



Stained Glass History of the Carmelites at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Mission

Provide a place of pilgrimage and meaningful experience of God centered around devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel; offer pilgrims an opportunity for personal experience and growth, reconciliation, learning and meditative prayer; promotion of the National Shrine to the public at large in an attempt to bring it national prominence.

National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Middletown, NY

Chapel Stained Glass Windows

Welcome to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and a special welcome to the Shrine Chapel.

Devotion to our Lady of Mount Carmel began over 800 years ago in an oratory built by hermits, in the midst of where they lived and worked.

Stained glass windows were put in early cathedrals so that all, including non-readers, could learn the stories of Jesus and of His saints.

Our windows tell the story of our Carmelite history as well as some of our Carmelite traditions.

The early Carmelites were hermits who found their way to a place where they could live out a life of prayer. Some were Crusaders from Europe. Others were pilgrims on a journey, pilgrims who found a haven on the hill, Mount Carmel. This mount is associated with Elijah the Prophet. It was here that he slew the prophets of Baal.

Vestibule Windows

(On the front cover, from left to right)

St. Simon Stock receiving the Scapular—While we have no historical data to support it, a long-held Carmelite tradition is that St. Simon Stock received a Scapular from Our Lady. This was a symbol of her protection of the Order. Truth, or simply tradition, the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Patroness of the Carmelites.

Pope John XXII and a vision of Our Lady—According to legend, the Blessed Virgin appeared to Pope John XXII and gave him the “Scapular Promise”, which became known as the Sabbatine Privilege that would be awarded to wearers of the Scapular. We know today that there is no documentation from that time period than lends any credence to the vision.

St. Elias ascends into heaven—Elias (Elijah) was being transported to heaven in a fiery chariot. As he is leaving, he throws down his mantle to Eliseus (Elisha). By this act, Elias gifted Eliseus with a double-portion of his spirit, a spirit of prayer and action.

And the story goes on.

Our FIRST WINDOW tells the story of St. Albert, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Albert was a bishop known as a model of the good pastor and peace-maker.

As the number of Christian hermits on Mount Carmel grew, they desired a Rule to follow that would further bring them together as a community. They approached Albert, Bishop of Jerusalem, and Albert wrote a very simple rule of life.

This window shows St. Albert of Jerusalem giving the Rule to St. Brocard, and another hermit according to legend known as Berthold. The Brothers "B", as they are called, were not the founders of the Carmelites. Unlike the Dominicans or Franciscans, Carmelites have no physical founder. For several centuries there was the tradition that Elijah was the founder of the Carmelites. But in truth, he is not our founder, but he is our role model. His feast day is September 17th.



As the Muslims overtook the Holy Land around 1245, many of the hermits were martyred. Others migrated westward to return to their native countries of France, Germany, Italy and England.

The transition to Europe was not an easy one, and Carmelites were not always well received. They were dressed differently, and they lived as hermits. They gradually made the transition from hermits to mendicants, who are members of a religious order who own nothing of their own, make their living through begging for alms.

Our SECOND WINDOW shows St. Angelus, one of the first Carmelites to come into Sicily. He was killed by unbelievers during the first half of the 13th Century. He is the patron saint of several cities in Sicily, and he is still remembered today. His feast day is May 5th.





The **THIRD WINDOW** depicts **St. Peter Thomas**, born in 1305 in southern France. He joined the Carmelites when he was 21. He was chosen by the Order as its procurator general to the Papal Court at Avignon in 1345.

He was entrusted with several papal missions to promote peace and unity with the Eastern Churches, and was named the Patriarch of Constantinople.

He held many upper-level positions within the Carmelites as well as within the Church of the time. He served as papal legate, archbishop, and then Patriarch. He won his reputation as an apostle of Church unity. He died in 1366.

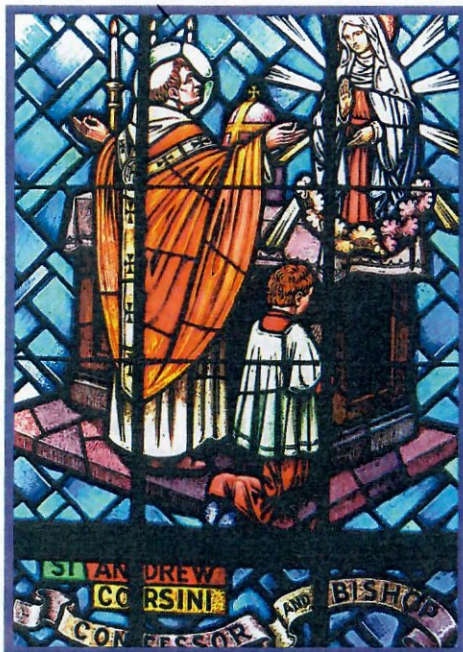
His feast day is January 8th.

The **FOURTH WINDOW** depicts **St. Andrew Corsini**, who was born in Florence in the beginning of the 14th Century. He entered the Carmelites at 21 years of age. He was a Carmelite Provincial by 1348, and a bishop by 1349. He gave the Church an example of love, apostolic zeal, and prudence. He was particularly known for his love of the poor. He died in 1374.

In this window we see a depiction of a Carmelite legend. We see St. Andrew having a vision of Our Lady while he was saying Mass. This **legend**, however, describes the depth of feeling Carmelites have for Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

There is another Marian legend that Saints Anne and Joachim brought Mary to Mt. Carmel on weekends to picnic with the hermits. The legend goes on further to say that Mary brought Jesus and Joseph there as well.

