St. Peter Catholic Church

1550 Louisiana Highway 44 (River Road), Reserve, Louisiana

St. Peter Church reflects the hazards of life on the River Road. The first church, dating to 1864, was razed to accommodate a new levee, and in 1965 Hurricane Betsy destroyed the 1897 structure replacing it.

The present building, the work of Destrehan architects, features concrete arches soaring high into the sky and is surfaced with white brick. Its style is described as modern gothic.

The stained glass windows are of sparkling faceted glass held in place by epoxy resins. Msgr. Eyrud, priest here for 47 years, selected the subjects, and the Smith Studio of Fort Worth, Texas, executed these exceptionally fine *dalle de verre* windows. Those in the main sanctuary reflect New Testament themes. Behind the altar is a large day chapel with windows depicting events from Hebrew scripture.

The dramatic, thought-provoking Stations of the Cross are oil paintings produced by Stephen Laurent in the early 1990s. Laurent painted the stations in his last years and is buried in the church cemetery.

Other furnishings of note include the bells salvaged from the second church. Like the tabernacle, these were from St. John the Baptist Church in Edgard, on the West Bank.

*Visited*

*March 28, 1998*

*October 22, 2016*

Organ Console by Rivé Organ Builders, New Orleans

The following historical comment is from New Orleans organ builder Neil O'Donnell:

This is the original plate from the organ at St. Peter Reserve, LA. This organ was dedicated and a recital given by Gwen Goodrich in 1968. It was rebuilt in the last couple of years [in the late 1990s] by adding a new console and some of the bass of the swell string.. This was done by Rivé organ Co. Some of the original pipework came from the now closed Annunciation [Catholic] Church in New Orleans. The Möller Organ at Annunciation was removed and replaced with a Conn Organ. Some of the salvaged pipework was used in the St. Peter, Reserve, organ swell. The majority of it including the complete great was new. Chests were built by EM Skinner in Florida (at least they went by that name). Neil ODonnell

*From NewOrleansChurches.com*

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