

**Saint Thomas Aquinas:** The Saint Thomas Aquinas Window was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Defino in memory of Michael and Catherine Defino. A brilliant and dedicated priest and monk, Thomas Aquinas was born in 1226. Although his family opposed his decision and found many ways to oppose his move, Thomas entered the Dominican order. At Cologne, Germany he studied with St. Albert the Great. Labeled the “dumb ox” because of his large dimensions and his quiet demeanor (“dumb” here means “mute”), Thomas became a teacher when he was twenty-two, as well as a writer of theological works. Thomas engaged in further studies at the University of Paris and earned his doctorate when he was thirty-one. A great preacher and writer, Thomas Aquinas synthesized the newly discovered writings of Aristotle with Christian theology. He is famous for his five proofs for the existence of God that he believed we could arrive at through reason. Thomas concluded that, though we need divine revelation in order to learn about many Christian beliefs, those beliefs are not contrary to reason. A highly influential theologian and philosopher, Thomas Aquinas was a prolific writer whose great work, the *Summa Theologica*, remains unfinished. Many of his hymns and prayers are still used today, both in the original Latin and in translation. Our Thomas Aquinas, a stocky man, is dressed in the Dominican habit, with a rosary hanging from his left arm. The book he holds in his left hand has a cross on its cover, suggesting that it is a Bible. In his right hand, Thomas holds a quill pen, symbolizing his many writings. A blazing sun with a face adorns his chest. When he recommended Thomas as “the universal Doctor of the Church,” Pope Leo XIII stated that “like the sun, he heated the world with the warmth of his virtues and filled it with the splendor of his teaching.” We celebrate the feast day of this great Doctor of the Church, also known as the Angelic Doctor, on January 28.



