

Our Namesake

Our school's namesake made Canadian history as the first Catholic prime minister of Canada. The symbols associated with the glass insert are representative of who Sir John Thompson was and his legacy to Canadian history and politics.

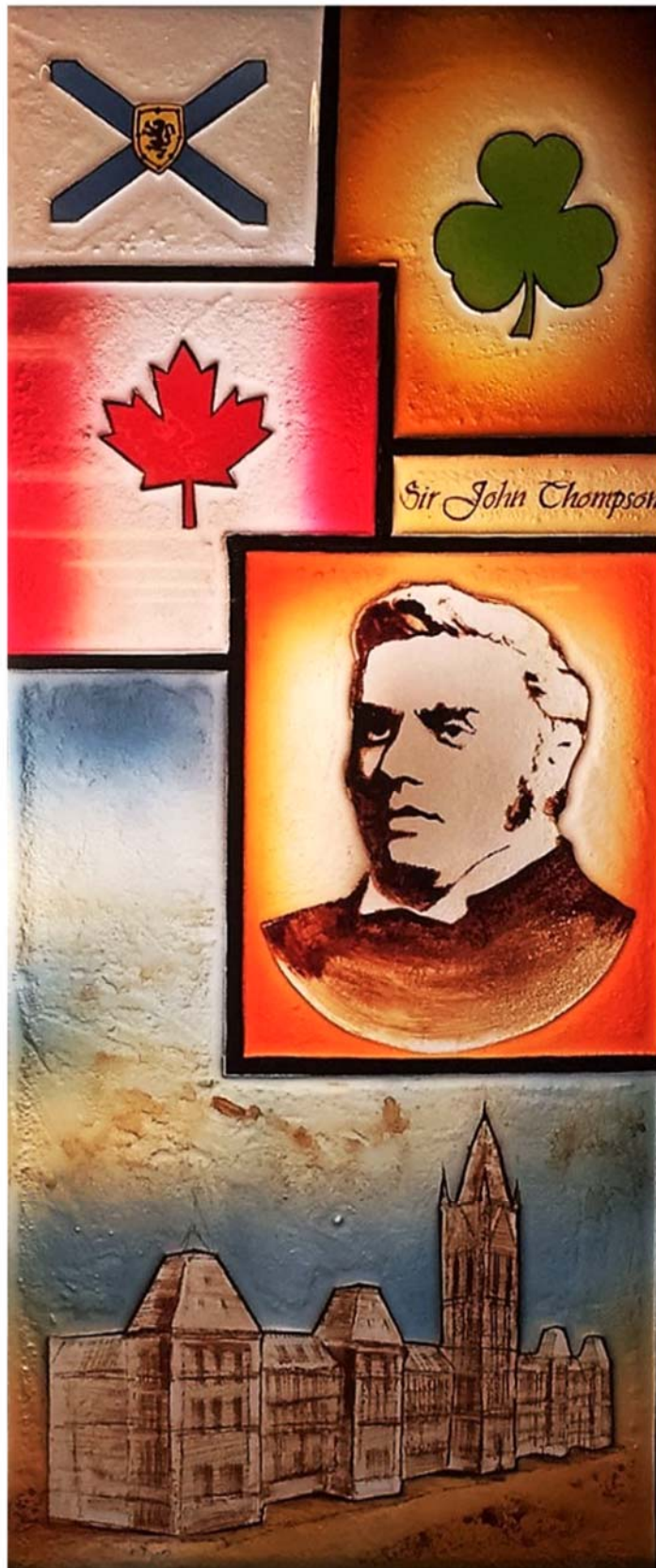
The blue cross is from the flag of Nova Scotia where Sir John Thompson was born. He was born in Halifax on December 10, 1844. The Shamrock represents Sir John Thompson's Irish ancestry.

The maple leaf is a modern day association to his service to our country as prime minister.

The portrait of Sir John Thompson is a replica of the image found on the plaque in the office hallway that gives a brief autobiography of our namesake.

The Parliament Building may not look completely familiar. The building in the image is the original Parliament Building which burnt to the ground in 1916. Sir John Thompson would have only known this building. However, one part of the original building that survived the fire is the Parliamentary Library. The faint outline of the library can be seen above the nearest turret.

Sir John Thompson School was named in his honour in 1968.