His feast day is January 9th.



This **FIFTH WINDOW** depicts **Bl. John Soreth**, a French Carmelite born in the early 15th Century. He was a scholar, a provincial, and eventually a prior general, a position he held for about 20 years.

He restored observance within the Order and was a promoter of reform. He wrote a commentary on the Rule, issued new Constitutions in 1462, and expanded the Order to formally include women (Second Order of Carmel), and the laity (the Third Order of Carmel).

As Carmelite history lived on, the impact of these Carmelite women would have an impact on the entire world.

His feast day is July 24th.



This **SIXTH WINDOW** in the Chapel depicts **Bl. Nuno Alvarez** Pereira, a Portuguese Carmelite born in 1360.

Before becoming a Carmelite, he pursued a military career and was a champion of Portuguese independence. He married, but after his wife died he entered the Carmelites as a Brother in 1423, at 63 years of age.

He entered the monastery of Lisbon, one he had himself started years before. He took the name Nuno of St. Mary. Throughout his eight years in Carmel he was known for his prayer life, practice of penance, and for his filial devotion to Mary, Mother of God. He died in 1431.

His feast day is April 1st.

As of April 2009, he will be Saint Nuno Alvarez.





This **SEVENTH WINDOW** in the Chapel depicts **Bl. Bartholomew Fanti** and **Bl. Baptist of Mantua**, leaders of the Carmelite Reform of Mantua. They were born in the mid-15th Century. This was a time, in history, much in need of reform, not just in the Carmelite Order, but throughout the Church.

Blessed Bartholomew was spiritual father to the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He wrote a rule and statutes for this group. Bl. Bartholomew was particularly noted for his devotion to the Eucharist. His feast day is December 5th.

Bl. Baptist was a renowned humanist, and a writer of poetry. He was known as the "Virgil of his times", and his Latin translations were used as texts in schools for over 250 years. He is the only Carmelite to have been quoted by Shakespeare. His feast day is April 17th.

This **EIGHTH WINDOW** in the Chapel depicts two of the most well-known Carmelites, **St. Teresa of Avila** (of Jesus) and **St. John of the Cross**. These two Spanish Carmelites were leaders of Reform in Spain. Their reform, known as the "Teresian" Reform, didn't go easy. John's Carmelite brethren even had him imprisoned. They died in the latter part of the 16th Century, but their spiritual writings have inspired many over the centuries.

After the death of these two mystics, the members of the Teresian Reform eventually split with the Carmelites of the Ancient Order, and formed the Discalced Carmelites.

Of special note, there are only three women who have been designated Doctors of the Church. St. Teresa of Jesus is one of them.



This NINTH WINDOW in the Chapel depicts St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi, born in Italy in 1566, into a wealthy family. From an early age, she was known for her piety.

She entered the cloistered Carmelite monastery in Florence, Italy. When deciding upon a Carmelite house to enter, she chose a house where the nuns were permitted to receive the Eucharist every day, a practice that was uncommon at that time.

She was a mystic noted for her hidden life of prayer and self-denial. She was committed to contemplative prayer and devotion to Our Lady, and focused on her purity. In this stained glass, Our Lady is holding her veil of purity.

St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi was also known for her devotion to the Trinity, and her willingness to physically suffer as Jesus did. She died in 1607. Her feast day is celebrated on May 25th.



This LAST WINDOW depicts Blessed Titus Brandsma. He was a Dutch Carmelite born in 1881. He was ordained a Carmelite in 1905. This picture shows Blessed Titus giving Communion to fellow prisoners in Dachau where he died by lethal injection in 1942.

He was a scholar, college professor, author and lecturer, all gifts that he used when he spoke out publicly against Adolph Hitler and Naziism. He convinced Dutch Catholic Newspaper editors not to publish Hitler's propoganda, and for that he was imprisoned. Hitler called him 'that dangerous little friar'.

While imprisoned he gave solace to, and prayed with and for his fellow prisoners. He was kicked and beaten on one particular occasion, shortly after receiving Communion. He had saved a small piece of the Blessed Sacrament to bring back to others in his barracks. The entire time he was being beaten, he kept the Blessed Sacrament protected by keeping it tucked beneath his arm. His feast day is celebrated on July 27th.



Litany of Carmelite Saints
(After each name say "Pray for Us")

Saint Joseph
Saint Joachim
Saint Anne
Saint Elijah
Saint Elisha
Saint Peter Thomas
Saint Andrew Corsini
Blessed Archangela Giralani
Blessed Alvares Pereira
Blessed Baptist Spagnoli
Saint Angelus
Blessed Aloysius Rabata
Saint George Preca
Saint Simon Stock
Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi
Blessed John Soreth
Blessed Titus Brandsma
Saint Albert of Trapani
Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
Blessed Isidore Bakanja
Saint Albert of Jerusalem
Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus
Saint Teresa of Jesus
Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity
Saint John of the Cross
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
All Saints of God

**Say three Our Fathers and three Hail Marys.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Pray for Us!**

Shrine Hours

The National Shrine is open daily
from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM.

Mass Schedule

Monday-Friday: Mass, 11:30 AM;
Sunday: Mass, 12:noon
Saturdays: Confession, 11:00 AM

**National Shrine of Our Lady
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