



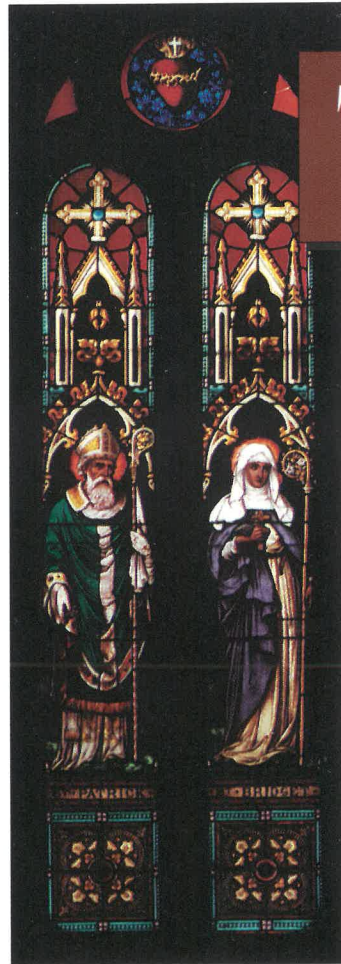
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his stained glass window to the right side of

the altar is of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. Mary's halo contains the twelve stars of Heaven and St. Joseph is holding the lilies of purity and chastity. The Proto-evangel of James explains the espousals of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that all the men of Nazareth placed their staves on a table and the high priest called on the Holy Spirit to choose the spouse of the Virgin. The next

day all returned to find that Joseph's staff had sprung into flower.

Above them is Mary's immaculate heart pierced by the sword of sorrow foretold by Simeon at her Presentation of the Infant Christ in the Temple at Jerusalem. The halo of light that surrounds the head of Mary, Christ, and the saints is more correctly known as a "nimbus". The use of the nimbus is restricted to those worthy of veneration, since it is symbolic of grace and virtue.



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his window shows the patron saints of Ireland,

St. Patrick and St. Bridget. St. Patrick, whose original name was Maewyn Succat, was born in Wales in A.D. 389. At the age of 16 he was taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped by boat and returned to mainland Europe where he studied to become a priest, and ultimately, became the first bishop of Ireland. St. Patrick spent most of his life converting the pagans of Ireland to Christianity until his

death in A.D. 461. St. Bridget was the daughter of an influential King in Ireland. The virgin Bridget embraced the Catholic faith and consecrated her virginity to Christ. She received the veil of religious life from the hands of St. Patrick, thereby becoming Ireland's first nun. Her right hand holds the crucifix, symbolic of the Catholic faith; her left hand bears the crozier, the symbol of her authority as Abbess. The heart above this window is the Sacred Heart of Jesus encircled by a crown of thorns and surmounted by the cross, symbolic of Christ's saving death. The flames refer to the zeal of Christ, Who wills to set the world aflame with divine love.



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his window depicts St. Ann and St. Joachim parents

of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Immaculate Conception is the dogma, or the teaching that from the first moment of her conception in the womb of her mother St. Ann the Blessed Virgin was preserved free from Original Sin in view of her special calling to the Mother of God, the Son in the mystery of the Incarnation. The Church has always taught that Mary preserved this original sinlessness

throughout her life, and hence, she was addressed by the Archangel Gabriel as "full of grace".

The panel above depicts the Sacred Host exposed in a monstrance. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Our Lord's Body and Blood. He received His human nature from the Blessed Virgin Mary. She, in turn, received her Davidic lineage from her parents, Joachim and Ann. Eucharistic piety in the Catholic tradition bears some reference to the Blessed Virgin, since it was she who gave Our Lord His body and blood.