Sacred Scripture

The Old Testament

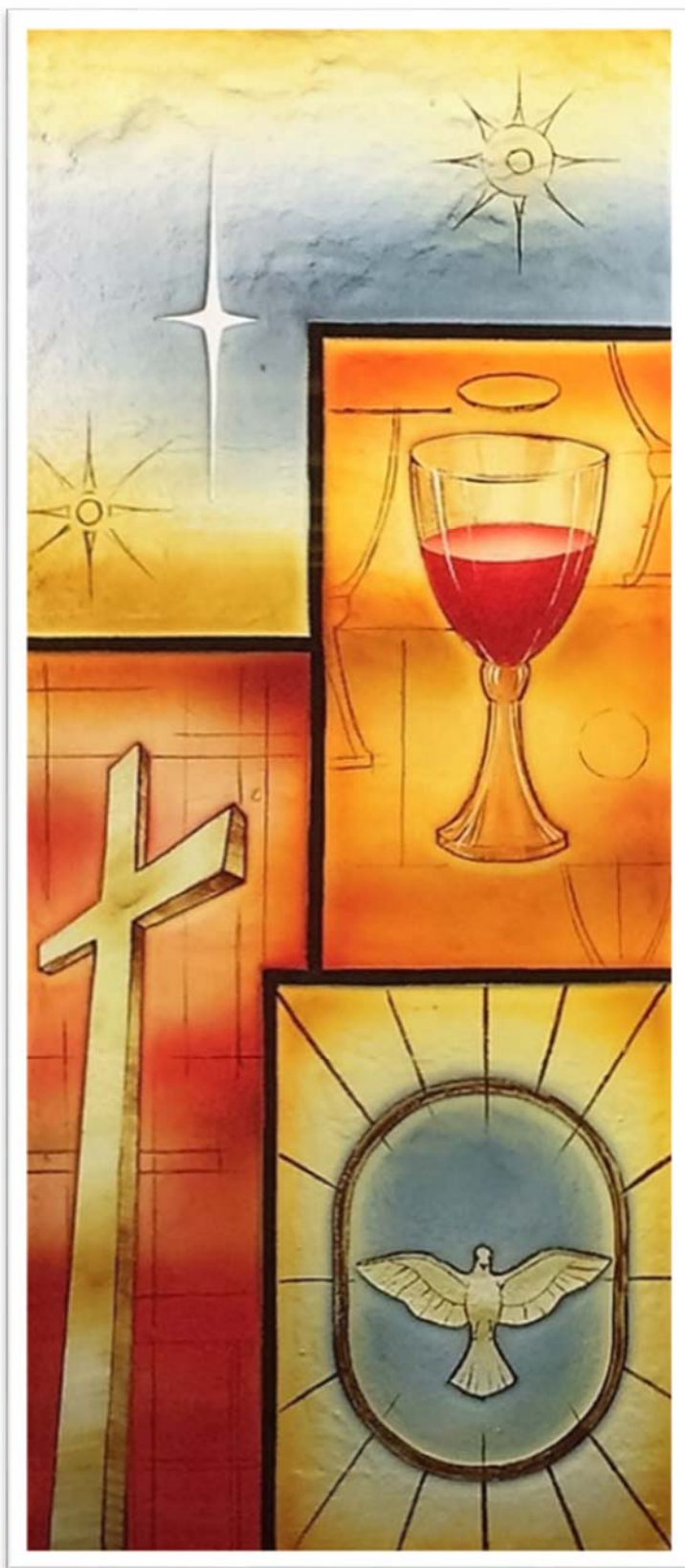
The scenes depict key images in the covenant relationship between God and his people.

The Garden of Eden reminds us of God's love for us. He gives us life and shows mercy even though we sin. "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." Genesis 1:31

Noah's Ark represents the faithfulness of God in keeping his promises. "The LORD said in his heart, 'I will never again curse the ground because of humankind.'" Genesis 8:21

The scroll is a reminder of our origins in the Jewish faith and the formation of his people in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. "I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore." Genesis 22:17

The Ten Commandments are a reminder of our responsibility to live according to God's law. "Moses convened all Israel, and said to them: 'Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I am addressing to you today; you shall learn them and observe them diligently. The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. Not with our ancestors did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today.'" Deuteronomy 5:1-3



Sacred Scripture

The New Testament

The scenes depict key images of our salvation through God's mercy and Jesus' sacrifice.

The star of the Nativity represents God sharing our humanity and our salvation. "She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21
The Body and Blood of Christ signify the everlasting covenant we are called to share. "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'" Luke 22:19-21

The cross reminds us of our salvation through the Jesus' sacrifice and the Triumph of the Cross. "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18

The dove represents the descent of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, and the birthday of the Catholic Church. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19



Sacraments of Initiation

The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist - lay the *foundations* of every Christian life. "The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity."

Catechism of the Catholic Church 613

Eucharist

"Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you."

