

Immaculate Conception Church

ST. MARYS, KANSAS 66536

October, 2024

Immaculate Conception Church is considering restoring our stained-glass windows. The Church was built in the 1880's and the stained-glass windows have probably been in place for 100 years or more. To the best of our knowledge, the 1988 window project only included painting the exterior frames and installing the window coverings. Very little, if anything, was done to the windows or the interior frames.

We have been in contact with Hoefer Custom Stained Glass in Hutchinson, KS. Hoefer is the company that installed the stained-glass windows for the Adoration Chapel. In recent years, Hoefer has completed jobs in Alma, Seneca and Topeka. They are currently finishing work at the catholic church in Fort Scott. There are 20 windows to be restored. 19 windows will be removed and transported to Hoefer's shop in Hutchinson. The round window above the front doors will be restored in place. This is a very time intensive job and Hoefer is estimating up to 3 years to complete. The stained-glass windows are beautiful and their preservation should potentially benefit our parish for another 100 years.

The total estimated cost of the stained-glass window restoration project is \$850,000. We currently have approximately \$350,000 available for major projects. We will need commitments of approximately \$500,000 for the Capital Campaign. The Capital Campaign has been approved by the Archdiocese. Your completion of the survey will be greatly appreciated.

Hoefer's process for restoring the stained-glass windows is as follows:

- Stained-glass windows and exterior coverings are removed. The windows are transported to Hoefer's shop in Hutchinson in foam-padded containers. The window openings will be filled with painted OSB boards for a fresh, clean look.
- Exterior glazing and the small nails holding the stained-glass in the wood sash are removed. The stained-glass is removed from the wood sash and laid flat on a table. Each stained-glass panel is photographed.
- The stained-glass is lowered flat into a water wash bay where it will sit for a couple of days to loosen up the old cement. The stained-glass is disassembled under water and each piece is cleaned to remove years of dirt from the interior textures of the glass.
- The stained-glass is removed from the water and placed on a board for the releading process. Any original cracks will be UV glued to keep them original. After the lead work is completed, any adjustments are made before the lead joints are soldered.