

## 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: Jesus Gives Peter the Keys of the Kingdom

**Gospel Reference: Matthew 16:19** *I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

**Footnotes:** At the bottom of the stained glass is the visualization of Matthew 16:18, where Peter is referred to as the rock on which is the church. All the disciples appear in this stained glass although in background.

Quotes taken from the Revised Standard Version

**FYI:** Photos and commentary on the stained glass windows will periodically appear on the website homepage, and will eventually have shown all the windows in the main section of the church. Past commentaries are maintained and can be requested by contacting Harry Wimble.