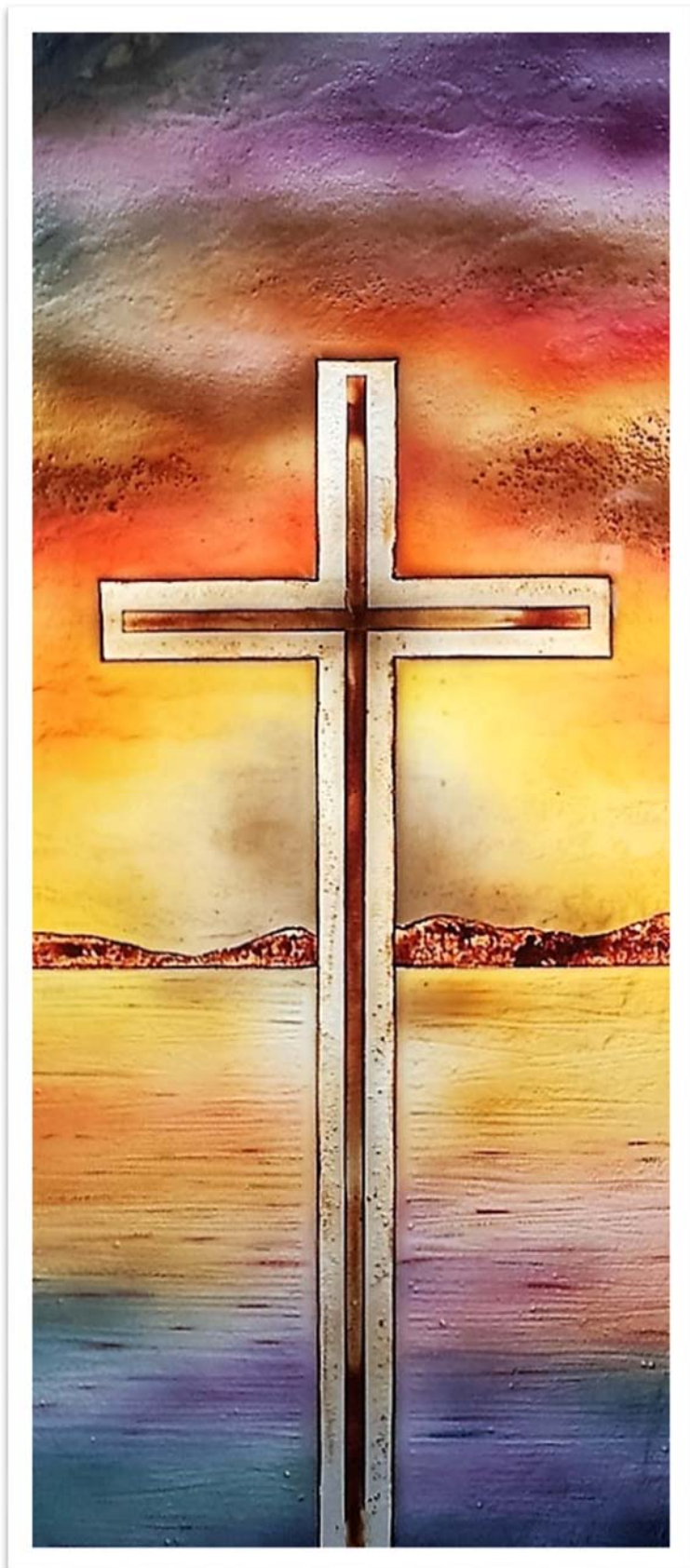
Roman Missal p. 615

Confirmation

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2.1-4

Baptism

"I have baptized you with^{*} water; but he will baptize you with^{*} the Holy Spirit." Mark 1.8

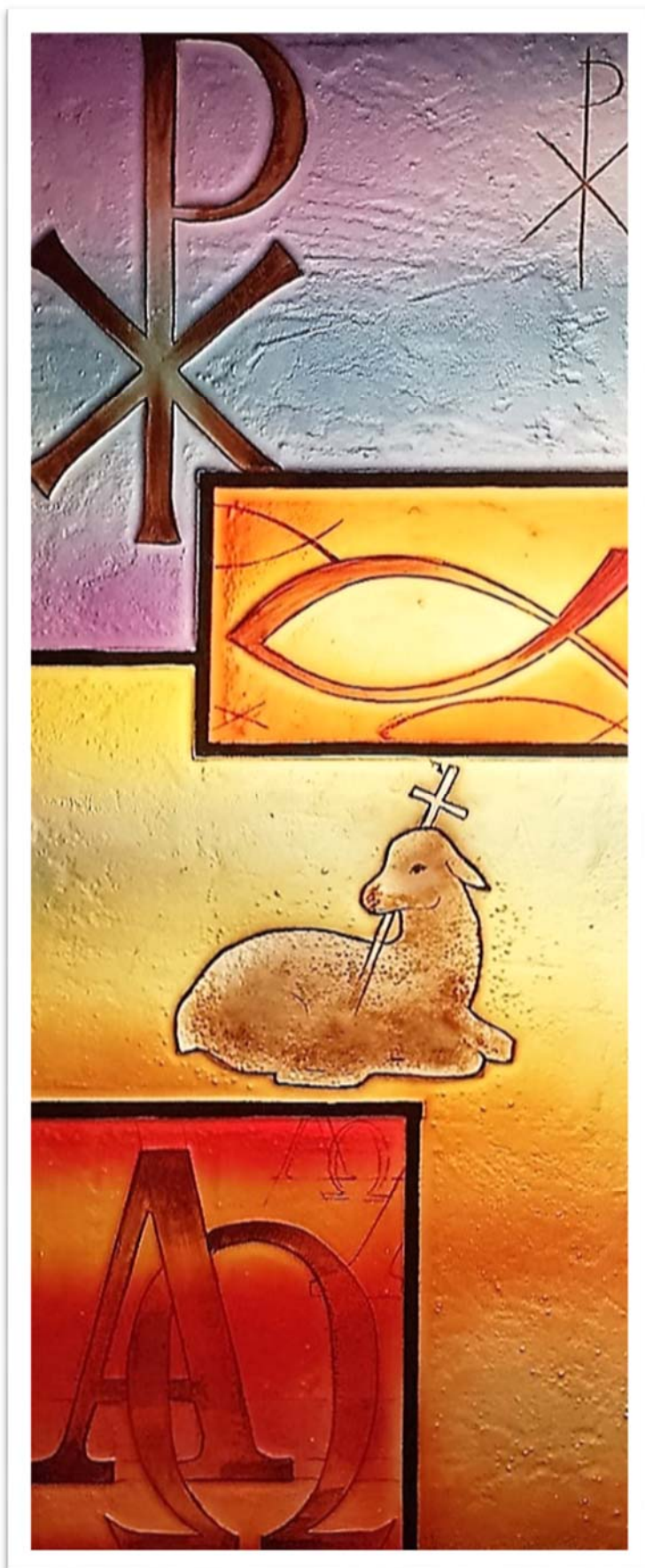


Hope's Promise

"In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God."

Colossians 1.3-6

St. Paul tells us that Christian hope is not "something laid up for us in heaven." After the suffering and resurrection Christ we can have hope that God has prepared for us a similar gift, eternal life, for all who follow Christ. We experience some happiness and often sadness in our lifetime but hope gives us a chance for eternal happiness, a happiness which never ends. God wants us to be happy with Him in His eternal glory.



Images of Christ

There are numerous images of Jesus Christ found mostly in the gospels.

Pax Christi – The Peace of Christ

Earthly peace is the image and fruit of the *peace of Christ*, the messianic "Prince of Peace." He reconciled men with God and made his Church the sacrament of the unity of the human race and of its union with God.

"He is our peace." Catechism of the Catholic

Church 2305

Fish

Jesus chose the fishermen Peter, James and John to be part of his chosen twelve Apostles.

"And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.'" Matthew 4.19

Lamb of God

Christ's death is both the *Paschal sacrifice* that accomplishes the definitive redemption of men, through "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world", and the *sacrifice of the New Covenant*, which restores man to communion with God by reconciling him to God through the "blood of the covenant, which was poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Catechism of the Catholic Church 613

Alpha and Omega

"'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1.8

Alpha (Α) and Omega (Ω) are respectively the first and last letters of the Classical Greek alphabet. It is often understood that together they signify the eternity of Jesus.



The Holy Rosary – Joyful

The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. The Joyful Mysteries are taken mostly from St. Luke's Gospel in the New Testament. They involve the joyful events of Jesus' childhood. The Joyful Mysteries are prayed Monday, Saturday and during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

The Joyful Mysteries :

The Annunciation - The angel announces that Jesus is to be born.

