

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are twelve stained glass windows along the north and south aisles depicting various scenes from the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The stained glass was designed and constructed by Conrad Schmidt Studios of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The company exists today although it has moved slightly west to New Berlin, Wisconsin. The project to build and install began in January, 1943, and was complete and dedicated on April 2, 1944 (Palm Sunday). The cost was stated to be \$20,000, which is equivalent to about \$340,00 today. The scenes depicted are fundamentally different from what Conrad Schmidt presented as potential plans to Father Bernard N. Geller. There were three proposed plans all of which depicted the central stained glass scenes as well as the smaller stained glass depicting various saints. The correspondence has been annotated with at least a partial list to desired changes, although the does not appear to be a direct documentation of the actual final configuration. Information for this presentation has been taken from the correspondence from Conrad Schmidt Studio in January, 1943, *We've Come This Far by Faith* (History of Nativity of Our Lord Parish) by Miriam Moses, and *Discovering Stained Glass in Detroit* by Nola Huse Tutag with Lucy Hamilton (Pages 80-81).

COMMENTARY:

Scene: The Boy Jesus at the Temple

Gospel Reference: **Luke 2:41-52**

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Footnotes: Joseph and Mary are approaching in the upper left background. The expressions on the scholars seem upset. Other presentations available online seem to express other emotions.

Quotes taken from Saint Joseph Edition of The New International Version