Incarnate Word Catholic Church

8316 Apricot Street

The first quarter of the twentieth century witnessed the creation of many new Catholic parishes, both above and below the central core of the city. Incarnate Word, established in 1922, was one of many offspring of Mater Dolorosa Church in the Carrollton area of New Orleans.

The original building, a tiny chapel on the grounds of what became the Notre Dame Seminary, was replaced in 1929 by this structure, designed by the firm of Andry and Feitel. The Spanish Colonial Revival style was very popular in the 1920s (other examples include Hope Haven and Madonna Manor in Marrero, St. Leo the Great in Gentilly, and St. Josephs in Gretna).

The architects plan called for clear windows, but stunning Emil Frei Studio windows were installed not long after the dedication of the church, offsetting the simple interior of the church. Scenes from the Life of Jesus are depicted throughout. Many are familiar themes, but the name window for the church, seen in the choir loft above the front doors and in the painted mandorla above the altar, is rarely included in church art. Also unusual is the depiction of Joseph and Mary marveling at Jesus wisdom in their home surroundings. A similar and more traditional scene, showing the young Jesus in the Temple confounding the elders while Mary and Joseph look on, occupies a separate window on the opposite side of the sanctuary.

**Windows**

Resurrection Ascension of Christ

Christ appearing to the Apostles Agony in the Garden

Wedding at Cana Christ healing the sick

Christ and his parents Jesus confounding the elders

Presentation of Jesus in the temple Adoration of the Magi

Flight into Egypt Annunciation

Incarnate Word

*Written by Susan Levy*

*Visited March 20, 1994*

*Epilogue:* This church flooded in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As of 2020, part of the Incarnate Word School housed Head Start Programs, run by Catholic Charities and the public school system. The Archdiocese was seeking a long-term renter for the church.

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