The Visitation - The baby in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy when Mary who is pregnant with baby Jesus visits her.

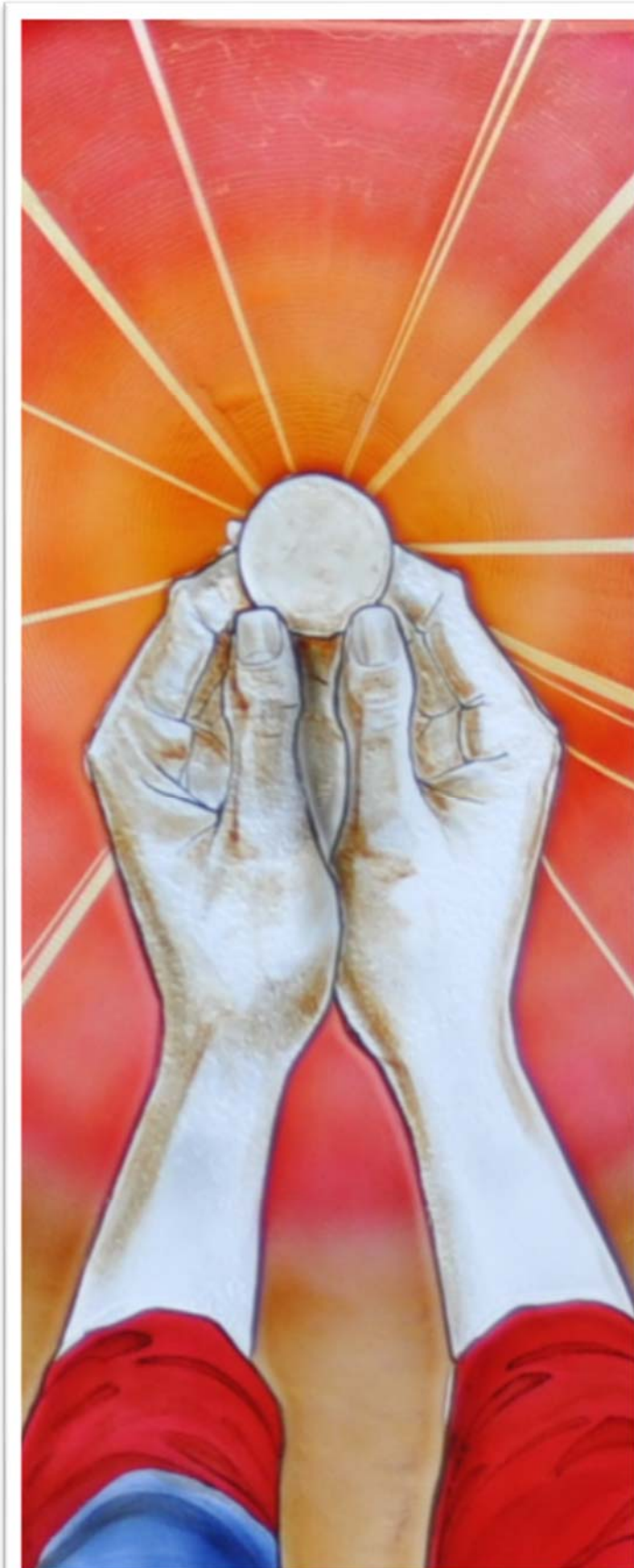
The Birth of Jesus [The Nativity] - Jesus is born in a stable in Bethlehem.

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple - Jesus is presented to God in the Temple in Jerusalem in accordance with Jewish Law.

Finding Jesus in the Temple - Jesus, who was lost, is found in the temple in Jerusalem teaching the high priests.

The window insert depicts the third Joyful Mystery – The Birth of Jesus

For generations artists have depicted Mary (The Madonna) with Jesus (her child). The halos indicate the divinity of the Jesus and the Solemnity of Mary. The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary are so called because they recount all the Joys of the "Good News," namely Jesus. "But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy." Titus 3.4-7



The Holy Rosary – Luminous (Light)

The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary are used during meditation on Thursdays. These Rosary Mysteries are sometimes referred to as the "Mysteries of Light". The Luminous Mysteries were added to the Rosary by Pope John Paul II in October 2002 - *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*.

The Luminous Mysteries are:

The Baptism in the Jordan - The Spirit descends on Jesus to invest him with the mission which he is to carry out.

The Wedding at Cana - The first of Jesus' miracles and shows Mary to be first among believers.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom - Jesus calls us to conversion and forgives the sins of those who trust him.

The Transfiguration - The glory of the God shines forth from the face of Christ as the Father commands the astonished Apostles to 'listen to him.' (Luke 9:35)

The Institution of the Eucharist – Our salvation and Jesus' love for us are shown as Jesus offers himself in sacrifice.

The window insert depicts the fifth Luminous Mystery – The Institution of the Eucharist.

"The Eucharist is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing by which the Church expresses her gratitude to God for all his benefits, for all that he has accomplished through creation, redemption, and sanctification. Eucharist means first of all "thanksgiving" (The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1360). "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me'" (Luke 22:19-20). The colouring of Jesus' robes match those Jesus is wearing in the painting *The Last Supper* by Leonardo Da Vinci.



The Holy Rosary – Sorrowful

The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary are used during meditation on Tuesdays and Fridays. These rosary mysteries are also used for meditation on the Sundays during the season of Lent. Everyone experiences sorrows and heartaches. The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary remind you of how much Jesus loves you. They recall how He suffered and died just for you.

The Sorrowful Mysteries recount all the sorrows of Jesus' Passion and death:

The Agony in the Garden - The night before He dies, Jesus prays in the Garden of Olives. His agony is so great, His sweat becomes drops of blood.

The Scouring at the Pillar - Jesus is scourged (whipped) before He is crucified.

