



# MIRACULOUS MEDAL *Shrine* REFLECTIONS

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## EIGHT NAVE WINDOWS

*Four on either side of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception  
April 2, 2019*

The large stained glass windows in the nave depict eight saints. They were chosen by students and faculty members of *St. Vincent's Seminary* in the 1870's as saints considered most influential for the study of the priesthood. The windows are opalescent glass from the celebrated New York colorist John LaFarge or possibly the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany.

From left to right, the saints portrayed along the eastern wall include:



1. St. Aloysius Gonzaga
2. St. Francis de Sales
3. St. Agnes
4. St. James, brother of the Lord

From right to left the saints portrayed along the western wall include:

5. St. Thomas Aquinas
6. St. Patrick
7. St. Catherine of Alexandria
8. St. John the Evangelist



Above each of the Saints one sees panels that include an array of glass gems embedded in large crosses. The more ornate ones display gems of different colors; others, the same colored gems either red or yellow. Below each central large cross is a small Chi-Ro, the first two letters for Christ in Greek. Two Greek crosses appear on the lower corners. Each panel includes a series of 16 large and small abstract five-pointed stars. The three smaller circles North, East and West include an array of three abstract

lilies. The stars symbolize Jesus's Nativity that made possible the holiness of all God's Saints; the lilies represent the purity and chastity of our Saints, celibate clergy and virgins.

A very curious feature is the intricate line that meanders around the panels left and right; eventually the line traces around all the circular patterns in the window.

Future reflections will discuss each saint in detail.

Our prayer this week is taken from the Collect for the *Feast of All Saints*:

*We pray:*

*Almighty every-living God,  
by whose gift we venerate in one celebration  
the merits of all your Saints,  
bestow on us, we pray,  
through the prayers of so many intercessors,  
an abundance of reconciliation with you  
for which we earnestly long.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.*

*Amen*

In our next reflection we will examine the first of eight stain-glass windows; it portrays *St. Aloysius Gonzaga*.