St. Peter Catholic Church

125 East 19th Avenue, Covington

St. Peter Catholic Church, founded in 1843, is the oldest parish on the North Shore serving under the same name. (St. Francis Xavier Church in Madisonville preceded it by two years, but in the 20th century it merged with St. Catherine Church, taking the name of St. Anselm.)

Like most Louisiana parishes, St. Peters first worshiped in a small wooden church, which was located on the banks of the Bogue Falaya River. Almost fifty years later, in 1892, a brick church at the corner of Rutland and Massachusetts streets replaced it. Today’s spacious building dates to 1940. Since Hurricane Katrina brought many New Orleans residents to the North Shore, the parish now includes over three thousand families.

The Benedictine Order has a long history of ministering to Catholics north of Lake Pontchartrain, and that was the case at St. Peters from 1916 until 1992. Benedictine sisters were also active in developing the school associated with the church.

The Emil Frei Stained Glass Studio, of St. Louis, Missouri, designed and executed the fifteen stained glass windows. About half probably date to the construction of the church, and the seven side windows toward the front date to the 1960s. All are of a semi-abstract style, and an informative booklet compiled by the church points out some of the symbols within each depiction of the life of St. Peter.

*Not visited on a Stained Glass Art in Sacred Places tour.*

*See:* Linda Kaul Robertson, *The Windows of St. Peter Catholic Church*, 2009.

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