Crowning with Thorns - The Roman soldiers make a mockery of Jesus and crown Him with a painful crown made of thorns.

Carrying of the Cross - Jesus carries His cross through the streets to the place where He will be crucified.

The Crucifixion - Jesus is crucified and dies for our sins.

The window insert depicts the fifth mystery – The Crucifixion

Catholic art tradition often depicts the horror of Jesus' crucifixion in detail. Jesus' suffering and sacrifice can only begin to be understood when we realize the shocking pain and humiliating death Jesus suffered for us. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed" (Isaiah 53.5).



The Holy Rosary - Glorious

The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it is the awesome story of our salvation. The glorious mysteries of the rosary focus on events after the death of Jesus, and primarily deal with miraculous events, hence their name "glorious." They are the crown of Jesus' triumphs. The Glorious Mysteries are prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

The mysteries are:

The Resurrection of Jesus - Three days after Jesus is crucified, He rises gloriously from the dead.

The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven - After promising to send a Helper, Jesus ascends into heaven upon a cloud.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit - The promised Helper, descends on the apostles and Mary and appears as tongues of fire on the first Pentecost.

The Assumption - Mary is taken into heaven, body and soul.

Coronation of Mary - Mary is crowned by Jesus as queen of heaven and earth.

The window depicts the first mystery: The Resurrection

"Christ's Resurrection was not a return to earthly life. . . . Christ's Resurrection is essentially different. In his risen body he passes from the state of death to another life beyond time and space. At Jesus' Resurrection his body is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit: he shares the divine life in his glorious state." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 646). "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (Romans 6.9-11).



St. Joseph

St. Joseph is venerated in the Catholic faith. He is significant to the Catholic Church in Canada and Edmonton for several reasons:

He was declared to be the patron saint and protector of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870. This designation is represented by the depiction of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. St. Joseph is one of Canada's patron saints.

The Basilica in Edmonton is also named in his honour. The image in the bottom section is an illustration of Edmonton's Basilica.

The lily that St. Joseph is holding is traditionally associated with St. Joseph, spouse of Mary, through an ancient legend that he was so chosen from among other men by the blossoming of his staff like a lily.

