

## THE *Roundels* OF SAINT MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH

The twenty-eight roundels in this church were painted by local artist and parishioner Alice Marie Judd. She started with thin pine circles that were about 26" in diameter. After applying a primer, the roundels were painted in acrylic and finished with a protective glaze. Most of the titles given to the roundels are taken from "The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary" also called the "Litany of Loreto". Some of these same titles of Mary are captured in the windows of the old St. Mary Church. Including them in this church ties our history to our present and future. Alice meditated and prayed for our parish while creating these works of art. The average work took 15-20 hours to complete. Each piece contains symbols of the Blessed Virgin Mary but no image of Mary. All the roundels also include an artistic reference to Christ. The checkered border was included at the suggestion of the church architect, James McCrery. He liked the design and thought that the border would give prominence and uniformity to the roundels. The descriptions in this pamphlet will start with the roundel on the left side of the statue of Mary and progress counter-clockwise around the church.



## AUXILIUM CHRISTIANORUM - HELP OF CHRISTIANS



This roundel was given a prominent place in the front of the church because our parish is named after St. Mary Help of Christians. This title of Mary was added to The Litany of the Blessed Virgin by Pope Pius V after early Christians prayed the Rosary during an important battle and the outcome was favorable. The day of the victory was October 7<sup>th</sup>, now the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The crown in the center of the circle represents Mary. You will see eight other roundels with crowns indicating that Mary is our queen. Behind this crown are a sword and a scepter. The scepter signifies royalty, authority and might. The sword signifies strength in battle. Help of Christians, pray for us.

## REGINA ANGELORUM - QUEEN OF ANGELS



This roundel shows a traditional European crown that contains five red jewels for the wounds of Christ. Several other roundels will contain red jewels for the wounds of Christ also. The letter "M" is for Mary. On either side of the crown are angels. These are replicas of the angels on the inside of the tabernacle in our church. Our tabernacle is about 145 years old and came out of a closed church in Belgium. Queen of Angels, pray for us.

## B.V.M. DE GUADALUPE - BLESSED VIRGIN MARY OF GUADALUPE



The colors and images of this roundel are influenced by the image of Mary given to St. Juan Diego. In the original image, Mary is standing on a crescent moon. Mary's shawl is draped over a crescent moon here. The turquoise color of her outer shawl is an Aztec symbol for a princess or royalty. The red portion of her robe reflects the blood of Christ. A beam of light radiates from this interpretation because Mary leads us to Jesus. The three roses represent the Trinity and also the miraculous, colorful roses native only to Spain that San Juan brought to his Bishop as a sign of Mary's apparition. Blessed Virgin Mary of Guadalupe, pray for us.

## IMMACULATA CONCEPTIO - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Mary was conceived without original sin. Depicted here is the image of Mary that was seen by St. Catherine Laboure in a vision and was later placed on the back of the Miraculous Medal. The cross represents the sacrifice Christ endured for our salvation, while the bar under the cross stands for the earth. The “M” stands for Mary and her true devotion to her children on earth. Twelve stars are seen for the apostles that started the first church. The two hearts are the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Flames arise from each heart depicting the great love they have for us. Immaculate Conception, pray for us.

## FOEDERIS ARCA - ARK OF THE COVENANT



Mary is the Ark of the new covenant because she carried Christ and gave birth to Him. The original Ark had two kneeling cherubim on the top whose wings folded back to form a seat. That Ark was built to hold the holiest of items – the tablets of the Ten Commandments, the rod of Aaron and a jar of manna. God gave Moses explicit directions on how to build the Ark. Mary delivered the holiest child and she gives us explicit directions to “do whatever He tells you.” Ark of the Covenant, pray for us.

## DOMUS AUREA - HOUSE OF GOLD



Recognize this building? It is based on the blue prints of our church. It is painted flat to make it look like a blueprint. This was the first roundel to be completed. The word "house" often refers to the soul. Gold is a precious metal of great strength, beautiful appearance, and of high value and importance. A golden house than is a fitting image for Mary's spiritual qualities and for her beautiful soul. The door of this gold house depicts a cross. Mary always wants us to carry our cross and follow her Son. House of Gold, pray for us.

## COR IMMACULATUM - IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



The purity of Mary is portrayed by the crown of white roses around her heart. Simeon prophesied that Mary's heart would be pierced by a sword. Her heart shines and is on fire for Christ. Her light leads us to Him. The lily represents purity also and the three flowers represent the Trinity. Mary was born without original sin and she bore the suffering of her Son, Jesus. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.



