

## 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: The Good Shepherd

**Gospel Reference: John 10:11-13** *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."*

**Footnotes:** Jesus is holding a lamb and two sheep stand behind him. Jesus is again wearing the red robe which appears in the Baptism of Jesus stained glass window. He is also holding a shepherd's staff. The bottom of the stain glass window contains two additional different references to Jesus. John VI:52 is imprinted as well as wheat shaft and a fish, referring possibly Matthew 4:13-21...feeding the 5000.

Quotes taken from the New International 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.