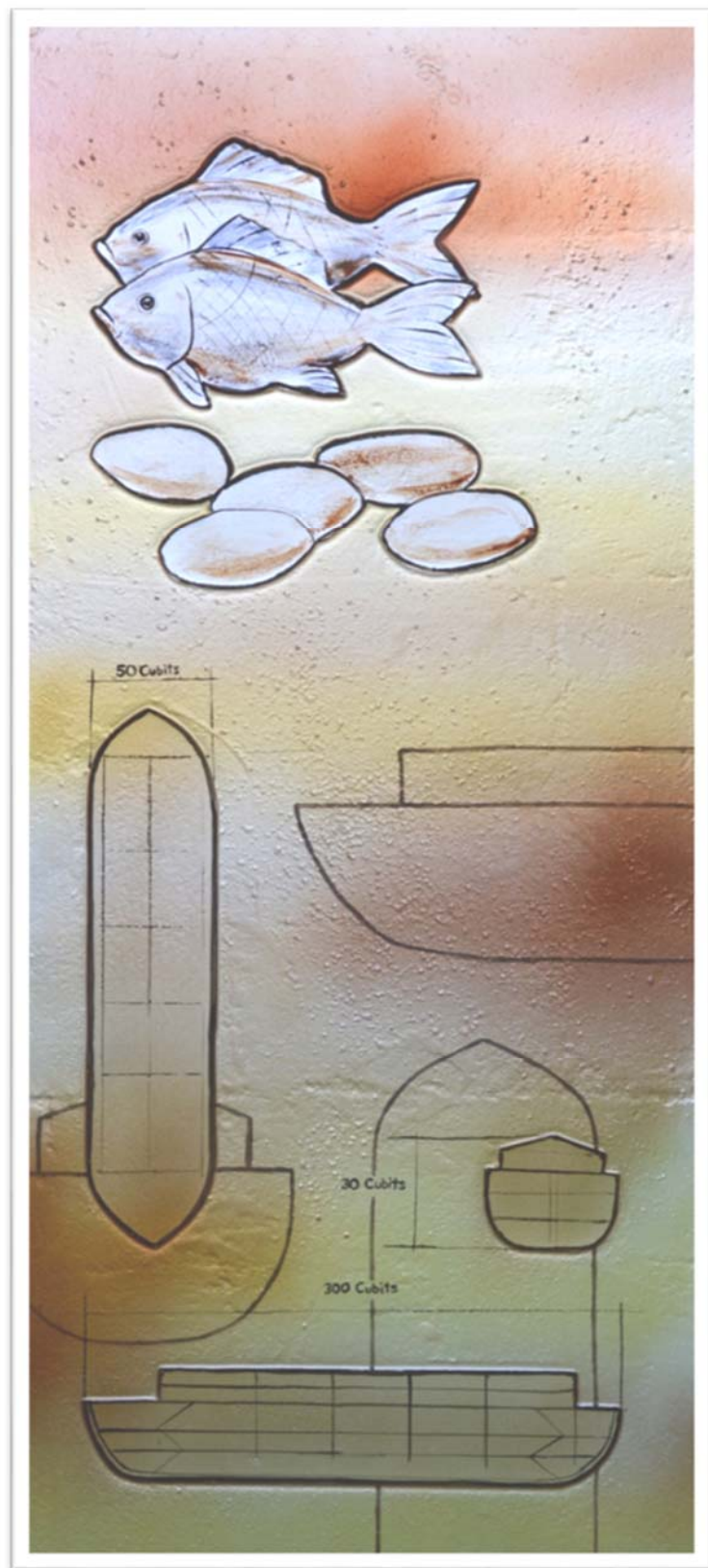


Blessed Virgin

Patroness of

Edmonton Catholic Schools

This glass insert along with the Catholic Church insert were the last to be completed in September 2013 which coincided with the 125th anniversary of Edmonton Catholic Schools. Depicted in the insert are three images. At the top is the image of Mary, the Mother of God. She was declared the patroness of Edmonton Catholic Schools in spring 2003. Catholic education in Edmonton has a proud tradition that dates back to before Alberta was a province. In August 1888 Edmonton Catholic parents applied to organize a separate school district for their children. In October of that same year three sisters from the Faithful Companions of Jesus sailed from France to open a convent and a school in Edmonton. They began teaching at the newly formed St. Joachim Catholic School on November 2, 1888. That first year the sisters taught 23 students. In 2013 there are 88 Catholic schools serving over 37 000 students. The second image is a depiction of St. Joachim School, the first Catholic School in Edmonton. Although it no longer exists it serves a reminder of the rich history of Catholic education in Edmonton. The third image is of Sir John Thompson School which opened in 1968 in the 80th year of the Edmonton Catholic School District.



Foods

The fish and five loaves of bread remind us that Jesus will always provide us with what we truly need.

“Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, ‘This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world’” (John 6. 11-14).

Construction Technology

The drawings of Noah’s ark are done as blueprints of the dimensions indicated in the Bible.

Make yourself an ark of cypress - wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. Make a roof - for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks” (Genesis 6. 14-16).



Languages

The outline of the Americas serves as the backdrop for the study of languages. All six of the flags are of countries that are predominantly Catholic and whose native languages have significance in the Americas or represent local immigration.

French, Portuguese and Spanish are the official languages many countries in the Americas. Polish and Tagalog (Philippines) are languages that have significance for Edmonton's and Alberta's history. The Polish flag represents early immigration, particularly from Eastern Europe, and the continued presence of these immigrant groups today. The Philippines flag represents the new immigration trends of Asian immigration changing the ethnic composition of Edmonton and Alberta.

This window insert highlights the universality of the Catholic Church both globally and locally.

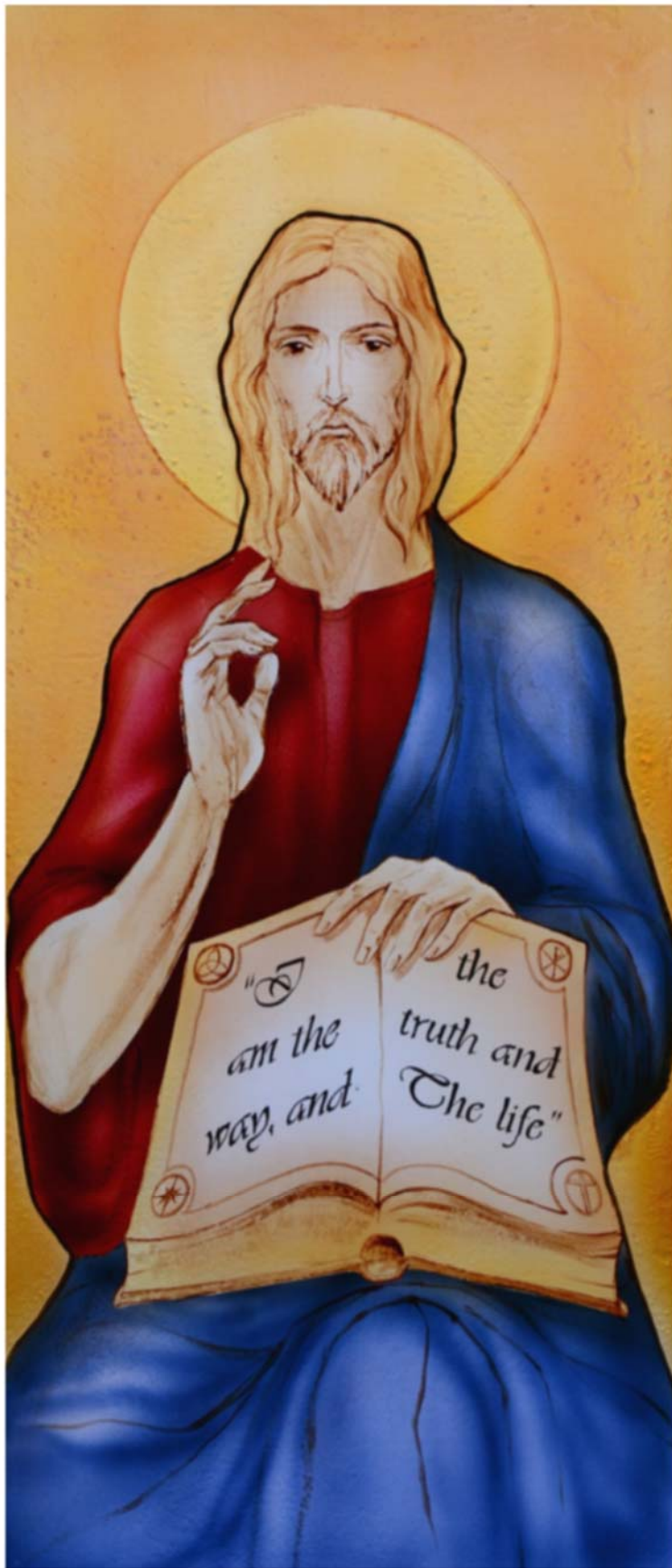
Language Arts

This glass insert combines both religious and literary elements to depict Language Arts.

In Christian iconography, Christ Pantocrator refers to a specific depiction of Christ. The most common translation of *Pantocrator* is "Almighty" or "All-powerful." The Pantocrator is more common in Eastern Catholic theological works of art. Its use is an acknowledgment of the contributions of the Ukrainian Catholic Church which has been a part of Edmonton Catholic Schools and Alberta's history.

The placement of Jesus' fingers is very significant. The index and middle finger together symbolize the duality of Christ; human and divine; the remaining three fingers come together to symbolize the Trinity.

