India and Armenia and is said to have been flayed alive then crucified. He is often represented in art as carrying his own skin.



9. Philip – Budded Cross with two Loaves of Bread. He was crucified in Asia Minor. The bread refers to his part in the feeding of the multitude.
10. James Major (brother of John, Son of Zebedee and Salome) – Staff and Knapsack. He preached in Jerusalem and tradition says he went to Spain and became its patron saint. He is the only disciple whose death is recorded in the Bible – Acts 12:2 He was beheaded by order of Herod Agrippa in 44 AD.
11. Andrew (brother of Peter) – Transverse Cross and Boat Hook. He preached to the Gentiles and is said to have founded a church in Russia. He is the patron saint of Russia and Scotland. He also preached in Greece, where he was crucified on the Cross Saltire (transverse). The boat hook refers to his profession of fisherman.
12. John (son of Zebedee and Salome, brother of James Major) – Sword with a Serpent twined about it. He was bishop of the church of Ephesus and was exiled to the Island of Patmos. He is the only one of the disciples to die a natural death. It is said he lived to a great age. The serpent stems from Matthew 10:16 Be therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves. There is a story of John that when he became infirmed and could no longer walk, his followers carried him to church. When asked by them what he would say to them, he would reply, “Little children, love one another.”



Lectern: the lectern or reading desk, where the Bible rests is in the form of a beautifully carved Eagle poised for flight. Its talons clutch the globe representing the world. This is symbolic of the flight of the Gospel throughout the world.

Furnishings: White Oak from Virginia and hand carved by Ossit Furniture Company in Janesville, WI.



Pulpit: enclosed, elevation from which the minister speaks.

Grapevines, Grapes with Oak Leaves and Acorns:

- Grapes symbolize the wine of communion
- Oak stands for strength
- Acorns symbolize rebirth and immortality
- Grapevines symbolize Jesus and his followers: I am the vine you are the branches. John 15:5