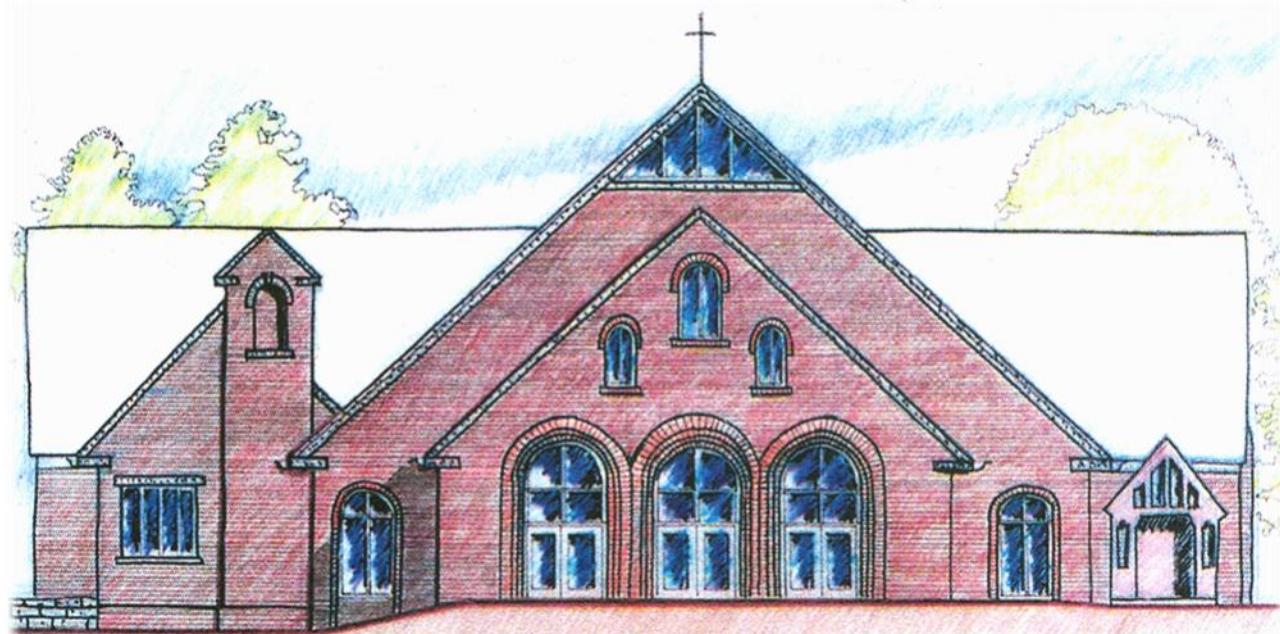


# DEDICATION OF THE GUARDIAN ANGEL WINDOW

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2021



Rev. Samuel Giese  
Pastor

*St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church*  
9601 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-1795

