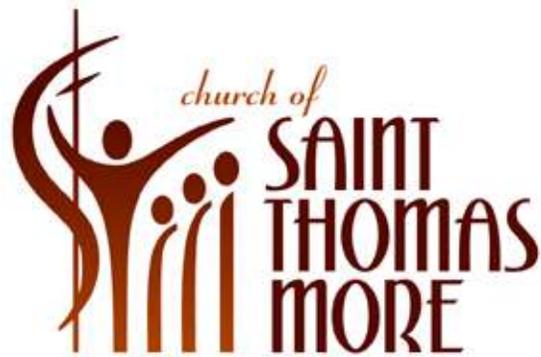


All Tied Together

It's hard to talk about each individual piece of liturgical art at St. Thomas More, because I consider the entire church a work of art. Every piece, from the magnificent stained glass window to the painted silks above each station to the baptismal font is tied to another, either by form or by color or by style.



Take the stained glass window designed by artist Roger Hogan, “The Waters of Redemption,” as a starting point. My favorite place to view the window is from the back doors of the church, where the stained glass “Waters of Redemption “ are reflected in the redeeming waters of the baptismal font. Stand there for a moment, gazing at the images and reflection, and you come to see that the font and window work together as one piece of art.

Another tie to the window comes in the colors of the painted silks above the stations. Artist Juanita Yoder spent an entire day in the church looking at the window and came away with the impression that the green and gold that sweep up from behind the cross symbolize the life force of Jesus. She used those two colors to symbolize Jesus in each of the silks.

You'll find more connections in the statues. Wood carver Tim Bergen created the scene of the Holy Family from the same wood at the huge cross in the sanctuary. Take a closer look at Jesus sitting on Joseph's shoulders. With his arms outstretched, the two figures form the image of a cross. Mary is shown looking up at Jesus, in the same way she will later look up at her son on the cross.

Our most recent statue, of Blessed Pope John XXIII, is carved from the same light colored wood as the body of Christ that rises up from the large cross. In his right hand, John holds “Sacrosanctum Concilium”, the first document from Vatican II. That document is all about the liturgy, the way we celebrate the Eucharist, where we receive the Body of Christ. John's left hand is extended as a welcome to all the people of God who make up the “Mystical Body of Christ”, a term from the Council he convened.

Our liturgical art pieces have another thing in common: they draw us into the mystery of God and help us to pray. Symbols speak, if we open ourselves to what they say.

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