

A Guide to Sacred Art

at St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Albuquerque, NM



*The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.
(Proverbs 8:22, 30-31)*

Please return this guide to the back of the church.

ICONS (in the Nave)

The religious icons in the Nave of St. Mark's illustrate ***The Feast Days of the Church***, the important celebrations in the liturgical Calendar that commemorate the lives of Christ, His Mother, and the Saints. The Gospels, the Holy Cross, and the Icons show us God's plan for Salvation. Each Icon is carefully created using ancient, traditional methods. The artist uses clay bole and 24-karat gold-leaf for the halos and prepares egg-tempera with mineral pigments to use over a carefully composed line drawing. The images are then finished with a linseed oil varnish.

LARGE ICONS AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH



Christ the Pantocrator

This large full-length 48" x 36" Icon at the front of the church, on the north side, is a conception of Jesus as the Almighty or "Ruler of All Things". The image of Christ the Pantocrator was one of the first images of Christ developed in the Early Christian Church and remains a central Icon of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Christ holds the New Testament in his left hand, makes the gesture of teaching or of blessing with his right hand, and is flanked by The Archangels Michael and Gabriel.

Painted with the Grace of God by Pat Catlett



Mother of God Hodigitria

The other large full-length 48" x 36" Icon at the front of the church, on the south side, depicts Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, holding the child Jesus. Mary is flanked by the Archangels Raphael and Uriel. The title of this image is the "Mother of God Hodigitria." Hodigitria means "She who shows the Way" in Greek, and was supposedly the image created by Saint Luke the Evangelist. "Theotokos" means "God Bearer" in Greek. On the icon, Mary's inscription or title "MP" "OY" are Greek abbreviations/acronyms for "Mother of God." Jesus's title, "IC" "XC" are Greek abbreviations for "Jesus Christ." Mary's garment, which often looks blue in Western Christian traditions and red in Eastern churches is actually the same color, a royal purple. The symbolism of the colors is that red (earth) and blue (heaven) meet in the person of Mary.

Painted with the Grace of God by Pat Catlett

NOTE: The image above reflects the icon in process. Completed icon to be installed, Christmas 2019.

ICONS ON THE NORTH WALL: FESTIVAL DAYS

The North Wall 30" x 22" Icons follow the liturgical Calendar of Feast Days and commemorate ***Festival Days*** important to the Parish of Saint Mark's.



The Annunciation

Feast Day Celebration March 25

The Archangel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces to her that she will bear a child, the Savior. Mary responds, "*May your word be to me fulfilled*".

Painted with the grace of God by Pat Catlett



The Nativity of the Lord

Feast Day Celebration December 25

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem for the Roman Census; finding no room at the inn, they make their way to a stable, shown in Iconography in a cave. There, Mary gives birth to Jesus and lays Him in a manger. Angels announce the birth to shepherds, and three "wise men" from the East appear bearing gifts. The devil, dressed as an old man, tempts Joseph with the idea that Mary has lied to him.

Painted with the grace of God by Lin Marksbury



The Holy Family's Flight into Egypt

Feast Day Celebration February 6

King Herod hears of the birth of a new "King of the Jews" and orders him to be found and killed. Warned of this by an angel in a dream, Joseph flees into Egypt with Mary and Jesus.

Painted with the grace of God by Brett Braud



Christ Teaching in the Temple

Feast Day Celebration August 19

During Passover Mary, Joseph and the young Jesus travel to Jerusalem. After the Feast, they begin the journey home, only to find that Jesus is not with their group of friends and relatives. Distraught, they return to Jerusalem and search for him. They find Jesus in the temple, sitting among the teachers and asking them questions. "Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers".

Painted with the grace of God by Pat Catlett



The Baptism of the Lord

Feast Day Celebration January 6

Jesus's cousin, John, baptizes Jesus in the River Jordan near Jericho. The Spirit of God descends "like a dove" upon Him, and a voice is heard, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased". This Feast is often called the Epiphany or the Theophany. In Greek, Epiphany means "God is revealed"; Theophany means "God is manifest". In the Western Churches, these terms also refer to the arrival of the Wisemen at Bethlehem after the Nativity, signifying Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles. The Baptism of Jesus is the beginning of His ministry on Earth.

