



## SAINT CHRISTOPHER

### Narthex Transom and Panels

*According to legend, Offero, in a vision carried the Christ-child on his shoulders across a swollen stream and was known thereafter as Christopher, the Christ-bearer. Saint Christopher, known as the patron saint of travel, was martyred about 250 A.D.*



#### **Symbols:**

The center shield depicts Saint Christopher carrying the Christ-child on his shoulder. The child carries the cross and orb, known as the cross of sovereignty, which represents the world under the cross of Christ.

Saint Christopher carries a staff which bloomed and died in one night. The cross in the left diamond in a Cross of Fitchie, or the Crusader's Cross. It is sometimes called the traveler's cross.

The cross on the right is the knotted cross representing the passion of Christ and the suffering of churches.

At each end is the Jerusalem cross, which has four small crosses between the arms of the large cross, symbolizing the five wounds suffered by our Lord. Another interpretation is that from Jerusalem, scene of the resurrection, the church has spread to the four corners of the earth.

Four symbols are in diamonds down each side. Acorns and oak leaves signify faith and endurance; the Dolphin was an early symbol of Christ.

The Escallop shall with three drops of water, a symbol of our Lord's baptism; and the Unicorn, which was accepted as a symbol of purity and therefore especially related to the Virgin and the birth of Jesus. It is also a symbol of Christ's incarnation and His sinless life.