REV. SAMUEL C. GIESE, Pastor ♦ REV. JEREMY W. HAMMOND, Parochial Vicar

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## Angels

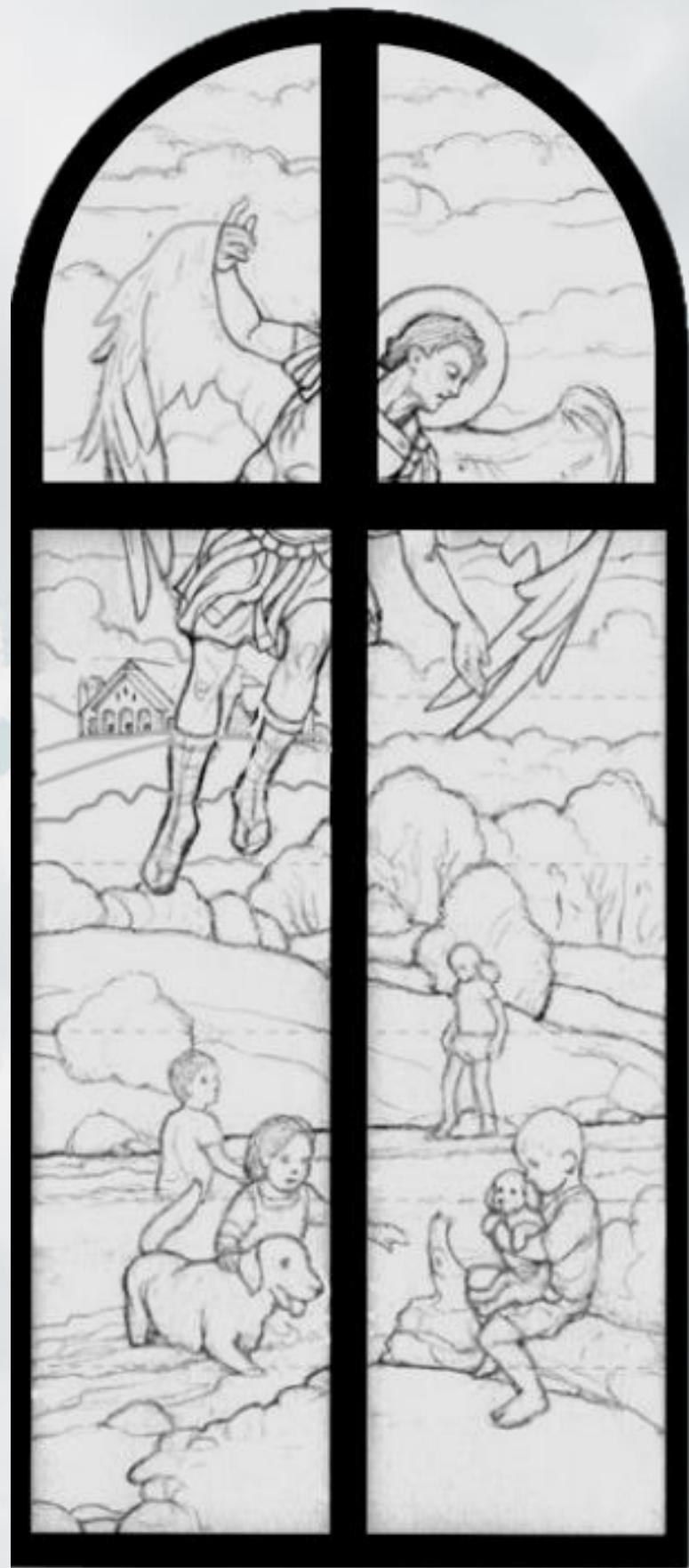
Angels are purely spiritual beings created by God. Belief in angels is Catholic dogma. Angels are heavenly residents who carry out the will of God which, at times, may mean bearing messages to and assisting human beings in different ways.

## Guardian Angel

A heavenly spirit assigned by God to watch over each of us during our lives. The doctrine of angels is part of the Church's tradition. The role of the guardian angel is both to guide us to good thoughts, works and words, and to preserve us from evil.

The guardian angel watches over us day and night and gives us love and virtue, strength and peace. The angel also removes from us sadness and discouragement and enables us to be people who are free and filled with holy joy. The guardian angel offers to God our good works and prayers and guides us on the way of interior conversion to God. At the moment of our passing from this life the guardian angel accompanies us to the Kingdom of God.

Since the 17th century the Church has celebrated a feast honoring Guardian Angels in October throughout the Universal Church. Since the last calendar revision this feast is October 2nd.



## **Guardian Angel Prayer**

Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
To whom God's love commits me here,  
    Ever this day, be at my side,  
To light, to guard, to rule, and guide.

Amen

## **Guardian Angel Prayer for Friends**

Guardian Angel,  
watch over those whose names you can read in my heart.  
    Guard over them with every care  
and make their way easy and their labors fruitful.  
    Dry their tears if they weep;  
    sanctify their joys;  
    raise their courage if they weaken;  
    restore their hope if they lose heart,  
    their health if they be ill,  
    truth if they err,  
    repentance if they fail.



## Scripture Passages on Guardian Angels

### **Psalm 34:7**

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

### **Psalm 91:11**

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

### **Matthew 18:10**

See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

## The Guardian Angel Window

The new window in the children's quiet room depicts an angel and a group of adventurous parish children making their way over a log that has fallen across a nearby stream. The angel is there to protect them and watches vigilantly over the group. St. Jane de Chantal Church can be seen in the upper left of the window. While there is no stream crossing the property, the image conveys the role of the Guardian Angel in Catholic belief and tradition, particularly in their role as protector of children. According to Catholic understanding, angels are spirits created by God, who interact with human beings to guide, inspire, and, at times, to protect.