Painted with the grace of God by Brett Braud



The Wedding Feast at Cana

Feast Day Celebration March 17

Jesus's first miracle is done in response to Mary's intercession. Jesus transforms water into wine at a wedding feast with friends. This event is a prefiguration of the Eucharist and is also said to be an "Epiphany", a manifestation of Jesus's glory.

Painted with the grace of God by Brett Braud



The Transfiguration

Feast Day Celebration August 6

Jesus becomes radiant in His Glory on the Mountain in the company of Moses and Elijah the Prophet. The voice of God is heard calling Jesus “son”. Peter, James and John witness this miracle. In our icon, Jesus is shown between the great Hebrew Prophets in a radiant mandorla of light, with His clothing transformed into a brilliant white. The disciples are stunned and fall to the ground.

Painted with the grace of God by Pat Catlett



The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem

Feast Day Celebration Palm Sunday (The Sunday before Easter)

Jesus, riding on a “colt”, is lead into Jerusalem with his disciples by a crowd of people waving palm branches and throwing their cloaks down for him to make a path for him into the city for the celebration of Passover. The mountain signifies the “high place” where Man meets God; the tree prefigures the wood of the cross; the City brings to mind the “many mansions” of Heaven, symbols that we shall see again in the Icon of the Holy Trinity.

Painted with the grace of God by Lin Marksbury



The Mystical Supper, The Eucharist

Celebration Every Sunday

Christ is shown with His disciples at the “Last Supper”, where He institutes the Eucharist: “Do this in memory of Me.”

Painted with the grace of God by Pat Catlett



The Crucifixion

Good Friday

Jesus is crucified on Golgotha, the “Place of the Skull” outside the walls of Jerusalem. With him are his mother Mary, Mary Magdalene and John, the beloved Disciple. Standing nearby is the Roman Centurion, Longinus, who later became a follower of Jesus and is revered as a saint. An ancient legend says that Golgotha was the place where Adam, the first human, had been buried; his skull and bones can be seen beneath the cross.

Painted with the grace of God by Pat Catlett



The Resurrection

Celebrated Easter Sunday

The Icon of the Resurrection shows Jesus entering Hades to free the souls of Adam, Eve, and all of the righteous ones trapped there. He is shown lifting Adam and Eve from their tombs; the gates and locks of Hades have been broken and scattered. This imagery comes from the apocryphal Gospel of Nicodemus. In English this image is often called the “Harrowing of Hell”.

Painted with the grace of God by Lin Marksbury



The Ascension of the Lord

Celebrated 40 Days After the Resurrection

After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times, ate with them and even allowed them to touch his resurrected body. Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus is said to have departed from Earth into the presence of God. Two angels tell the disciples that He will return “in the same way you have seen him go into heaven”.

Painted with the grace of God by Pat Catlett



The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Celebrated Seventh Sunday after Easter

This Icon depicts the Holy Day of Pentecost, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Blessed Mother Mary and the Disciples of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks. In Christian tradition, this event represents the birth of the early Church. In Eastern Christianity, Pentecost can also refer to the entire fifty days of Easter through Pentecost inclusive.

Painted with the grace of God by Brett Braud



The Holy Trinity- Trinity Sunday

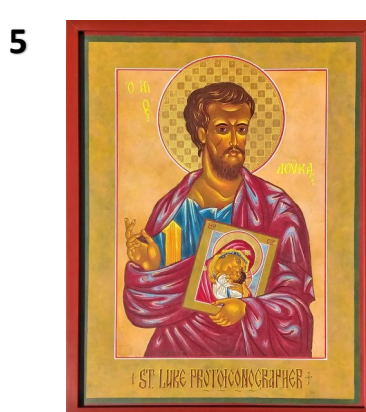
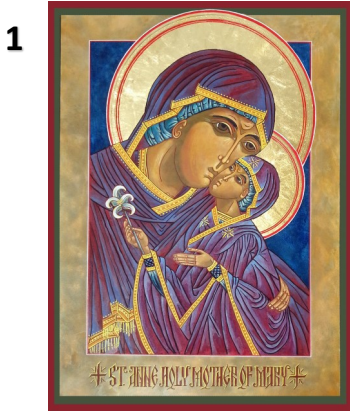
Celebrated First Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Trinity Icon presents the images of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: the Angels or “strangers” who appeared at the tent of Abraham and Sarah. This Icon is often called the “Hospitality of Abraham” or the “Old Testament Trinity”, the Three Strangers being seen as a prefigurement of the manifesting of the Trinity when Jesus appeared on the Earth. Seated at a table, in the shape of an altar, the Three also manifest Eucharist. Behind them are Abraham’s and Sarah’s house, symbolizing the many mansions of heaven; the oak of Mamre, symbolizing the cross of Christ; and the Mountain of the wilderness where Man encounters God. The Father (Heaven), Christ (Tree of Life), and the Holy Spirit (Holy Mountain of Encounter) share Eucharist with us, the viewers of the icon.