## SEDES SAPIENTIAE - SEAT OF WISDOM



Mary was “blessed among women” to become the mother of Jesus – the Eternal Wisdom of the Father. The word “seat” can mean temple or throne. Since Jesus lived in Mary’s womb for nine months, she was His temple. When Mary held her small boy on her lap, she was His throne. The bench in this roundel represents Mary as the “seat” (temple or throne). On the bench is pictured a bible from which we gain wisdom to live by. Jesus told us in Scripture that He is the Alpha and the Omega – the beginning and the end. Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

## FONS GRATIA - FONT OF GRACE



A simple Romanesque fountain depicts Mary as the vessel or special instrument that gave birth to Jesus, “the living water.” The water here is active, flowing, dripping – it has life. The water is also pure white because the waters of Baptism wash away original sin. We pray, “Hail, Mary, full of Grace.” Prayers to Mary help us to open our lives to the Grace of God so that we can say “yes” to His will like she did. Thus our lives can become a reflective pool of Jesus. Font of Grace, pray for us.

## STELLA MARIS - STAR OF THE SEA



The star on this roundel is made in the likeness of a compass star. Mary provides us direction. She always points the way to Jesus – thus the center of the star forms a cross. The circle around the star represents God's everlasting nature and love. The star is positioned over turbulent seas. Mary guides us during rough times. Star of the Sea, pray for us.

## REGINA PACIS - QUEEN OF PEACE



Mary is symbolized by a crown with Fleur-de-lis accents. Fleur-de-lis means “flower lily.” Mary is like a pure, white lily. Several other roundels will reveal Fleur-de-lis in the crowns of Mary. The dove and the olive branch are both common symbols of peace. The dove is descending upon us like God’s peace. In 1917 Pope Benedict XV added the avocation “Queen of Peace” to the Litany of Loreto. Queen of Peace, pray for us.

## MATER ECCLESIAE - MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



Mary, being the mother of Jesus, gave birth to the church. Jesus, along with His early followers, were “mothered” by Mary. A ship was a symbol of the church for early believers. It is the vessel that takes us on a journey through rough and quiet waters – carrying us safely to our destination – eternal life with God. This ship has the Jerusalem Cross on one of the three sails that represent the Trinity. The four flags symbolize Christ’s word travelling to the four corners of the world and, being red, they remind us that Christ shed His blood for us. Mother of the Church, pray for us.

## SPECULUM JUSTITIAE - MIRROR OF JUSTICE



A scale is used here to represent justice. In the center of the scale is a mirror that symbolizes Mary. Mary perfectly reflected all the virtues of her Son, Jesus – two important ones being charity and mercy which together bring about true justice. That is why instead of seeing Mary's face in the mirror, you see the Lamb of God. Thru the spotless goodness of Mary, the perfect image of Jesus is reflected. Mirror of Justice, pray for us.

## R. APOSTOLORUM - QUEEN OF APOSTLES



The “M” stands for Mary and includes a cross in the center. There are twelve stars representing the apostles; eleven stars are red for the martyred apostles and one is white for St. John. He was the only apostle to die a natural death. His star is closest to the cross because he was the only apostle at the foot of the cross during Christ’s crucifixion. The placement of his star also reflects John’s seat at the last supper. This “beloved apostle” sat at the right hand of Jesus. Queen of Apostles, pray for us.

## STELLA MATUTINA - MORNING STAR



This roundel contains an eight pointed star referring to the Resurrection of Jesus. Early believers called the Resurrection the Eighth day – a new day. The colors reflect the light of a morning sunrise/Sonrise. We are all waiting in anticipation for Him. He is coming and Mary is the light which leads us to Him. Morning Star, pray for us.



## TURRIS DAVIDICA - TOWER OF DAVID



This strong fortress is marked with the Star of David. The Tower of David was used to store battle weapons. Mary is our strong fortress and our tower of defense against the evils of this world. She gives us armor and strong weapons for our earthly battles. Through her we find safety in the arms of Jesus. Tower of David, pray for us.

## ROSA MYSTICA - MYSTICAL ROSE



The rose is one of the most beautiful of all the flowers and a symbol of purity. The red rose reminds us of the blood of Christ, sacrificed for our sins. The five leaves represent the five wounds of Christ. Mary is the most beautiful of all women and favored by God. St. Brigid said, "The Virgin may suitably be called a blooming rose. Just as the gentle rose is placed among thorns, so this Virgin was surrounded by sorrow." Mystical Rose, pray for us.

## REGINA SS ROSARII - QUEEN OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY



The beads of the rosary form a five petal rose. Mary is given a special crown of roses. The white pearls of the rosary reflect the purity of Mary. Tradition holds that Our Lady gave the rosary to St. Dominic in 1206. Since then it has been one of the most popular devotions in the church. The rosary opens a treasury of graces to us. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.