The book that Jesus is holding contains both visual symbols and text. The four symbols represent: the Trinity (top left), Pax Christi (top right), the birth of Christ (bottom left) and the Triumph of the Cross (bottom right). The quotation is a shortened version of the full verse from the Gospel of John 14:6. "Jesus said to them, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.'"





Science

DNA is the essential building block for life. The DNA double helix is the image for the depiction of the story of creation. Shown in the insert are the heavens and the earth, plants and animals. The progression of life up the helix becomes increasingly more complex which culminates in humanity who is made in the image and likeness of God. It also reaffirms God's joy in his creation, "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." (Genesis 1.36).

Furthermore, as Catholics we are called to recognize the sanctity of life from its conception to natural death but also to be stewards of God's creation. "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind* in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'"



Math

The insert is a visual representation of some of the concepts of our faith and our limited ability to grasp the infinite. In the background are X and Y axes. The X axis represents the human timeline; the Y axis represents divine intervention in human history. Emanating from the origin of the axes is another X which represents the first letter in the Greek word for "Christ." In other words, the Anointed One (Christ) becomes human and offers salvation for humanity.

In the foreground are another set of X and Y axes. At the origin is the infinity symbol representing the Trinity which always existed. This concept is referenced in the labeling of the axes. In addition to the mathematical lettering of X and Y, there are also the Greek letters of Alpha and Omega which are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. This is a reference to several quotations in the Bible including the Book of Revelation 1.8, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end." Christ transcends time offering salvation to all those who believe. It also references our profession of faith said at all Sunday masses: "He will come again to judge the living and dead."

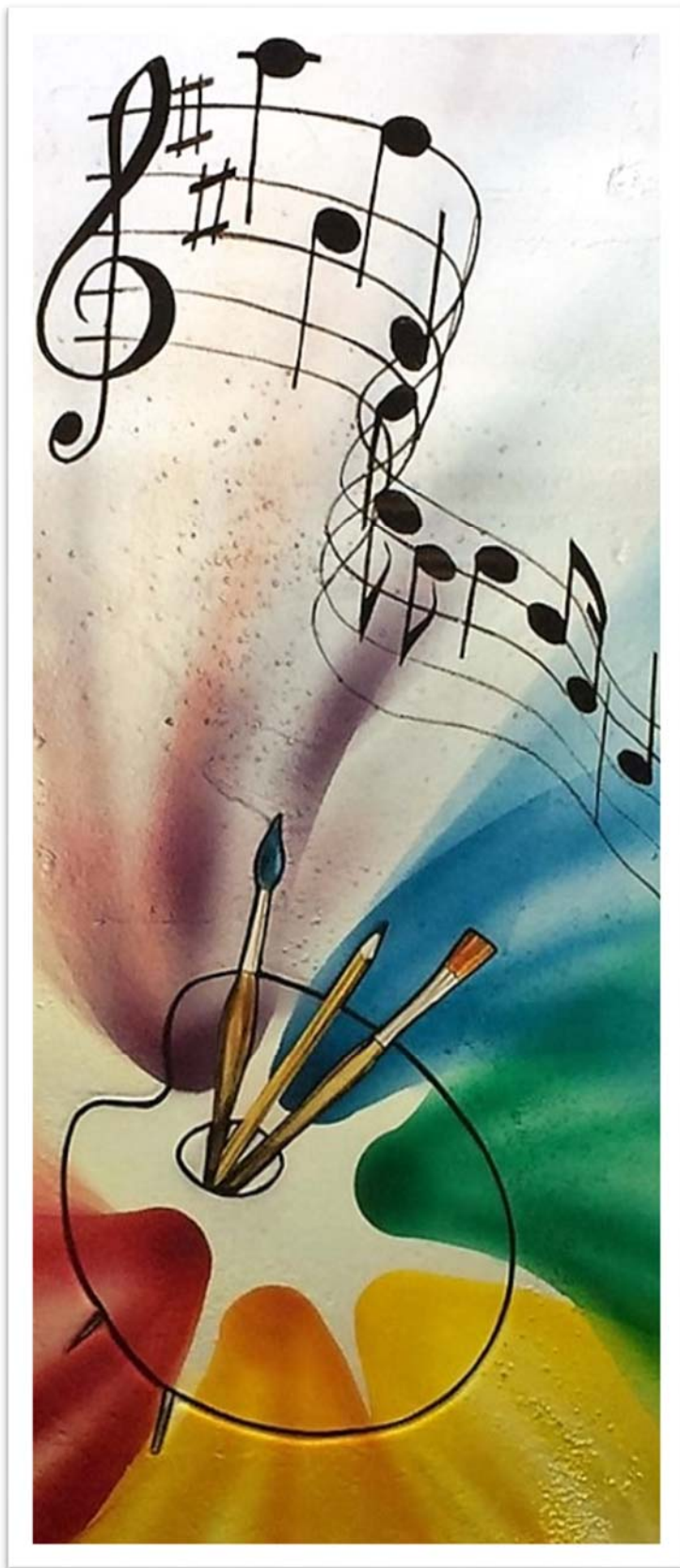


Social Studies

The insert has several prominent images. Foremost is the ship representing the first voyage to the New World by European explorers. On the sail is a cross which indicates the Christian evangelization of the new lands. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28.19). The outline of the East Coast of Canada acknowledges the historical significance of the beginning of continuous colonization in Canada.

The outline of the globe reminds us of the universal (Catholic) church and our role as global citizens.

The Parliament building is a reminder of our Canadian identity and our responsibility to be good citizens. We are reminded “to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrelling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone” (Titus 3. 1,2).



Music and Art

“Created ‘in the image of God,’ man also expresses the truth of his relationship with God the Creator by the beauty of his artistic works. Indeed, art is a distinctively human form of expression; beyond the search for the necessities of life which is common to all living creatures, art is a freely given superabundance of the human being's inner riches. Arising from talent given by the Creator and from man's own effort, art is a form of practical wisdom, uniting knowledge and skill, to give form to the truth of reality in a language accessible to sight or hearing. To the extent that it is inspired by truth and love of beings, art bears a certain likeness to God's activity in what he has created. Like any other human activity, art is not an absolute end in itself, but is ordered to and ennobled by the ultimate end of man” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2501).

