



ST. PAUL CHURCH
1425 East Shelby Drive
Memphis, Tennessee 38116

THE CHURCH BUILDING

The exterior of the church is Winona Travertine, natural stone, trimmed in white pre-cast quartz. The steeple and roof are aluminum.

Natural stone and natural woods are used in the interior. The wainscoting is cut Winona Travertine; the wood above the wainscoting is natural birch. The ceiling is willow.

The window areas are stained and leaded glass from Botz-Meisen Studios, Cologne, West Germany. The Transcept Windows, over the side altars, are executed in clear German Antique Mouthblown Glass. The Entrance Window, over the Baptistry, is 36 x 32 feet. The sun itself, origin of light, is the prime moving force in stained glass art.

The High Altar and Side Altars are Italian Rosso Alicante and Perlato marbles, with black and gold mosaic inserts. The marble in the sanctuary and communion rail are matching Italian marbles.

The Stations of the Cross and the Statues of Our Lady and St. Joseph are wood carvings from Oberammergau. The pews are white oak.

St. Paul Church will seat 1,000 persons with space for an additional 100 in the choir. There is a Wicks Pipe Organ.

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Dedicated - November 20, 1964
Pastor, Reverend Edward J. Cleary
Architect, Theron E. Wright
General Contractor, John J. Heirigs
Landscaping, Coughlin's Florist

In November, 1944, Whitehaven became a mission of St. Thomas Parish in south Memphis. Father Paul Clunan, assistant at St. Thomas, began to organize the Catholic families in the area. Ten acres, located east of Highway 51 South on the south side of Shelby Drive, were purchased from the Edwards Estate by the Diocese. Special permission was granted for the first mass to be said in the Gillia home. Mass continued to be said there every Sunday for several months with an average of sixty people in attendance.

In March, 1945, Bishop Adrian named Father Angelo Lenzi, Assistant Chancellor, to be the first pastor and undertake a building program. The first project was a crypt to serve as a temporary church. The Parish was entrusted to the patronage of St. Paul, Apostle to the Nations. In July, 1945, the first mass was offered in the crypt. The upper church was completed in December, 1946, and the first mass offered there on Christmas Day.

Until 1949 children of St. Paul were transported by bus to St. Thomas School. Construction began on St. Paul school in June, 1949. Pending the completion of the four classrooms, three Sisters of Mercy began classes in the crypt with 106 pupils. The new school was blessed and dedicated by Bishop Adrian on November 20, 1949.

The Foster home on Shelby Drive was purchased in November, 1950, and remodeled into a convent.

In October, 1953, Father Lenzi was killed in an automobile accident in New Albany, Mississippi. A loss felt not only by his beloved parishioners but by the entire community.

Father Edward Cleary became Pastor on February 4, 1954. Of immediate concern to the new pastor was an expansion of the school and reduction of the debt of \$35,000.

In 1954 four new classrooms were begun. The school was again expanded in 1956-57 making a total of 16 classrooms. The gymnasium was constructed in 1961 and used temporarily for classrooms.

Having outgrown the original church the altar was moved to the gym, and in June, 1963, six classrooms were built onto the northwest corner to provide facilities for the new Children's House.

A long cherished dream to build a church large enough to serve the needs of the fast growing parish became a reality in December, 1961, when ground was broken. Final plans were then completed for the construction of a new church to seat approximately 1100 people.

Construction began March 18, 1963, with plans for completion in spring 1964.

The new church was dedicated on November 20, 1964. Due to ill health, Father Cleary retired from active parish work in 1968. Father Walter Bush succeeded him. In 1970 Father Bush retired.

On September 3, 1970, Monsignor Theron J. Walker, the present pastor, was appointed to succeed Father Bush. There are presently 1005 families in the parish and 608 children in the elementary school. The school is conducted by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Convent, Nashville.

On Easter Sunday, April 19, 1981, Monsignor Walker died after several months illness and was succeeded on June 1, 1981 by Reverend J. Leonard Oglesby.

WINDOWS OF THE BAPTISTRY

1. The Holy Spirit (Dove) flies toward a Mountain of Water (Sign of Baptism). "Unless a man be born again of water and the spirit..." (John 3:5)
2. Streams of water (Grace) flow from the Cross. (Faith) "There poured forth blood and water..." (John 19:34)
3. The seed falling to earth. "Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it brings forth much fruit." (John 12:24-29) The Christian must die to achieve eternal life.
4. Fire is the symbol of God's love. "I indeed baptize with water..But He who is coming after me..will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." (Matt. 3:11)
5. The white garment and candle are symbols of baptism. On the garment are the seven days, symbols of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments and I shall not blot his name out of the Book of Life". (Apoc. 3:5)
6. An ark and the dove with an olive branch. The olive branch is the symbol of peace; the ark, the Church. Peace through the Holy Spirit descends upon the Church. "And the Dove came to him carrying a bough of an olive tree in her mouth." (Genesis 8:11)
7. The net and the fish. Those baptized are caught up in the net of Christ, the Great Fisherman. "I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

THE ENTRANCE WINDOW

The descent of Divine Life is the theme of the Entrance Window.

