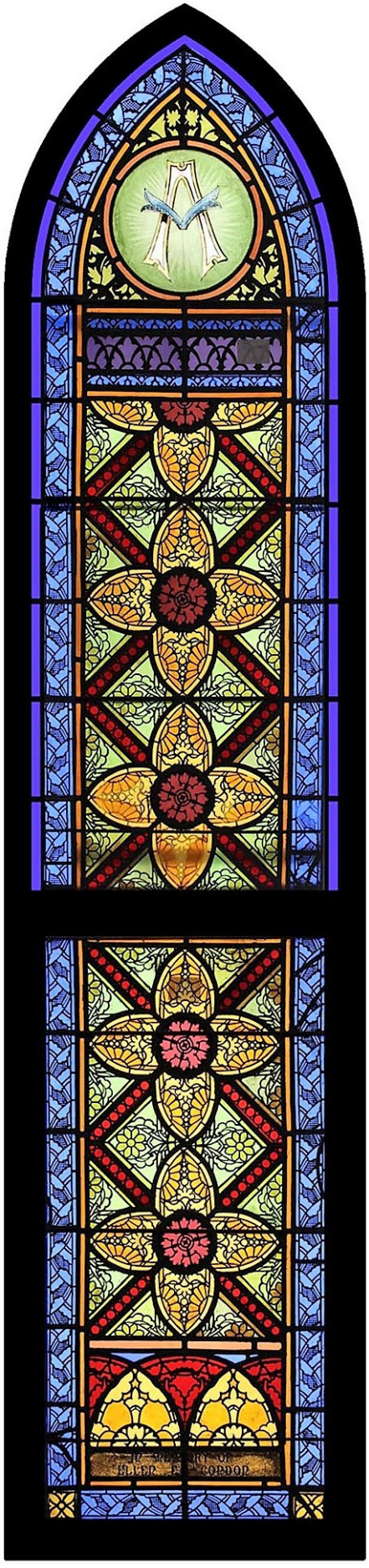

The Windows of St. Michael's

A brief history about those who donated the stained glass windows of St. Michael's, or in whose memory they were given.

Window Symbol: Alpha

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet. The symbol is a reference to a passage in the Book of Revelation: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty." Rev. 1:8

Given in Memory of : Ellen E. (O'Donnell) Condon

Ellen (O'Donnell) Condon was born in 1828 to John and Ann (Carroll) O'Donnell in the parish of Kildorrery in the eastern reaches of County Cork, near the border with County Waterford. This area was homeland to a significant number of St. Michael immigrant families. The Condons were among the founders of St. Michael Parish. Father Davis's history of the parish indicates that the Condons may have been the first Catholic family in Pawcatuck. That may be true. Their daughter was the first child from Pawcatuck to be entered in the baptismal records.

Ellen emigrated around 1846, probably in the Port of Boston. She married Richard Condon, possibly on February 8, 1851. Richard was also an immigrant from east Cork, who was working as a mariner in the Boston area. After their marriage the Condons relocated to Pawcatuck, settling first on Morgan Street. They later owned a large farm on Upper Liberty Street, somewhere beyond the present Asher Avenue area, with Ellen being a homemaker and farmer. The Irish families of Stillmanville and Downerville often walked up to the Condon Farm to purchase fresh produce and to swap stories and local gossip. It was a gathering place for the local Irish and Ellen Condon looked forward to their visits.

Ellen and Richard had at least eleven children: Mary Ann; Richard who married Sarah Donohue; Johanna who married Mr. Curran; John who married Mary Sullivan; Bridget T.; Elizabeth; James; David; Ellen C. "Nellie"; Daniel; and William Condon.

During the Civil War, Ellen's brother-in-law, Edmund Condon, was wounded at the Battle of Bethel Place, Louisiana, and died August 7, 1863 in a hospital in New Orleans. He was one of the first in St. Michael Parish to die in the war. Ellen (O'Donnell) Condon lived to the age of 84 years and is buried in the cemetery behind the church.

Descendants

The descendants of the Condon-O'Donnell family include members of the **Condon, O'Donnell, Curran, Stanton, Herlihy,** and **Geoghegan** families. On October 23, 1851 Mary Ann Condon, Ellen's daughter, was baptized along with her cousin Catherine O'Donnell, daughter of Ellen's brother James. Ellen's descendants included a porter in the Larkin and Watch Hill Houses, a grocer, a coal dealer, a bank teller, a branch of the family who relocated to Yonkers, New York, and, of course, a well-known farming family.