

Saint Paul: We are still looking up at the windows on the north side of our church. Donated in memory of Florence and Rudy Franken by Patricia, Elaine, and Paul, our seventh window depicts one of the most important saints in Church history. On the road to Damascus to arrest some Christians and return them to Jerusalem, Paul saw a light flashing, fell to the ground, and heard a voice asking, “Why are you persecuting me?” It was Jesus. Paul became a follower of Jesus and spread the gospel to many lands. He wrote epistles (letters) to Christians in cities such as Rome, Ephesus, and Corinth. Paul’s writings form an important part of the Lectionary, the biblical readings used in the liturgy.

Our Paul grasps in his left hand a sword; tradition holds that Paul was beheaded in Rome. The sword symbolizes both Paul’s death and his victory over that same death. Around his feet we see green leaves, perhaps suggesting Paul’s importance in nurturing the young plants of the new Christian Church. In his right hand, Saint Paul holds a scroll, reminding us of his many letters that we still hear proclaimed at Mass. Saint Paul shares a feast day with Saint Peter, on June 29.

