



CHURCH

In Christian symbolism the church means the House of God. It may also be used to signify the Body of Christ. Sometimes the church is alluded to as the Ark, and in this sense means the salvation of all its members.

This particular church may be patterned after the original design for St. Michael's in the Hills. A bell tower was included in the first plan. If that is removed, this could be the initial structure. The Sunday School Class Wing was added later.

CROSS AND CROWN

The Cross and crown symbolize the reward of the faithful in the life after death to those who believe in the crucified Savior.

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2: 10)



CROSS	ANCHOR	HEART	SWORD
CHRIST	HOPE	LOVE	MARTYRDOM

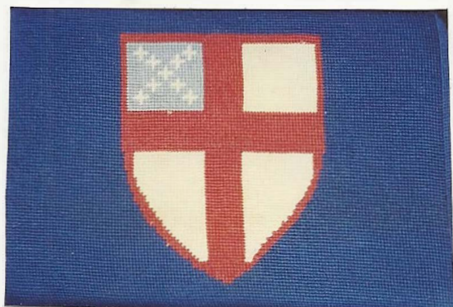
The Cross is the symbol of Christ because of His sacrifice upon the cross. The cross has become the mark or sign of the Christian religion, the emblem of atonement, and the symbol of salvation and redemption through Christianity.

The anchor is the Christian symbol for hope and steadfastness. The symbol was frequently used in this sense in the catacombs of ancient Rome, and was carved in old Christian gems.

The heart was considered to be the source of understanding, love, courage, devotion, sorrow and joy.

The sword is used as an attribute of numerous saints who suffered martyrdom at the sword's edge.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH EMBLEM



EPISCOPAL CHURCH FLAG



The emblem is described in technical heraldic language as: Argent a cross gules the first quarter azure charged with nine cross-crosslets in saltire and also azure.

In non-technical language it is the shield of St. George, patron saint of England (a red cross on a silver field), indicating our descent from the Church of England. When the Church of England refused to consecrate a Bishop elected by the American church, Samuel Seabury went to Scotland to be Consecrated. Bishop Seabury was consecrated at Aberdeen in 1784. The Saint Andrew's cross in outline recalls our indebtedness to the Scottish Church. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. His emblem is the saltire, or X-shaped cross on a blue field.

The nine cross-crosslets symbolize the nine original dioceses and are arranged to give the impression of the X-shaped cross.

The emblem was adopted at the General Convention of 1940.



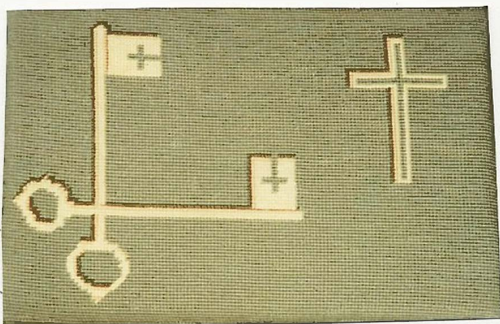
FISH, CANDLE, AND CROSS

A single fish represents the Saviour, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. In Matthew 4: 19 the beginnings of the development of the symbol can be seen: "And He said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men!'"

The symbol of the candle, or shining light, is based upon the Apocalypse, something viewed as a prophetic revelation (Revelation 2).

The Greek cross is used to suggest the Church of Christ.

The three symbols are combined together to form a triangle. Each side of the triangle represents a "Person" of the Godhead. One line represents the Father, another the Son, and the third the Holy Spirit.



KEYS WITH LATIN CROSS

"The power of the keys," and "the office of the keys" are metaphorical terms when used symbolically. The key of a house either admits or excludes a person. Therefore the two keys saltire represent the locking, with one key, of the door on sinners who do not repent; and the opening of the door, by means of the other, to those penitent ones who desire absolution. Its appropriateness comes from our Saviour's words to Peter and later on to all the Apostles, that He would establish His Church and give unto them the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

LAMP WITH FLAME

The lamp, because of the light it sheds, is used as a symbol of wisdom and piety. The Bible describes the Word of God as a lamp unto the faithful: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." (Psalm 119: 105)

In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, a lighted lamp is used to indicate the wise ones. (Matthew 25: 1 - 13)



THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The lighted candle suggests our Lord's words, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8: 12)

Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, are seen on the candle. They signify that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things. They are a symbol of Christ.



LOAVES AND FISHES

This design recalls the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand with "but five loaves and two fishes" (Matthew 14: 15 - 21).

At the top is a variation of the form of the Chi Rho, an abbreviation for the word Christ, taken from the first two Greek letters of the word.

MITRE

The mitre is a liturgical hat worn by Bishops and is a symbol of their authority. The mitre in Greek was a cord or band that went around the head and tied in a bowknot in back, rather like today's sweatbands. In fact, it was originally worn by Greek athletes at the Olympics to keep the sweat out of their eyes. The mitre in modern form is a tall head-dress, its outline resembling a pointed arch. The two horns of the mitre are an allusion to the rays of light that issued from the head of Moses when he received the Ten Commandments. They are also symbolic of the Old and New Testaments. Attached to the back of the mitre, and falling over the shoulders of the wearer, are two flaps which are symbolic of the spirit and the letter of the Testaments.



SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLESTICK

The number seven is regarded as the perfect number, as it is the total of four and three. Four is a "man number," referring to the seasons of the year and the corners of the earth. Three is a "God number," everlastingly associated with the Blessed Trinity.

A seven-branched candlestick on each side of the altar may be said to refer to the perfect life of Jesus. But the seven lights on the candelabrum symbolize mainly the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isiah 11: 2) and the seven churches (Revelation 1: 20).

The Jews call this candlestick a Menorah.

SHIELD OF THE BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO



The symbols in this shield relate to the office and duties of a Bishop. A Bishop (Greek for overseer) is a clergyman of the highest of the three orders of the ministry (bishops, priests, and deacons). He is to preside over his diocese, consecrate other bishops, ordain to the ministry, administer confirmation, consecrate church buildings, and administer ecclesiastical discipline. Bishops are successors of the apostles.

Wheat and grapes on the shield symbolize the bread and wine in Eucharist. The mitre is the headpiece worn by a bishop, representing the cloven tongues of fire which lighted on the heads of the apostles at Pentecost. The crosier (or crozier) is the bishop's pastoral staff, a symbol of his leadership and pastoral authority. The key represents the power to bind and absolve, symbolical of the spiritual authority of the Church. (Matthew 18: 18)

STAR OF DAVID or CREATOR'S STAR

The six-pointed Star of David is accepted as the Jewish symbol.

It is also known as the Creator's Star. In six days He created heaven and earth. It is an ancient emblem of God the Father, with the sixfold attributes of the Deity: Power, Wisdom, Majesty, Love, Mercy, Justice.

That He is a Triune God is symbolized by the fact that this star is made of two interlaced triangles, emblems of the Holy Trinity.





THREE CANDLES

Candles symbolize Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

"Then spake Jesus again unto them (the scribes and Pharisees), saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
(John 8: 12)

Three refers to the Holy Trinity: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

THREE CROWNS

The crown is a symbol of victory and sovereignty.

The three wise men were directed to Bethlehem by a star. They worshipped the Christ Child and offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
(Matthew 2: 1-12)

Three crowns are used as emblems by several saints...

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 13th century, is said to have found solace throughout her life by faith, prayer and ministering to the unfortunate. Three gold crowns on a brown field refer to her as a virgin, wife, and widow.

St. Etheldreda, 7th century, was an abbess of a monastery for men and women at Ely. Her faith and charity are said to have been exemplary. Her emblem is three gold crowns on a red field.



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