

**THE ROSE WINDOWS OF THE**  
***HOLY SPIRIT AND CREATION***  
*St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Denison, Iowa*



Holy Spirit Window – northern exposure – above the altar.



Creation Window

The beauty of stained glass is how it continually changes its appearance as it chases the sun creeping toward the horizon. An excellent example illustrating this concept is the two rose windows installed by Reinarts Stained Glass

Studios, Winona, MN, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Denison, IA.

Fr. Tim Friedrichsen, Associate Vicar, who along with the Pastor, Fr. Paul Kelly, who serve St. Rose of Lima (and four other parishes), contacted

Reinarts Stained Glass Studios because of his satisfaction with the restoration work done by Reinarts for Father Friedrichsen in years past when he was Pastor at St. Mary's Church in Willey, IA. St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church is



*Holy Spirit Window surrounded by the reflecting Creation Window.*

new construction, and it was a new assignment for Father Friedrichsen.

Correspondence for the request for quote began in February 2010. The contract was awarded to Reinarts Stained Glass Studios in the spring of 2011. The two rose windows were installed in the fall of 2011 over a 24-hour period, thanks to the expertise of Jason and David Petersen and the church's 35' one-man lift.

The rose windows each measure eight feet in diameter. The window above the altar is the *Holy Spirit*, in which the design creatively blends the images of a dove, wind, and fire. The *Creation* rose window design in the Narthex represents separating light and day, darkness and night, and water and dry earth. Both windows were constructed entirely of antique flashed glass manufactured by Hartley Wood of

Sunderland, England, and purchased years ago by William Reinarts, Sr., while in England.

Reinarts primary artist and painter, Steve Miller, spent many hours in conversation with Frs. Friedrichsen and Kelly and some parishioners to turn the imagination and ideas of the parish's stained glass committee into artistic realities of glass and lead. "I saw the creation," said Steve, "as beginning in



*Above: Holy Spirit Window above the altar.*

*Right: Jason Petersen installing one of the Holy Spirit Window panels.*

darkness and chaos and terminating in light.”

Steve said a lot of the credit for the finished windows goes to studio supervisor Kathryn Tweedy’s talent and expertise in selecting and matching the glass colors. Steve related that one of the committee’s concerns was that the southern-exposed *Creation* window would overshadow the northern-exposed *Holy Spirit* window. However, this danger was overcome through skillful glass selection and design.





*Jason Petersen removing label and doing final cleaning.*



*A view of the Narthex with the Creation Window.*

The *Creation* window was installed first. Father Friedrichsen remarked enthusiastically that it was “exquisite.” The donor was extremely excited and happy! She said she couldn’t wait to return from the nursing home the following week to see the *Holy Spirit* window.

Comments from the congregation included, “wow,” “now it looks like a church,” and “the windows fit so well, it seems like they were always there.”

This is just phase one as St. Rose of Lima works on their next capital campaign, which includes completing the stained glass windows in their new church. The *Creation* window design will continue into the tall vertical windows on either side of the rose window providing a contrast/comparison with the creation of the Garden and of man and woman (Genesis 2) in the window on the left (east) to the wonderful landscapes in northwest IA on the right. Within these windows, all the elements

of creation used in the sacraments will be depicted in one or both of these windows: water, wheat, olive trees, and grapevines.

Similarly, the *Holy Spirit* window design will continue into the clerestory windows in the nave of the church, symbolizing the Seven Sacraments on one side of the nave and the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord, on the other.