



St John Vianney: Donated by the Skrobola family “in gratitude for God’s blessings,” the Saint John Vianney Window depicts a remarkable man who lived in France from 1786 to 1859. Though attracted to the priesthood, John was not a very good student, try as he might to apply himself to his studies. A bureaucratic error led to his being drafted into the army. Although he left the army without permission, he was able to return home when Napoleon granted amnesty to deserters. Now enrolled in a seminary, he still had difficulty learning what he needed to learn. Thanks to the help of the Abbé Balley, a priest who believed John’s goodness was more important than his aptitude for his studies, John was ordained in 1815. Our artist has made sure that John Vianney is wearing a stole, customarily worn by priests when hearing confessions. Why? Because John Vianney was a great confessor. In winter he often spent an incredible eleven to twelve hours each day hearing confessions; in the summer, he increased his time in the confessional to sixteen hours! St. John Vianney had this to say about the liturgy: “Private prayer is like straw scattered here and there: if you set it on fire it makes a lot of little flames. But gather these straws into a bundle and light them, and you get a mighty fire, rising like a column into the sky; public prayer is like that.” Known to many as the *Curé d’Ars* (the priest of Ars), John Vianney shows us that even those who are not scholars have an important role in the kingdom of God. His feast is on August 4. Pope Pius XI declared him the patron saint of parish priests