Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

4401 Seventh Street, Marrero

Immaculate Conception Parish traces its roots back to 1924, when the population expansion fostered by Marrero Land and Improvement Company justified an independent parish in Marrero. About five years before that, on the urging from Msgr. Peter Wynhoven from St. Josephs Church in Gretna, a wooden church had been erected so that members of this mission church would have a proper worship place. Once an official parish, Immaculate Conception ministered to several mission churches in nearby settlements until they became independent parishes. Today this active congregation ministers to an ethnically diverse congregation and offers services in Spanish.

The present church, designed by Curtis and Davis, architects for the Superdome, was called radical and ultra-modern when it was dedicated in 1957.

Numerous interior aesthetic changes have followed, but dates for many of them are not certain. The church undertook an extensive renovation campaign in 1990, and that probably included the etched glass at the back of the sanctuary and possibly the *dalle de verre* (chunk glass) windows flanking the doors. The original wall of clear glass behind the altar proved too sunny at certain times of the day, so it was replaced after Hurricane Katrina by the bright sea of blue that greets worshipers today.

The right side was a solid wall until openings were created in 2004 for the eight figurative windows, which were selected by Father Cooper and designed and created by New Orleans artist Ruth Goliwas. These portray Mary (Immaculate Conception), Joseph, and six other saints, each surrounded by flowing lead lines that create an almond shape, or mandorla, around the figure. They are otherwise airy and unadorned, allowing a soft light to fill the sanctuary. Ms. Goliwas also designed the larger Mary window on the left side. This is her favorite, with its burst of color, especially blue, the traditional color for Marys robes. Note the variations in the width of the lead strips to accent or de-accent their importance.

In 2007 and 2009 several hand-made mosaics were added to the left side. Another beautiful mosaic, of uncertain date, is of Greek Orthodox artistic style.

*Visited May 22, 2016*

**Windows**

*Mosaic: Christ with Children*

Dove of PeaceTree of Jesse with

Chi Ro

Eucharist Grapes, Hands

Baptism

*Mosaic: Our Lady of Perpetual Help* Immaculate Conception

*Mosaic: Last Supper* St. Joseph

St. Rose of Lima

St. Anthony of Padua

St. Theresa of Little Flower

*Mosaic: Jesus, I Trust in You* St. John Bosco

*Mosaic: Archangel St. Michael* St. Peter

Mary window Our Lady of Carmel

*Mosaic: Archangel St. Gabriel*

Crown with Cross and Chasuble Tree of Jesse

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