Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church

2320 Paris Road, Chalmette

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church is a young, energetic, and resilient parish. Although it endured flooding up to four feet deep after Hurricane Katrina, by February 2006 the church was open, serving as the mother church for eight closed parishes. In fact, it was the only church of any denomination functioning in Chalmette.

Archbishop Rummel established the parish in 1951, carving it out of St. Maurice Parish in New Orleans, and its first house of worship was a cramped one-room cabin in poor repair. Plans for a more elegant and spacious worship place developed immediately, and what served as the second temporary church has since been incorporated into the elementary school. Girders for todays church, with its soaring ceiling and landmark steeple were erected in 1958, under the supervision of James Lamantia, of the firm of Burk, LeBreton, and Lamantia. The landmark steeple, although made of glass, survived the winds of Katrina unscathed.

The sanctuary is spacious and sunny, with abundant stained glass windows that were part of the architects original plan. With the exception of the windows dedicated to Our Lady of Prompt Succor and her achievements in the New Orleans area, the themes are traditional. Familiar scenes from the Mysteries of the Rosary welcome parishioners to the church, and stained glass Stations of the Cross (with Mary portrayed as a blond) surround them as they worship. The A. Henry Lips company of Chalmette designed and created the all the contemporary windows.

Memorable and unusual are the two large windows flanking the striking depiction of Mary as Our Lady of Prompt Succor behind the altar: The saving of the French Quarter during a fire in the late eighteenth century and Andrew Jacksons victory over the British during the Battle of Chalmette in January 1815 are credited to her. On both occasions, the prayers of the Ursuline nuns and the citizenry to Our Lady of Prompt Succor are credited with the favorable outcomes. Note especially the large, colorful flames in the first.

The Franz Mayer studio of Munich, Germany, created three small windows in a traditional leaded style for this church in 1959, but they have been moved to another (unknown) location.

The cozy Meditation Chapel includes four windows that bring comfort: the Nativity, Christ the Shepherd, a worshiper reaching up to Christ, and Christ in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Lips studio moved these from St. Louise de Marillac Church in Arabi.

**Windows**

 Fire of 1885 Our Lady of Prompt Succor Battle of New Orleans

 *Altar*

Jesus is laid in the tomb Jesus is condemned to death

Jesus is taken down from the cross Jesus carries his cross

Jesus dies on the cross Jesus falls the first time

Jesus is nailed to the cross Jesus meets his mother

Jesus is stripped of his garments Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross

Jesus falls the third time Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem Jesus falls the second time

 *Narthex*

Crowning of Mary Finding the child Jesus in the Temple

St. Marys Assumption Presentation of young Jesus at the Temple

Pentecost Nativity

Ascension Mary and Elizabeth meet

Resurrection Annunciation

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