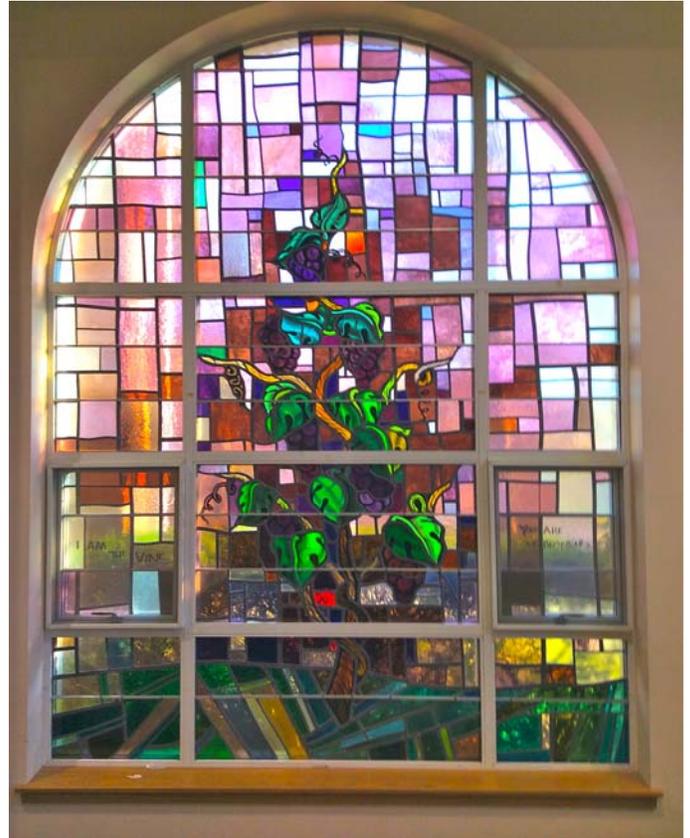


“I am the Vine; You Are the Branches” ... John 15:15

Living in gratitude comes easily when we live in Hampton Bays. When we take a moment to look around we see why our hamlet was first known as Good Ground. God has indeed gifted us with unique natural blessings. Our beautiful St. Rosalie's Church provides a place of worship reflecting many of our riches in its stained glass windows created by Fr. William Hanson. We feel expressions of divine power, God's love and reverence for the creator in the bays, the ocean, the wildlife and the fruits of our labor depicted in these windows. As faithful stewards of these gifts, fullness of life comes from living responsibly within God's creation. Even as we rejoice in earth's goodness and in the beauty of nature, stewardship places upon us responsibility for the well being of all God's creatures.



Let us be mindful of the Old Testament scripture of Leviticus 25:23-24, ***“The land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants. Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.”***

Over the coming weeks, we the environmental sub-committee of the Committee for the Common Good, will draw your attention to each of the stained glass windows on the sides of the Church. We are hopeful that these reflections will heighten your awareness of our plentiful natural gifts and the necessity of caring for them. Catholic Social Teaching's moral imperative is to be stewards called to collaborate with God in watching over creation in holiness and wisdom.

In today's modern world this message is even more relevant. Pope Francis recognized this with his words. **“Let us be ‘protectors’ of creation, protectors of God's Plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment. Let us not allow omens of destruction and death to accompany the advance of this world.”**

~ Environmental sub-committee of the Common Good Committee