Painted with the grace of God by Brett Braud

ICONS ON THE SOUTH WALL: THE LITANY OF SAINTS

The South Wall is a work in progress that displays 24" x 18" panels of *The Litany of Saints*.



1. Saint Anne The Holy Mother of Mary

Celebrated July 26

Painted with the grace of God by Pat Catlett

2. Blessed Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Celebrated January 1

Painted with the grace of God by Brett Braud

3. Saint Mary Magdalene

Celebrated July 22

Painted with God's grace by Pat Catlett

4. Saints Peter and Paul

Celebrated June 29

Painted with the grace of God by Brett Braud

5. Saint Luke, Protoiconographer

Celebrated October 18

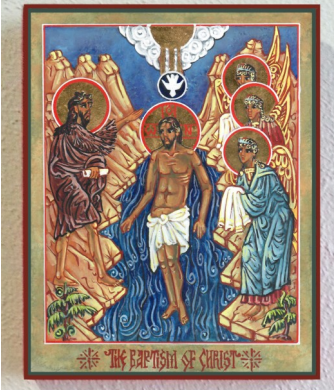
Painted with the grace of God by Brett Braud

6. Saint John the Baptist

Celebrated June 24

Painted with the grace of God by Brett Braud

OTHER



Baptism of Christ Icon & Holy Water Stoup (near the door into the nave)

As we enter the church, a small basin of water below an icon of the Baptism of Jesus invites us to remember our own baptism, the sacrament by which we enter the church. As people enter and exit the church, they touch the water, then make the sign of the cross by touching the water to their forehead, their heart, and their left and right shoulders.



Most Holy Silence Icon & Altar of Preparation (at the back of the Nave)

At the back of the church, an icon of Most Holy Silence serves as an anchor for our Altar of Preparation—a table that invites people of all ages to pause and make an intentional transition from the noise and busy-ness of everyday life into this holy time and space for prayer and worship.

Painted with the grace of God by Pat Catlett



Face of Christ (in Stoney Chapel)

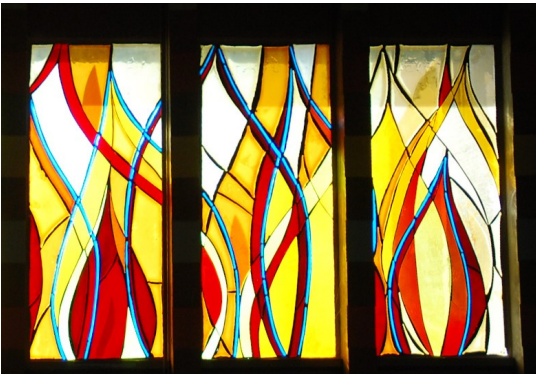
Painted with the grace of God by Pat Catlett

WINDOWS (in the Nave)

There are nineteen fused and bonded colored glass windows in the worship space. They were made by Caryl McHarney and installed in 1964 and are abstract contemporary in design.