In the upper center, the "Eye of God" symbolizes God the Father. Directly beneath is the Cross reminding us of Christ, the Redeemer. The central action of the Dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit, pours forth His grace into our souls.

Sanctifying Grace, the Divine Life of the soul, is sent down by the action of the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier. It is represented by pear-shaped droplets falling into the Baptismal area, where the Christian received the First Grace.

Our Lady is chief recipient of this gift for she is "full of grace." The twelve apostles, with arms uplifted to receive the Divine Life, are seen in the lower corners.

The Angels of God hover about the presence of the Most Blessed Trinity.

The smaller droplets on each side suggest actual graces.

WINDOWS OF THE CREED

1. I believe in God the Father Almighty, The Creator stands on the earth, holding the sun, moon and stars. Lower picture -- creation of angels, vegetation, animals, mankind. Upraised arms of the angel and men show their gratitude to the Creator.
2. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord. God, the Father, shows Himself and His Son to the world. Our Lord is pictured as Christ the King to show His royal dignity and power.
3. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Upper - The Annunciation of the Angel to Mary. Mary opens her

arms to receive the Holy Spirit. Lower - The Birth of Christ, Mary, the new-born Child, and St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus.

4. Who was Crucified for Us. The death of Jesus. Mary the Mother of Sorrows, under the Cross. Lower - Jesus in the tomb; the open door of the tomb.
5. The Third day He rose again from the dead, according to the Scriptures. Christ, with the stigmata, as He arises from the tomb. The Roman soldiers who were guarding it.
6. He ascended into Heaven. Upper - Christ leaving the earth. Above Him the sun, sign of His Father. The Virgin Mother and His disciples witness the Ascension.
7. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. Last Judgment. Christ, our Judge, on the throne with scale in His left hand. Right hand points to Holy Scriptures. Lower - the saints holding up their hands; sinners being plunged into hell.
8. And in the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit is depicted by the Dove and the Fire. Creation as a tree, lion, dog, fish.
9. And in the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. The center of Christianity - the Church of St. Peter and St. Peter's Square. Lower - the Hierarchy of the Church; the laity, the priests, the Bishops, and the Pope.
0. I believe in One Baptism and the forgiveness of Sins. Pictures show a Baptism and a Confessional.
1. And in the Resurrection of the Dead. Lower - the reconstruction of the bodies of men. Upper - those who are saved join a happy procession toward heaven.
2. And in Life Everlasting. Amen. Eternity is pictured as the Heavenly Jerusalem, with the Lamb above. Under it are the saints. Also shown, the Tree of Eternal Life.

WINDOWS

(These windows depict the Spiritual Works of Mercy)

INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT - A book, a pair of compasses and the lifted hands. The book is for wisdom. The compass indicates the flow of wisdom from God to man. The faithful impart Divine wisdom to the ignorant.

COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL - The hand points to a book. On one side the Alpha and Omega (symbol of God.) The other side reads, "Errare Humanum Est," meaning "To err is human."

BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY - A broom of twigs over crossed hands. The twigs symbolize injustice. The crossed hands show that we should be patient.

FORGIVE INJURIES - The scale is out of balance and the hand moves to lift it - to right the wrong.

ADMONISH THE SINNER - The sinner is the captive heart in chains. The finger admonishes it.

COMFORT THE SORROWFUL - The hand holds a palm branch (Peace) and brushes away the tears.

PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD - The rosary (prayer); the skull (death).

UPPER NAVE - LECTERN SIDE

WINDOWS

(The windows depict the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy)

FEED THE HUNGRY - a hand holding a piece of bread.

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY - a hand holding a chalice.

CLOTHE THE NAKED - a hand reaching for an article of clothing.

SHELTER THE SHELTERLESS - The hand pointing to the open door.

RANSOM THE CAPTIVE - two hands breaking the chain, to symbolize liberation.

VISIT THE SICK - the hand holding a branch, a symbol of healing and lessening pain.

BURY THE DEAD - the hand, skull, and shovel.

