

# Sanctuary Window IV: Rear Window on Right Facing Altar

Lower Medallion: The Huguenots suffering for their faith



# So who were the Huguenots?

Huguenots were French Protestants in the 16th and 17th centuries who followed the teachings of theologian John Calvin. They were predominantly educated Frenchmen, and followers included some of the brightest and most elite members of Catholic-dominated France, as well as prominent tradesmen and military officers. Because of the influence wielded by followers of Calvinism, it was initially tolerated by the crown.

Persecuted by the French Catholic government during a violent period, Huguenots fled the country in the 17th century, creating Huguenot settlements all over Europe, in the United States and Africa. Full religious freedom for the Huguenots did not come until the French Revolution in 1789.

French Calvinists adopted the Huguenot name around 1560, but the first Huguenot church was created five years earlier (1555) in a private home in Paris.

The origin of the name Huguenot is unknown but believed to have been derived from combining phrases in German and Flemish that described their practice of home worship.

By 1572, there were two million Huguenots in France (10% of population) with more than 2,000 churches.

# Huguenot Beginning

## **Edict of St. Germain January 1562**

Promulgated by the regent of France, Catherine de'Medici.

Recognized the right of Huguenots to practice their religion, though with limits.

Huguenots were not permitted to practice within towns or at night, and in an effort to sate fears of rebellion, they were not allowed to be armed.

## **Massacre of Vassy March 1, 1562**

300 Huguenots holding religious services in a barn outside the town wall of Vassy, France, were attacked by troops under the command of Francis, Duke of Guise.

More than 60 Huguenots were killed and over 100 wounded during the Massacre of Vassy. Francis claimed he did not order an attack but was instead retaliating against stones being thrown at his troops.



Catherine de' Medici  
Queen of France 1547-1559  
Mother of Francis II, Charles  
IX, and Henry III

# French Wars of Religion

The Massacre of Vassy sparked off decades of violence known as the French Wars of Religion.

In **April 1562**, Protestants took control of Orleans and massacred many Catholic residents in Sens and Tours. In Toulouse, a riot resulted in the deaths of up to 3,000 people, many of them Huguenots.

The battling continued into **February of 1563** when Francis, Duke of Guise, was assassinated by a Huguenot during a siege on Orleans and a truce was agreed upon.



**Francis, Duke of Guise**  
Brother of Mary of Guise,  
wife of James V of Scotland and  
mother of Mary Queen of Scots,

# French Wars of Religion

## St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre August 23, 1572

Murders of 70,000 Huguenots across France, under the direction of Catherine de Medici, the regent queen and mother of King Charles IX. Under pretense of truce in the wedding of her daughter Margaret to Huguenot Henry of Navarre (future Henry IV of France)

For three days of violence officials recruited catholic citizens into militia groups that hunted down Huguenot citizens, indulging not only in murder but gruesome torture, mutilation and desecration of the dead.



Violence and murder followed in 12 cities over a two-month period, leading to the first wave of Huguenot departures from France to England, Germany and the Netherlands.

# **A Tale of Two Servants of God in the Midst of War**

**Valois Princess Renée of France**

**Jeanne of Navarre**



**King Louis XII 1438-1515**



**Anne of Brittany 1477-1514**





Louis XII –  
 Valois- Orleans  
 Families marries  
 Anne of Brittany

Claude of Brittany  
 marries  
 King Francis 1  
 Count of  
 Angouleme

Renee is orphaned  
 and raised by  
 Marguerite in  
 Angouleme and  
 then in Navarre





**Claude 1499-1524**



**Renee 1510- 1574**





Château de Montargis located in north-central France

A place of refuge..“The Hotel of the Lord”



## Jeanne of Navarre 1528–1572



# French Wars of Religion End

## Edict of Nantes April 1598

Violence became the norm, as civilian bloodshed and military battles dragged on until the Edict of Nantes from King Henry IV (formerly Henry of Navarre) , ending the civil war and granting Huguenots their demanded civil rights.

Huguenots used their freedom to organize against the French crown, gaining political power, amassing loyal forces and forging separate diplomatic relationships with other countries.



King Henry IV of France  
(Son of Jeanne d'Albret)  
Ruled 1589-1610



# Huguenot Persecution Renewed

## Edict of Fontainebleau October 22, 1685

When King Louis XIV ascended the French throne in 1643, persecution of the Huguenots began again, escalating to the point that he directed troops to seize Huguenot homes and force them to convert to Catholicism.

In 1685 Louis XIV enacted the Edict of Fontainebleau.

It revoked the Edict of Nantes and made Protestantism illegal.

More bloodshed ensued, and over the next several years, more than 200,000 Huguenots fled France for other countries under the threat of death.



King Louis XIV  
Ruled 1643 - 1715

# Some Huguenot Persecution Abated

Persecution relaxed during the latter years of reign of Louis XV (~1764 onward) especially among discreet members of the upper classes.

In practice, the stringency of policies outlawing Protestants was opposed by the Jansenists.

**Jansenism** was an early modern theological movement within Catholicism, primarily active in the Kingdom of France, that emphasized original sin, human depravity, the necessity of divine grace, and predestination. It was declared a heresy by the Catholic Church with Jesuits aligning them with Calvinist leanings.



King Louis XV  
Ruled 1715 - 1774

# Huguenot Toleration Reinstated and Expanded

## Edict of Versailles (Edict of Toleration) November 7, 1787

Roman Catholicism continued as the state religion of the Kingdom of France

Relief was offered to non-Catholic worshippers: Calvinist Huguenots, Lutherans and Jews alike.

Considering the long-standing dominance of the state religion, restrictions were still placed on non-Catholics around the country such at workplace and educational settings to avoid misrepresenting the kingdom.

The Edict of Versailles did not proclaim freedom of religion across France, which would occur only by the **Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen of 1789**.



King Louis XVI  
Ruled 1774 - 1792

# Huguenots in America

Some Huguenots had emigrated far earlier than the mass movement in the 17th century, but many met with misfortune. A group of Huguenots traveled to an island in Guanabara Bay in Brazil in 1555, but were later captured and murdered by Portuguese troops.

In 1564, Norman Huguenots settled in Florida in an area that is now Jacksonville, but were killed by Spanish troops following an altercation with the French navy.

Beginning in 1624, Huguenots began to arrive en masse in the New York and New Jersey area. In 1628, some moved into what would become Bushwick, Brooklyn. Others moved to New Rochelle and New Paltz, New York, as well as Staten Island.

By the time of the exodus beginning in 1685, Huguenot communities sprang up in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia and South Carolina. Often, the Huguenot settlers would assimilate with existing Protestant groups.

The father of Paul Revere, Apollo Rivoire, was a Huguenot, and George Washington was descended from a Huguenot named Nicolas Martiau.

## 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16-18

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.



# Huguenot Cross

- The cross as an eminent symbol of the Christian faith, represents not only the death of Christ but also victory over death and impiety. This is represented also in the Maltese cross.
- The *boutonné*, the eight points symbolizing the eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3–12)
- Between the arms of the cross is the stylized fleur-de-lys (on the French Coat of Arms), each having 3 petals; the total of twelve petals of the fleur-de-lys signify the twelve apostles. Between each fleur-de-lys and the arms of the Maltese cross with which it is joined, an open space in the form of a heart, the symbol of loyalty, suggests the seal of the French Reformer, John Calvin.
- The pendant dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16). In times of persecution a pearl, symbolizing a teardrop, replaced the dove.

