



## O'BRIEN STAINED GLASS CO., INC.

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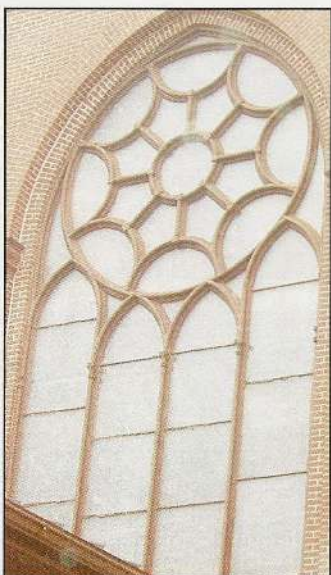


### STAINED GLASS RESTORATION

**Before**

St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye, MN

**After**



The lattice work of four Gothic lancets rise up shoulder to shoulder to cradle the rose window with the eight pointed star.

The picture on the right shows the rebuilt stained glass window with all woodwork preserved and protected. The "brick to brick" 1/4" clear storm glass protects it all.

The picture on the left shows how the old style storm glass with decades of accumulated grit hides the stained glass. Most observers could not see the deterioration that was occurring high up.



To the left is a view of some of the woodwork that was in the most deteriorized condition (1/3 actual size).

The old storm covering was removed. The wood frame received extensive preparation, reinforcement, and repair before applying two coats of Sherwin Williams Duration latex paint.

At right is a closeup view of one of the panels. It has been removed from the frame and brought to the shop to be taken apart, cleaned, and rebuilt with new lead. The accumulation of dust and streaking that was hidden behind the storm glass is now very plain. The effects of exposure and corrosion can be seen in the broken border lead at the bottom of the window.





At left, big soaking pans hold the petals from the outer portion of the rose window. The windows are soaked in shallow metal pans prior to disassembly. The soaking loosens the dirt and grime on the window surface. Soaking in water softens the putty and makes it easier to take the window apart.

By keeping the window underwater as it is being taken apart, lead contamination is kept to a minimum. Lead is recycled.

At right - A pattern for the construction of the window is created by placing craft paper and carbon paper atop the original stained glass panel and rubbing the impression onto the paper prior to disassembly. After the glass pieces are cleaned and set aside, they are reassembled along with any repair glass that may be needed. The lead channeling is cut and trimmed to hold all of the pieces of glass. The joining sections of lead are then soldered together.

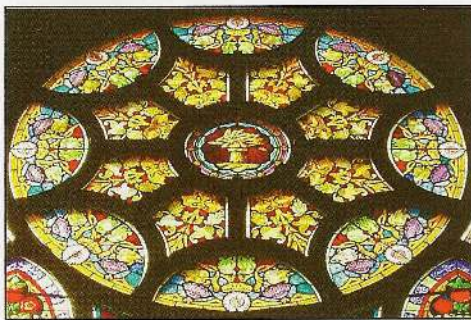
The picture below shows the liquid cement (also called grout) being applied to one side of the window. The excess grout is removed and the window is polished to a high shine. After the cement has hardened the panel is turned and the waterproofing is applied to the other side. Much of the strength of a stained glass window is derived from the cement which fills in all the gaps and spaces between the lead and the glass.



Stained glass windows represent a major investment in art and are our link to previous generations. Though only temporary, they are a beautiful form of praise to our Creator. With restoration the stained glass windows are like new again.



Above - The art of "box bracing" means that stained glass windows last far longer by providing vertical and horizontal support. Many shops that charge more do not provide this service.



O'Brien Stained Glass was registered as a business in 1979. We are a full service studio with 5,000 square feet of dedicated shop located in Rollingstone, MN. Projects from as far away as Michigan and Colorado find their way to our shop.