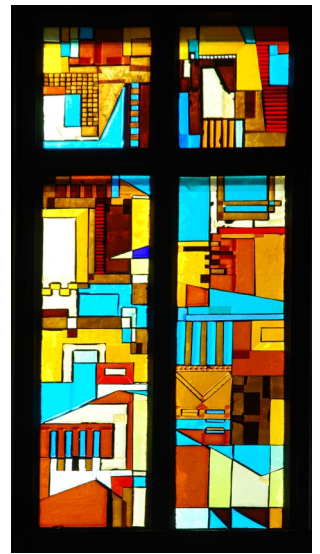
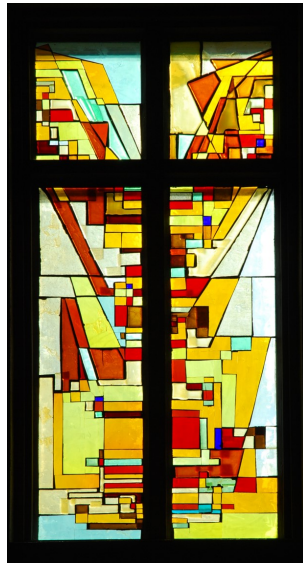
On the north side of the chancel, there are six windows depicting the disciples filled with the Holy Ghost with tongues of fire upon them.



On the south side of the chancel, there are six windows symbolizing the “furnace of blazing fire” in the Book of Daniel.



The small window in the choir loft (on the north side) is simply the greens and blues and tans representing “all the corners of the earth...”[Psalm 95 “For the Lord is a great God; and a great King above all Gods. In his Hand are all the corners of the earth...”]



Along the south side of the nave are six more windows which refer to the verses of “Benedictus es, Domine” from the *Song of the Three Young Men* (found in the Apocrypha) as it is used in Morning Prayer, Rite I, of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

A Song of Praise

Benedictus es, Domine

Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

*Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.*

*Blessed art thou for the name of thy Majesty; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.*

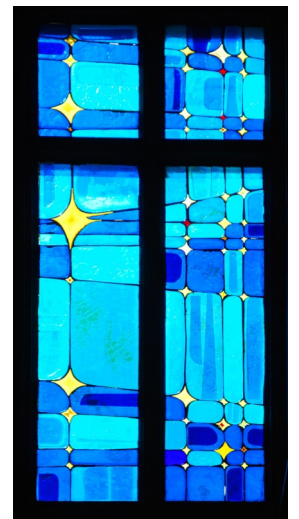
*Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.*

*Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,
and dwellest between the Cherubim; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.*

*Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.*

*Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.*

*Blessed art thou, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.*



Below is the artist's interpretation of the windows (From Soldiers of the Cross:1948-2000, ST. MARK'S-ON-THE-MESA EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AUGUST 2001):

The first [easternmost] window is ***"Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers..."*** In it are abstract faces of kings and commoners. It was in memory of my father, Henry E. Zemeck.

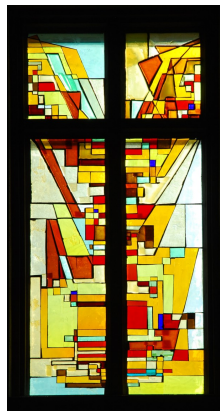
The second window I call the "Jesus" window. ***"Blessed art thou for the name of thy Majesty..."*** The cross on the window itself becomes the symbol for his name.

The third window is ***"Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness..."*** Here you will find humble homes, skyscrapers, temples, everywhere that He is found.

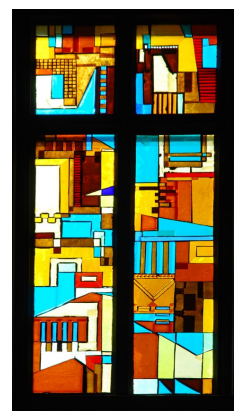
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The fourth window, ***"Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths..."*** There are ocean waves here, always moving, reflecting the glory of God.

The fifth window, ***"Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom..."*** I believe the earth itself, in all its life and beauty is the throne of God's kingdom, so here you will find fields, and mountains and the leaves of growing things.

The sixth, ***"Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven..."*** is, of course, the universe itself, the stars in their beauty in the blue of the sky.

