

# 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: Monstrance

The monstrance is a sacred vessel used for the exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament. For centuries the Church has reserved times for quiet prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, in order that we may take the time to reflect on the depths of Our Lord's love for us in giving himself to us completely in the Holy Eucharist, a central mystery of our faith.

## Given in Memory of: Daniel Shea

*A number of Daniel Sheas were in the parish at the time. Research leans toward this being the one on this window. If anyone knows this to be incorrect, please let us know.*

Daniel Shea was born about 1837 in Kildreelig, Ballinskelligs, parish of Prior, County Kerry, Ireland, son of Dennis Shea and Mary Sullivan. On February 24, 1859, in Prior Roman Catholic parish, he married Bridget Casey of Ballinskelligs, daughter of Patrick and Mary Casey. They spent 20 years of their married lives on the rugged coast of Kerry before emigrating.

Dan and Bridget Shea had at least eight children: Mary, Annie, Honoria who died at birth, Honoria "Nora," Bridget, Margaret, James who married Margaret Sullivan, and Patrick Edward Shea. All but Patrick were born in Kildreelig and baptized in Prior Roman Catholic parish, County Kerry.

The Shea family arrived in 1879 and settled in White Rock, near the mills where they worked. Patrick was born in White Rock and baptized in St. Michael's. Later they moved to 4 Prospect Street in Pawcatuck, once again to be near the mills. Of the eight children, James was the only one to marry.

James Shea, the last Shea child born in Ireland before the family emigrated, married Margaret Sullivan in 1901 in St. Michael Church. They were the parents of at least eight children, and five of them entered the religious life. Three became Sisters of Mercy: Ann M. (Sister Maria Joseph), Marcella A. (Sister Mary Robert), and Frances A. (Sister Clement Marie). Both of the sons became priests: Rev. Clement Daniel Shea and Rev. Robert E. Shea. The family lived at 32 Liberty Street, across from the Fire Station.

On July 19, 1914 Daniel Shea died at home. His wife, Bridget Casey, died in 1922. They're buried in St. Michael Old Cemetery with five of their children.

### ***Descendants***

Descendants of this Shea family include the **Shea**, **Casey**, and **Sullivan** families. Dan and Bridget Shea have few descendants, but they were the grandparents of three nuns and two priests. The family also includes day laborers, millworkers, and a foreman and overseer in the American Thread Company.

