

St. Stephen, Martyr: Now let us look at the middle window; it portrays Saint Stephen, the first Christian to die for the faith. Stephen holds a rock in his hands because he was stoned to death. It may seem odd to see a saint holding the instrument of his own destruction, but keep in mind that the instrument was also what took Stephen to his glory in heaven. You may read about Stephen in Acts, Chapters 6 and 7. After he preached strong words to the people, some in authority turned against Stephen: “As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them’; and when he said this, he fell asleep” (Acts 7:59-60). Our Stephen wears the vestments of a deacon and holds the traditional martyr’s palm. In ancient times, the picture of a palm on a tomb meant that a martyr was buried there; artists continue to depict martyred saints holding the palm. This window was donated “in gratitude for God’s blessings and love” by Ralph, Sue, Chaz, Brittny, and Gianna Rendano.

