

ST. MARY AND ST. MARTHA WINDOW

Our Lord Jesus Christ frequented the home of Martha, her sister Mary, and her brother Lazarus. As our Lord's friends in Bethany, they took loving care of Him. We should ask God to help us unite the work ethic of Martha with Mary's contemplation. In this way, we will achieve a unity of life in which we always stay close to the Lord.

<p>JERUSALEM CROSS</p>	<p>In the past known as the Crusaders' Cross, it is a heraldic cross of Christian symbolism. The simple cross in the center is surrounded by four smaller crosses said to symbolize either the four books of the Gospel or the four directions in which the Word of Christ spread from Jerusalem.</p> <p><i>Members of the Community of the Transfiguration provided additional background regarding the Jerusalem Cross: When Mother Eva chose it to be the Community's emblem it was the missionary cross. The large cross in the middle represented Christ and the four smaller crosses around it as the Church going out into the four corners of the world. Today, it is being called the Evangelists' Cross. The large cross is the Good News of Christ and the four smaller ones represent the four Evangelists. Like them we are to carry the Good News out into the world. Similar to the first, but with a slightly different emphasis as it puts a more personal responsibility on it..</i></p>
<p>CHERRY TREE</p>	<p>The sweet fruit symbolizes the sweetness of character which is derived from good works. It is a symbol for the good works of Martha and the goodness of her nature.</p>
<p>ROCK ROSE</p>	<p>A resinous gum sometimes called "myrrh" is Ladanum, which comes from the rock rose. The fragrant droplets were collected during the heat of the day from this bushy little plant. This is the myrrh of Genesis. It was used in medicine as well as perfume.</p>
<p>PANSY</p>	<p>The pansy is the symbol for remembrance and meditation and therefore a symbol for Mary who led a contemplative life.</p>
<p>CAT</p>	<p>The cat, because of its habits, was taken as a symbol of laziness. It is depicted here as a symbol of Martha's interpretation of the contemplation of Mary while listening to the our Lord's words. The cat is also peaceful and domestic.</p>
<p>FLASK</p>	<p>Symbol for Mary of Bethany, who washed Jesus' feet with myrrh.</p>
<p>BROOM AND KEYS</p>	<p>Are a symbol for Martha as keeper of the home and simple server not only to the worthy but to the hungry as well.</p>

ACACIA TREE	This tree is the symbol for formality and for feeding of the soul.
MARTHA	While Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to Him. She was encumbered by many things, had a sister named Mary, who sat at his feet, listening to the master's discourse, instead of helping with the preparations to be made for dinner. "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."
MARY	Mary, "the wished for child," "bitter," or "rebellious." She is described as living in the village of Bethany near Jerusalem. Sister to Mary and Lazarus.
JESUS	Jesus was quite often a welcomed visitor to the home of Martha, Mary, and their brother, Lazarus.

PRAYER OF ST. MARTHA

Pray for us that we might serve Jesus better. Help us to overcome our distractions and worries to listen to His words and be present to Him this day. *Amen*