## MATER DOLOROSA - SORROWFUL MOTHER



There are seven swords into the heart of Mary representing the seven deadly sins. Her heart is on fire with love for us and our sins wound her. Her heart emanates light to help us find Jesus. She is sorrowful because our sins distance us from her Son and they caused Him to suffer and die. Sorrowful Mother, pray for us.

## REGINA SS OMNIUM - QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS



The Saints are depicted as wheat that has grown strong by being rooted in Mary. Through her intercession, they reach out to the world to feed others with their love of Christ. Wheat causes people to flourish. There are seven stalks of wheat. The number seven in Scripture indicates completion. The lives of the Saints help God complete His plan of Salvation. Queen of All Saints, pray for us.

## R. MARTYRUM - QUEEN OF MARTYRS



Palms are a Christian symbol for martyrs. This title of “Queen of Martyrs” remembers Mary as a witness to the passion and death of her Son. She was God’s living martyr when the sorrow at the foot of the Cross pierced her heart. Mary is Queen of Martyrs because her suffering was greater than all the Martyrs. Queen of Martyrs, pray for us.

## REFUGIUM PECCATORUM - REFUGE OF SINNERS



The anchor, like the symbol of a fish, was an early symbol of Christianity. This anchor has a cross built into its shape because Christ is our anchor. As we place our hope and trust in Jesus, our lives are more grounded in faith. The rope on this roundel is an instrument of safety – a source of connectedness. Mary is in the center of the anchor and the rope is all around her for she also is an instrument of safety and connects us to Jesus. Refuge of Sinners, pray for us.

## TURRIS EBURNEA - TOWER OF IVORY



Unlike the Tower of David which was built to store weapons for battle and serve as a fortress, this tower was built to be a thing of beauty and ornament. Mary's purity and goodness are represented by a beautiful ivory tower. What adds to her beauty is her humility and willingness to follow God's plan for her life. Love of Mary always leads us right to her Son. Tower of Ivory, pray for us.



## S.A VIRGO VIRGINUM - MOST HOLY VIRGIN OF VIRGINS



The lily represents the purity of a virgin. Mary is the purest of all virgins. This roundel is positioned by the statue of St. Joseph because he is her spouse and the protector of the Holy Family. St. Joseph is usually depicted holding a lily or a walking stick with a lily sprouting from it. There are three lilies here as symbols of the three persons in the Blessed Trinity. Most Holy Virgin of Virgins, pray for us.

## REGINA FAMILIA - QUEEN OF THE FAMILY



The family tree was used here to represent all human families and our Christian family. The initials, "JM", are at the base of the tree and are part of the root system. Jesus, Mary and Joseph make up the Holy Family and are a great source of strength for all families. They root us deep in the ground of faith, hope and love. Our love for others and for God should never be stagnant. It should continue to grow and become more alive as we spread our arms out in service of others. Queen of the Family, pray for us.

## MATER EUCHARISTIAE - MOTHER OF THE EUCHARIST



The monstrance here is patterned after the one being used in our new church. Red was painted around the center to represent the blood of Christ. The actual monstrance has a blue inner ring. Beams of light are emanating from the Eucharist center. This roundel was purposely positioned in the sanctuary near the altar where common bread and wine are transformed into the precious Body and Blood of our Risen Savior. Mother of the Eucharist, pray for us.

## JANUA CAELI - GATE OF HEAVEN



Romanesque columns, representing Mary, form an archway portal or gate toward Christ. The Greek letters for Christ are, "IHS." Sunbeams radiate from "IHS" signifying the light of Christ. The purple path through the portal accents the importance of living a humble, repentant life during one's journey to Christ and heaven. Gate of Heaven, pray for us.

## SS NOMEN MARIAE - MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY



The central design on this roundel actually contains the letters M-A-R-I-A and a Cross. The feast day honoring the Most Holy Name of Mary is on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The entry in the Roman Martyrology about the feast speaks of it in the following terms: "The Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a day on which the inexpressible love of the Mother of God for her Holy Child is recalled, and the eyes of the faithful are directed to the figure of the Mother of the Redeemer, for them to invoke with devotion." Most Holy Name of Mary, pray for us.

## About the Artist

Alice Marie Judd has been a parishioner of St. Mary Help of Christians Church for fourteen years. She studied communications and art at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, OR. Over the last 25 years she has dabbled in many different mediums of art but sacred art is her passion. Alice lives in Aiken, South Carolina with her loving husband Derron. They have six children; Megan, Emmy, Patrick, Nicholas, Brendan and Lilly Marie.

### Photographer

Heartfelt thanks to parishioner, Scott Webster,  
for sharing his time and talent to photograph  
all of the roundels.

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