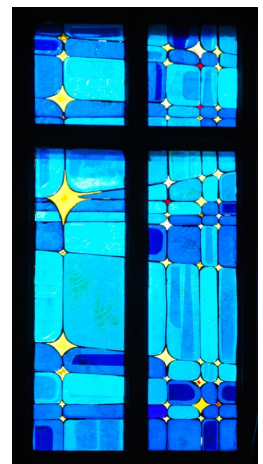
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METALWORK (in the Nave)

Many of the items to support devotions in the church, including the votive candle stand (at the back of the nave), Gospel Book stand, and the icon stand, candle stand and candle trays (near the focal icon at the front of the church) were created by local artisans.



The **Votive Candle Stand** at the back of the church offers a place of beauty for people to kneel, light candles, and offer prayers, before, during, and after worship. Above the candles hang icons of **Old Testament Prophet Micah** and **Sweet Kiss, Mother and Child**, painted with the *Grace of God* by Pat Catlett



The **Icon Stand** and **Gospel Book Stand** at the front of the church provide focal points and opportunities for devotion for people before, during, and after worship. After receiving communion, many people light candles before the icon or the Gospel book, or greet these objects with a gentle touch or kiss. Our reverent devotion is not for the objects themselves, but for the Holy Mystery they reveal to us.

Ken Davis, Metalworker

Ken Davis started working with metal by helping his father weld as a teenager in Tesuque. Over the years, he honed his skills and now finds joy and a spiritual connection to God, when creating ceramic, wood, and metal art for friends and churches. Ken and his wife, historical fiction writer Cynthia Davis, are long time members of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in Albuquerque, NM.

Jason Younis y Delgado, Traditional New Mexico Tinsmith Artist

Jason Younis y Delgado is a fifth generation tinsmith in the Delgado family tin tradition and a juried member of the Spanish Colonial Art Society. He was apprenticed to his grandmother, Angelina Delgado Martinez. Growing up in Santa Fe, he currently lives in Albuquerque where he has a TV show on public access (New Mexican Tinsmith), teaches for the Senior Arts program, and delivers art to local gift shops. Jason uses tools handed down to him from as far back as his great-great grandfather, Francisco Delgado. His website is www.newmexicotinwork.com.

TREE OF LIFE MOSAIC & ICON OF ST. FRANCIS (in the Cecil B. Fish Courtyard, outside the Parish Hall)



St. Mark's Tree of Life Mosaic was created by members of the St. Mark's community, ranging in age from 2-94, under the direction of professional artists Manuel Hernandez and Lisa Dominici. St. Mark's began work on the project in May, 2019, and we celebrated the completed mosaic along with the blessing and dedication of the Cecil B. Fish Courtyard in September, 2019.

Inspiration for the image of our Tree of Life came, in part, from the words of Psalm 1,

"they shall be like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither..."

and our then newly consecrated Bishop Michael Hunn's image of the Diocese of the Rio Grande growing as a tree with ***"deep roots and a broad reach."***



The Icon in the courtyard depicts St. Francis of Assisi, who is the patron saint of the environment. Legend has it that St. Francis was known for preaching to the birds.

Painted with the Grace of God by Pat Catlett



SACRED ARTS GUILD

The Sacred Arts Guild at St. Mark's curates quarterly art exhibits for display in the **Sacred Arts Gallery** in St. Mark's parish hall. Our gallery showcases artwork in a variety of media and styles including iconography and spiritual reflections, watercolor, calligraphy, sacred vessels, portraits, plein aire, small works, landscapes, and more. Artwork on display is always available for purchase, with 20% of proceeds going to support the ongoing growth of the arts at St. Mark's.

St. Mark's Sacred Arts Guild also sponsors workshops, classes, and events to support the artistic, creative, and spiritual development of members of St. Mark's and the surrounding community.



***Enlighten and direct my soul, my heart, and my spirit.
Guide the hands of thine unworthy servant.,
so that I might worthily and perfectly portray Thine Icon,
that of thy Mother and all the Saints,
For the glory, joy, and adornment of Thy Holy Church..."***

(From "The Iconographer's Prayer")

We welcome donations to support the ongoing creation of sacred art at St. Mark's.
Please make checks payable to St. Mark's,
or donate online via paypal at <https://www.stmarksabq.org/give/> .

In the memo line please note "Icon Project" (to support the creation of new icons)
or "Sacred Arts Guild" (to support the sacred arts in general.)



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