St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church

4921 West Metairie Avenue, Metairie

As the population of Metairie increased, so did the number Roman Catholic parishes. St. Edward the Confessor Parish was established in1964, along with five other parishes in Metairie between 1960 and 1965.

Until the present church was completed in late 1965, the parish worshiped in the East Jefferson High School auditorium. The New Orleans firm of Blitch Kneval Architects designed St. Edward the Confessor’s church with the thought that ultimately it could be converted to a gymnasium-auditorium, but the additions of the portico, bell tower, stained glass windows, and adoration chapel make it evident that the 800-seat church is unlikely to be converted.

St. Edward the Confessor was an English king who reigned between 1042 and 1066. A man of intense personal piety, Edward married Edith, daughter of an important earl, in 1045 even though he had made a vow of chastity. Their marriage was childless.

Edward is noted for the peace and prosperity of his reign, the remission of an unpopular tax, his generosity to the poor, the introduction of England’s royal seal and coronation regalia, the change in art from Celtic to a more continental style, and the rebuilding of Westminster Abbey (from funds he had hoped to spend on a pilgrimage to Rome). According to tradition, Edward could heal scrofula (a skin disease) by touching an afflicted person. This royal touch was passed on to the monarchs of both England and France into the 1700s.

The faceted slab glass windows in the church were created by Guido Polloni and Company of Florence, Italy. Beginning in the early twentieth century, the studio has produced stained glass art that covers the spectrum from traditional delicate painted pictorial windows to the stylized faceted slab glass in this church. In the late 1970s and early 1980s the Polloni Studio also created windows for St Ann’s Church on Transcontinental Avenue in Metairie (1977), the Chateau de Notre Dame chapel, St. Charles Borromeo Church in Destrehan, St. Joan of Arc Church in LaPlace, Hotel Dieu, and the brothers chapel of Holy Cross School in the Lower Ninth Ward. Since the Polloni Studio frequently worked with the Blitch Knevel firm, we can probably assume that the glass was installed as part of the construction.

**Windows**

The two main stained glass windows in the church above the main entrance doors contain vignettes of important times in St. Edward’s life, while the windows above other doors are stylized abstracts. Looking at the main windows from the center of the church, the left window shows Edward’s journey to Normandy as a child in the upper left corner and his return to England as a man in the lower corner. The upper right corner shows the rebuilt Westminster Abbey. The center scene presents the story of Edward giving his ring to a beggar near Westminster.

The window on the right shows the dove in the upper left corner, above joined wedding rings, perhaps a symbol of the spiritual marriage between Edward and Edith. The lower left corner shows Edward giving money to the poor, while in the center he extends both hands to administer the royal touch to heal the men in bandages. In the lower right corner, the spirit of the dead King Edward is being carried heavenward by an angel.

**The Adoration Chapel Windows**

Archangels and the Book of Revelation in windows by the Milton Pounds Studio of Covington fill the chapel.

Left of altar

Top: Archangel Gabriel with horn symbolizing his role as God=s messenger

Center: A dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit

Bottom: Archangel Uriel

Right of altar

Top: Archangel Michael., who defends man against evil with a flaming sword.

Center: Heart and Cross of Jesus, symbol of love and sacrifice

Bottom: Archangel Raphael, the healing angel

In transept on left or north side

Top: Chalice and Eucharist

Bottom: Angel from Revelation, Ch.10

In transept on right or south side

Top: Wheat and Grapes, symbols of the bread and wine of the Eucharist

Bottom: Angel of Wrath carrying one of the seven bowls of wrath, from Revelation, Ch. 16

*Visited November 11, 2007*

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