

# 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: Miter and Keys

The crossed keys are a symbol associated with the Petrine ministry of the Popes and also the power to forgive sins. As we read in Matthew 16:19, Jesus says to Peter, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." The miter is a tall, liturgical headdress worn by bishops, including the Pope, who is the Bishop of Rome.

## Window Symbol: Crown and Cross

The crown is a symbol of royal authority, referring to Christ, the King of Kings. The crown with the cross refers to eternal life through Christ and His triumphant victory over sin and death.

## Given by: Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was established on January 24, 1910 with Eugene Driscoll, James Shea, and Thomas Donahue as founding officers. A delegation from the Immaculate Conception society attended the organizational meeting where the St. Michael chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was formally established. There was a large gathering at the inaugural meeting which resulted in a strong membership from St. Michael parish.

The organization provided various types of support for needy and elderly people in the parish and in the greater community. They helped with food, clothing, winter fuel and supplies, transportation, acquiring shelter, and providing general support and compassion for the less fortunate. Although the Society is connected with Catholic parishes, members provide support for those who are less fortunate regardless of creed. The St. Vincent de Paul Society was well respected in the community for selfless and generous support to all in need.

At some later point the St. Michael and Immaculate Conception branches merged into one society. Today our local St. Vincent de Paul Society is based in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Westerly.