The musical notes are from Handel's “Messiah” and correspond to the lyrics, “And he shall reign forever and ever.”



Health and Physical Education

“Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2288).

In the Health section at top there is an artistic rendering of the Canada Food Guide. There is also a reference to the miracle of the two fish (and five loaves) and the Body of Christ (Holy Eucharist).

Sports are not an end in themselves “but as a means to total and harmonious physical, moral and social development” (St. John Paul II).

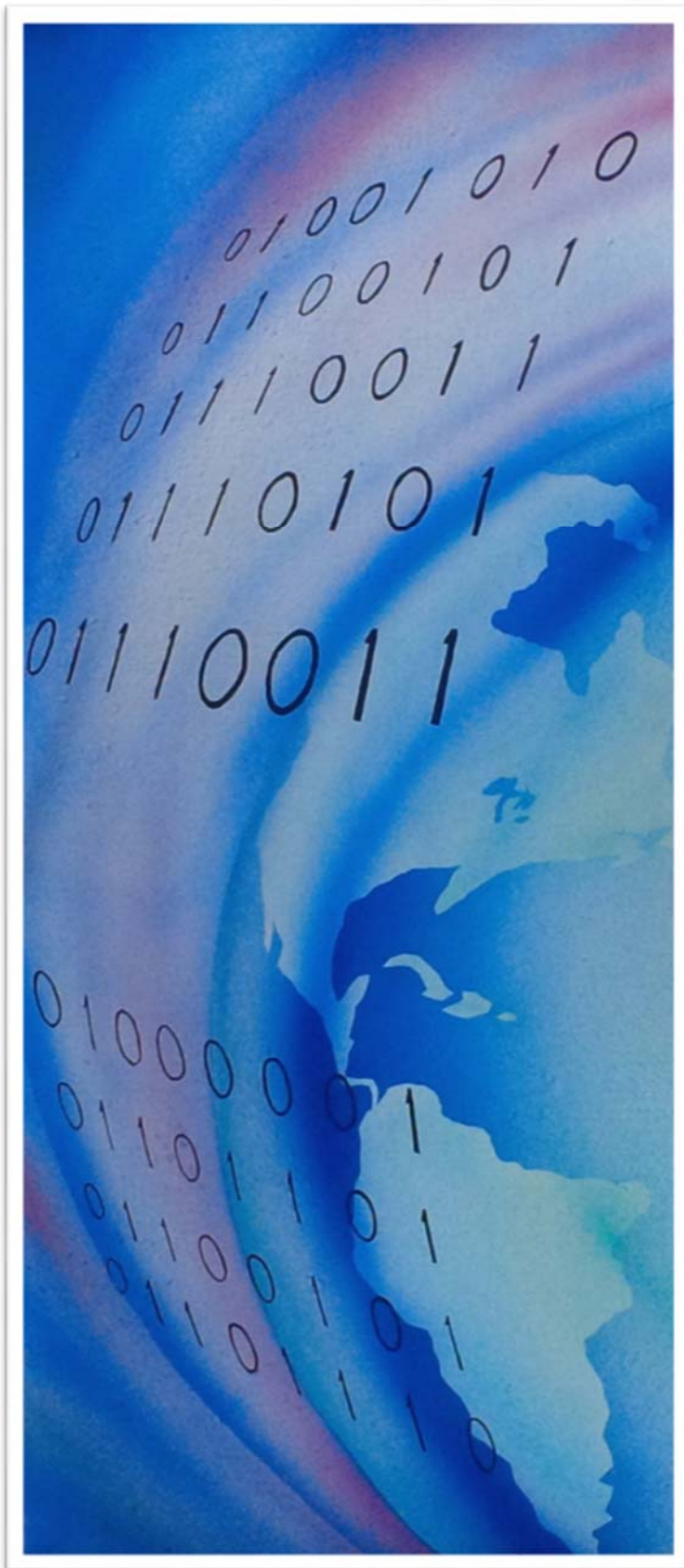


St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas was born in Roccasecca, Italy on January 28, 1225. He is considered the Church's greatest theologian and philosopher. His philosophy and theology were intertwined through the inspiration of St. Augustine and Aristotle. Today St. Thomas Aquinas' greatest legacy is his philosophy of the right connection between faith and reason. Aquinas silenced many critics in his day and even today by putting reason in the service of faith and God. He ushered in a new era in renewed interest in philosophy by theologians through his writings and teachings.

Although St. Thomas Aquinas lived less than fifty years, he composed more than sixty works, some of them brief, some very lengthy. The "Summa Theologica" (The Summary of Theology) is considered his greatest work and immortalized St. Thomas. The author himself modestly considered it simply a manual of Christian doctrine for the use of students. In reality it is a complete scientifically arranged exposition of theology and at the same time a summary of Christian philosophy.

St. Thomas Aquinas has many patronages including the patron of Catholic schools and students. He died March 7, 1274. His Feast day is January 28th.



The Church Evangelizes

The Church is as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago. Although the means of communication change, the message does not. "The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded" (Evangelii Gaudium, 23, 2013). As technological advancements continue, the Church embraces them but the Church remains a prudent voice. Technology should promote a respectful dialogue and help to further the mission of the Church. In this regard, the Church embraces communicative technology to reach out to others.

The window depicts binary code (computer language). Two sequences of numbers appear over the Earth. Each set of eight digits corresponds to a letter.

The first set spells "Jesus"

J = 01001010
 E = 01100101
 S = 01110011
 U = 01110101
 S = 01110011

The second set spells "Amen"

A = 01000001
 M = 01101101
 E = 01100101
 N = 01101110

In whatever language, Christ "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).