ST. ADALBERT'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Definitions of Relevant Terms

Location: St. Adalbert's Catholic Church
Window: N/A
Panels: N/A
Date: 12/15/23
Conservators:
Gabe Goertz, Abby Meyer, Christina Sieben, Nico Villarreal, Nathan Walz

Relevant Terms for Stained Glass Conservation

Planar Deflection: buckling, bowing, bulging of glass; indicates failure of lead channels
Minor: <1" of deflection over 12" (linear distance) of glass—should be recorded
Moderate: 1"-2" of deflection over 12" of glass—carefully monitor glass
Severe: >3" of deflection over 12" of glass—take action ASAP

Glass Health: Generally, glass failure in windows younger than several centuries is due to mechanical stress or accidents causing damages, not chemical degradation of the glass (e.g. growth of the gel layer from exposure to air pollution).

Crack: A well-defined separation between two sections of a single piece of glass.

Hole: A vacancy in the window, where glass is not present.

Fissure: A spidery network of small cracks in the glass.

Surface Accretions: Describes any unwanted "stuff" that accumulates on the surface of the glass. Accretions should be removed according to the specific type of accretion, and done as gently as possible. Consult with a conservator before using any harsh mechanical or chemical methods of removal.

Surface Dirt: Dirt or dust on the surface of the glass—generally giving the false appearance of texture, especially on untextured "cathedral" glass.

Putty: May be present on glass surfaces as a result of prior conservation efforts.

Decorator's Paint: May be found on windows if proper precautions are not taken during repainting of window frames.

Tape Residue: A residue was found on the glass of several windows, which appeared to match the adhesive from small pieces of clear tape.

Matrix: The matrix, usually made of lead, is between each individual piece of glass and holds the glass together, along with the auxiliary support structures.

Support Bars: Thicker, (usually) straight metal bars between each panel of glass—driven into the larger structure to alleviate forces caused by the weight of the glass. Failure of support bars can lead to severe deflection at the bottom of a window. (n.b.: Curved support bars are susceptible to deflection.)

Deteriorating/Flaking Support Bars: Several support bars in the windows have chunks missing out of them, which may or may not have attempted repairs with putty.