

The Blessed Trinity Windows: We are now looking at the three windows behind the altar of our beautiful church. These windows represent the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and are, as they must be, highly symbolic.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, “The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them . . . The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to men and reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin . . . The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God . . . God has left traces of his Trinitarian being in his work of creation and in his Revelation throughout the Old Testament. But his inmost Being as Holy Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to reason alone or even to Israel's faith before the Incarnation of God's Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit.”

The Father is represented in the middle window, which was donated “in gratitude for family” by Jim and Marilyn Fisher. The window on the left, representing the Son, was given by the Sam Pitzulo Family in memory of Anne Pitzulo and Mary Helsel. The window symbolizing the Holy Spirit is a gift of the Werner Schultheis Family “in gratitude for God’s love.” All of the windows show a circle in the middle. The circle symbolizes infinity, because it has no beginning and no end. Each window shows a cross and four points. The cross, of course, represents the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ, upon which our faith is based.

The number four in Christian art often suggests the four Gospels. Notice how the lower part of each window continues the central motifs of the upper part, the circle and the cross. Each of the Trinity windows is identical, except for the symbol in the center of the upper part. The window in the middle, representing God the Father, shows a hand protruding from a cloud. For at least the first eight centuries of Christianity, God the Father was symbolized by a hand, usually, as in our window, with two fingers extended symbolizing the human and divine nature of Jesus. The window on the left represents the Son and features the Chi Rho, an ancient symbol for Christ. To us it may look like a P superimposed over an X, but these are Greek letters, the first two letters of the name Christ in Greek. Finally, the Holy Spirit window shows a white dove, a reference to Jesus’ baptism when the Holy Spirit “descended upon him in bodily form like a dove” (Luke 3:22).

“O my God, Trinity whom I adore, help me forget myself entirely so to establish myself in you, unmovable and peaceful as if my soul were already in eternity. May nothing be able to trouble my peace or make me leave you, O my un-changing God, but may each minute bring me more deeply into your mystery! Grant my soul peace. Make it your heaven, your beloved dwelling and the place of your rest. May I never abandon you there, but may I be there, whole and entire, completely vigilant in my faith, entirely adoring, and wholly given over to your creative action” (prayer of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*).