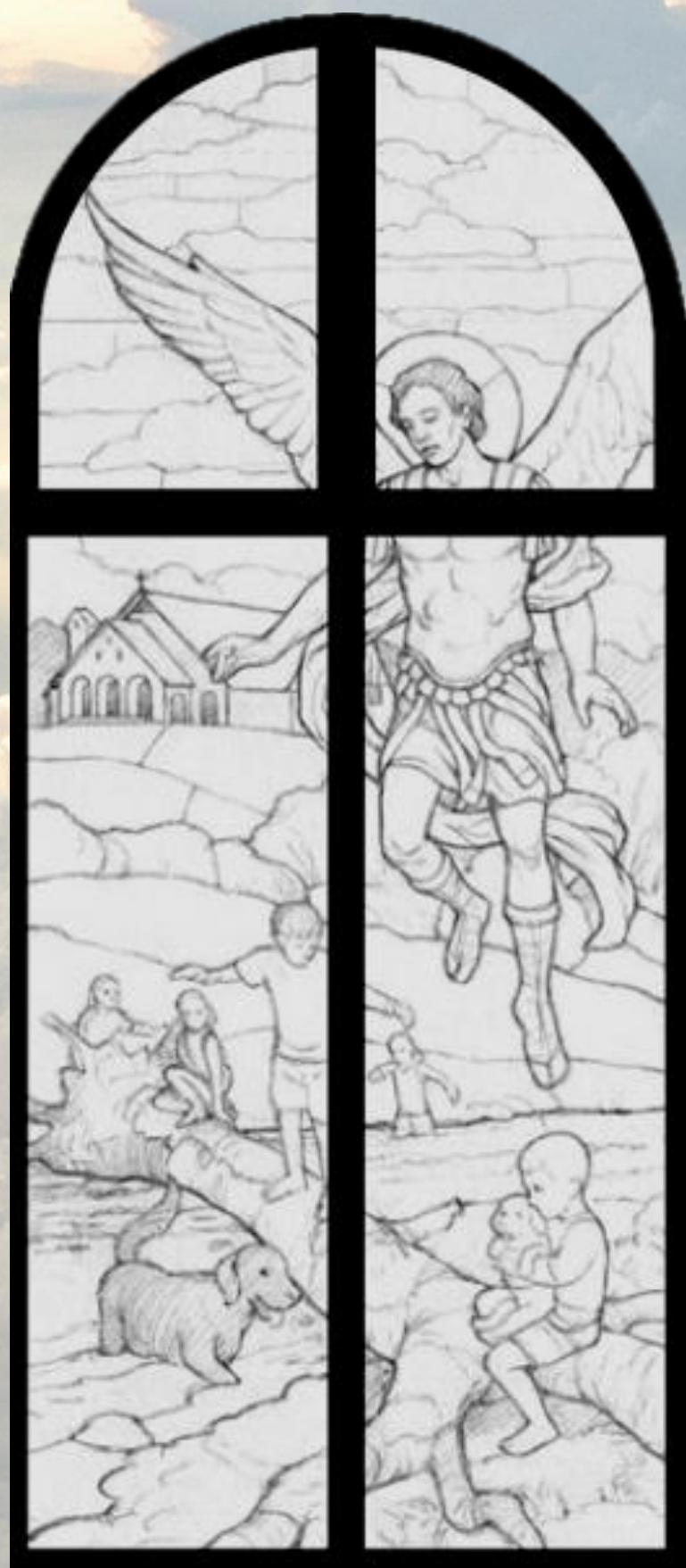
Bethesda, MD  
St. Jane de Chantal

12 in.

## Who are the dogs in the Guardian Angel Window?

**DUKE** – The Black Labrador retriever depicted in the window is Duke, the mascot of our parish school. Labrador Retrievers are large, friendly dogs, known to be strong swimmers. So, it is natural that Duke should make his way through the water while accompanying the children as they make their way over the log that has fallen across the stream. Labrador Retrievers are known to be gentle, brave, strong, and very faithful. A statue of Duke greets the children, teachers, and guests just inside the front door of the school. It is most appropriate that Duke should be present in the window as Since he is present to the children while they are at school each day, it is appropriate that he appear with them in the window too.

**ROMEO** – When the pastor, Fr. Samuel Giese, moved his mother, at the age of eighty-nine, to neighboring Maplewood she came on the condition that she could bring with her, Romeo, a small white Poodle who had come to her home one day many years before as a stray. No longer able to walk Romeo herself, children from the parish school volunteered to walk him at different times of the day, carrying him through the hallways of the Maplewood until they reached the grassy grounds of the church. Romeo loved to be carried and held and became a favorite of the children. His presence in the window is a reminder of their volunteer spirit and charity.



## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Chris and Shannon Patterson and their family for making the Guardian Angel window a lasting gift to the children and parishioners of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish both now and for generations to come. Their support to the Forever De Chantal campaign, along with the generous gifts of so many other parishioners, will allow St. Jane de Chantal parish and school to continue to grow and build on the efforts and sacrifices of the parishioners who came before us and keep it as the “Heart of Bethesda.”

Fr. Samuel Giese  
Pastor



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