Bells are a traditional Christmas symbol. They also have a significance in the church, as emphasized in the ritual for the solemn blessing of church bells.

At St. Peter's in Carencro, there is an interesting set of bells whose individual histories are recalled by Msgr. A.M. Wassler, retired former pastor of the parish.

The Angelus bell, hanging in the belfry of the church, was cast in May, 1893 at the Stuchstede Bell Foundry Company. When the bell was blessed, it was christened Francois Fabien Pierre and, according to the ritual which requires godparents as in baptism, the godparents were Louis Arceneaux and Mrs. Sarah Beche, standing in for her mother Mrs. Brown.

Msgr. Wassler reports, and has a very clear and agreeable sound. The bell at Carencro Catholic, was given to the school at the time it opened, has a unique history. It had been acquired from the Buchanan Street fire station in Lafayette by the Eagle Fire Company of Carencro in May, 1924 for the sum of $50. It hung in the church parking lot where it was used to signal fires in Carencro.

When the fire alarm system was modernized, the bell was given to Sindos Arceneaux on Hector Connolly Road. It fell into disuse there and Msgr. Wassler persuaded the family to give it to the school as a historic keepsake when the school opened in 1962.

The Sanctus bell, hanging on an oak tree on the estate of Michael Martin on Moss Street Extension. Sometime later it was swapped for a horse and became the property of Lionel Cloutier. On the occasion of the marriage of Martin's daughter Mrs. Cloutier, with the help of some more horse trading, donated the bell to the church.

The sacristy bell which announced the immediate beginning of services also has an interesting history. It was a mission bell on the island of Buna in the South Seas. During the conquest of the island by the American forces, it was shattered by a shell. Later the pieces were welded back together by a soldier who gave it to the company chaplain, Father Pat Regan of the Lafayette diocese.

Chaplain Regan forwarded the bell to Bishop Jules B. Jeanmard who gave it to St. Peter's Church in Carencro where he (Bishop Jeanmard) had said his first Mass. The only identification on the bell is a coat of arms divided into four fields containing the letters J and B.

The electronic bells of St. Peter's were a history-making "first." In February, 1957, when this set of four electronic bells was purchased from the inventor, Constant Martin of Versaille France, they were the first of their kind to come to the U.S.

Msgr. Wassler first heard them while passing through France and was impressed by their clear sound, resembling actual bronze bells. This sound was achieved by a loud speaker in the form of a bell, broadcasting the sound like a bona-fide swinging bell.