



St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Louis Comfort Tiffany Stained Glass Windows

HISTORY

St. Francis Chapel

The St. Francis Chapel was included in the last wing of the Mission Inn completed in 1931. The chapel contains numerous features including: the Rayas alter (featured at the center of the chapel), religious paintings, wood choir stalls and stained-glass windows.

Tiffany Stained Glass Windows

The eight windows featured in the chapel were created in 1906 for the Madison Square Presbyterian Church in New York. However, 13 years later the new owners tore down the church and the windows were returned to their creator Louis Comfort Tiffany. Tiffany had visited the Mission Inn and knew Frank Miller and decided to reach out to Frank and offer to sell the windows at a discounted price.¹

¹ Historic Mission Inn. 1998, p. 95-96



Louis Comfort Tiffany

Louis Comfort Tiffany was “the son of the Charles Lewis Tiffany, founder of Tiffany & Co.”² Louis was a famous artist whose “career spanned from the 1870s to the 1920s”.³ He started as painter and expanded to decorative and interiors arts.⁴ He is most famous for his work with glass⁵, which includes his stained glass windows featured in the St. Francis Chapel.

Stained Glass Windows

The St. Francis Chapel features eight mosaic glass windows. The window panels on the right and left include larger and smaller circles. The larger circles highlight scenes from the bible. The smaller circles placed in the outer edges of the panels represent various months of the year. It includes: “snow scenes, harvest scenes, flowers and fruit”.⁶

Round Window or “Rondel”: Sits at the entrance of the chapel and features translucent glass. The window has the words “Hast Thou Made Them All” inscribed in the middle, with the four seasons featured around the window.⁷

² The Met.

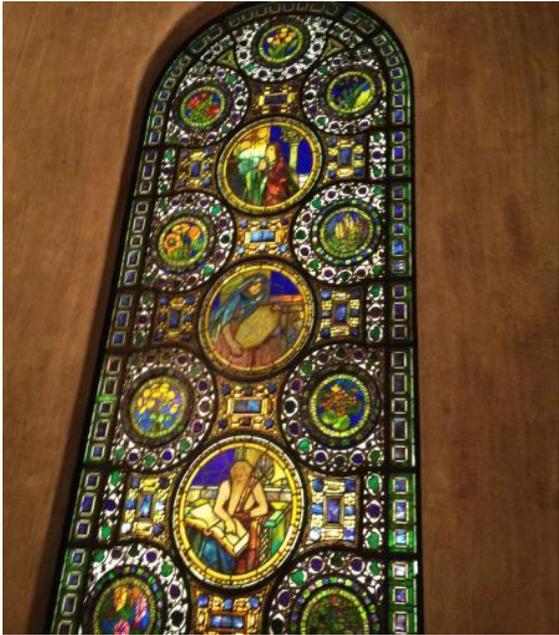
³ The Met.

⁴ The Met.

⁵ The Met.

⁶ Historic Mission Inn. 1998, p. 96

⁷ Riverside’s Mission Inn. Lech.





ACTIVITY

Today we are going to create and decorate our own stained-glass artwork!

Materials:

- 1-sheet of blank paper
- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- String
- Wax paper or transparent paper
- Crayons/ Markers
- Tissue Paper (Optional)

Directions:

1. Print out raincross template on blank sheet of paper.
2. Cut out raincross.



3. Trace raincross onto paper plate.

4. Decorate raincross outline.



5. Cut out raincross outline on paper plate.



6. Trace outline of paper plate onto wax paper.

7. Cut out wax paper outline.
8. Decorate wax paper.
9. Glue wax paper to the back of the paper plate.
10. Punch a hole at the top of the plate.
11. Pull string through hole and tie the two ends of the string.
12. Hang near a window.
13. Share your raincross activity with us!



Raincross Template





Content Resources

If you are interested in learning more history about the International Rotunda and the St. Francis Chapel's stained-glass windows, check out the resources below.

Friends of the Mission Inn. *Historic: Mission Inn*. California: Friends of the Mission Inn, 1998.

Maurice Hodgen. *Master of the Mission Inn, Frank A. Miller, A Life*. South Carolina, 2013.

Steve Lech and Kim Jarrell Johnson. *Images of America: Riverside's Mission Inn*: United States, 2006.