St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church

4317 Richland Avenue, Metairie

Separated from St. Benilde Parish in 1965, St. Clement of Rome reflects the explosive growth of Metairie after World War II. The young community opened the doors to an elementary school in 1968, eleven years before breaking ground for its permanent place of worship. Meanwhile, Mass was said in a gym, a Ford dealership, a VFW hall and, finally, a temporary church.

Joseph Falco, a member of the congregation, was the architect for this spacious building, which was dedicated in December 1980. Parishioner Edmond Daigle designed and built all the tables and cabinets after the 2005 flood.

In contrast to many churches, where stained glass windows are added as funds permit, here all were created and installed in the original construction by Herbert Gunther, Inc., of New York.

The bright colors of the stained glass contrast with the soft, light colors of the pews and walls. In each window, a central figure or scene appears against a background of curving vertical elements that draw the viewers attention to the focal figure. The painted features, such as faces, are abstract, possibly in imitation of medieval window painting.

The large faceted glass (slab glass) window in the Day Chapel / Crying Room, with intense yellow and orange tones, focuses on the *Agnus Dei.* The bright yellow circles (flowers) represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Above the granite baptismal font hangs a mosaic of St. Clement of Rome made of Venetian glass tiles in Italy. The marble altar was moved from the former Our Lady of Lourdes Church in New Orleans in 2012; the statues of Mary and Joseph, from St. Rose of Lima Church the next year. Both of these churches closed after Hurricane Katrina.

St. Clement of Rome Church incurred serious damage from the hurricane. Nonetheless, parishioners were able to attend Mass, albeit on folding chairs, by November 2005. Restoration continued until August 2006. Congregation Gates of Prayer and St. Clement of Rome Church are good neighbors, even sharing services occasionally. Each received $100,000 from the American Jewish Committee after Hurricane Katrina.

**Windows of St. Clement of Rome Church**

Altar

Jesus washes the feet of His disciples (Priesthood) Wedding Feast at Cana (Marriage)

Pentecost (Confirmation) Woman washes feet of Jesus with her tears (Reconciliation)

John the Baptist and Jesus (Baptism) Blind man is healed (Anointing of the Sick)

Moses and the Ten Commandments St. Patrick

Abraham and Isaac St. Francis of Assisi

Adam and Eve St. Louis, King of France

St. Martín de Porres

Doorway Leading to the School St. Frances Cabrini

St. Maria Goretti St. Elizabeth Seton

*Visited*

*April 14, 2002*

*March 26, 1917*

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