

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.

In Memory of: Owen and Mary Sherry

This beautiful window was originally installed during the 1910—1913 pastorate of Rev. John J. Neale in the sanctuary above the altar. It replaced an earlier window known then as The Four Evangelists window. The origins and ultimate fate of that earlier window are lost to history. For years The Last Supper looked over the sanctuary until it was relocated to the front of the church during the pastorate of Rev. John F. X. Quinn. In the new church it has returned to its place of honor above the altar. An interesting fact about this window: Father Neale had the artist insert an image of himself into the window. The “apostle” on the lower right, the only one with short hair, is Father Neale.



During the restoration of this window it was dedicated in memory of Owen and Mary Sherry, in recognition of their generous bequest in support of the reconstruction of St. Michael Church.

Owen Edward and Mary Brenda (Dennehey) Sherry

Owen E. Sherry was born in 1918 in Pawcatuck, son of Owen Sherry and Ellen Mary "Pearl" Sullivan, one of three brothers with the other two being twins, James R. and Maurice F. Sherry. His family is descended from Irish immigrants, James and Bridget (Mohan) Sherry of County Monaghan, Ireland. The Sherrys first settled in the area of Waterford and for generations were quarrymen and stonecutters. They were among the early members of St. Mary, Star of the Sea parish in New London. On April 27, 1946, Owen Sherry married Mary B. Dennehey in St. Mary parish in Stonington. Mary B. Dennehey was born in 1921 in Stonington, daughter of local dentist Owen J. Dennehey and Mary Catherine Donahue. She was descended from Irish immigrants from County Meath and County Tipperary. The Sherrys eventually moved to West Broad Street in Pawcatuck. Mary Sherry died on February 2, 2005 and Owen Sherry died on July 9, 2013. They are buried in the St. Michael New Cemetery, next to their long-time neighbors from West Broad Street, James and Claire (Keane) Spellman. Mary and Owen Sherry had no children but leave a multitude of friends in the community.

An interesting speculation is that Owen Sherry was a relative of Rev. Patrick Sherry, the second pastor of St. Michael's and also a native of County Monaghan, Ireland. Their possible connection is discussed in the story of the window that's dedicated to Father Sherry.