Church Point
1800–1982
History of la Pointe de l’Eglise

Descendants of the Acadian exiles along the Tchefuncte river and established farms in the Louisiana parishes and along the banks of the many baysouls that meandered southward toward the Gulf of Mexico. From their own French language they gave names in geographical areas.

Where a clearing was made by burning away the underbrush, it was given the same “brou” to which was added a specific name. A good example of this is Plaquemine Brule (the Plaquemine Burn or Burning Placide).”

Next comes the story of the church. The first church in what is now the civil parish of Plaquemines, was built in 1833 in the heart of the town of Maryville, L’Eglise, known today as Church Point.

In 1853, the Jesuit fathers relinquished the care of the church and its district, and the parish became under the care of the Capuchin Fathers of Plaquemines Brule (the Plaquemine Burn or Brule)

A bit of local history was “Dear.” “Dear” was an open tract of land where a church was intended. It was “clearing” where a house or a church was made up to turn in a stream was found.

A benefactor of the church was called “Pascal.” It is possible the name of the town was “Pascal.”

The town of Church Point, L’Eglise, is a city park.

Church Point, a small town located in the northwestern part of Plaquemines Parish, is definitely a unique character of the large Acadian genius of Cajun culture.

Church Point officially began its history in 1873, with the establishment of St. Landry, the oldest Catholic Church in the town. St. Landry was part of the Archdiocese of New Orleans until 1873 when the Diocese of Lafayette was created.

Mass was held at the home of a wealthy farmer who owned a large farm in the area. The first church was built as a small wooden structure with a thatched roof.

The church was later replaced by a brick building, which was considered more durable. The new building was completed in 1895 and served the community for many years.

During the early 1900s, the church was expanded and a new rectory was built. The current building was completed in 1913 and remains in use today.

The church has played a significant role in the community, serving as a gathering place for social events and community meetings.

Over the years, the church has undergone several renovations and additions, but has maintained its historic charm and architectural significance.

The historic church is a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the community and serves as a reminder of the hard work and dedication of past generations.

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Our Mother of Mercy Parish undergoes renovations

In its early years, the Mother of Mercy in Church Point was established as a mission by Josephine Father from Our Mother of Mercy Church in Rayne.

Father Robert Acker, S.J., was the first pastor, also known as "Chick" Young. Young, the star of the town, became a parish in 1927. A church was built, plating the many beautiful pines trees on the church and school grounds.

In the fall of 1963, Father Edward Walsh and Father George Hans served the parish. The first parishioner, who came to Our Lady of Mercy Church in 1963, was also a parishioner in the parish organization. The pastor, who is present under the administration of Father Donald Butler, S.J., is the pastor. Father Butler was previously assigned to Holy Family Parish in McNeir, Texas. He was also stationed at the parish for eight years.

Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Church Point was established as a mission organization dedicated to the education of Negro and Indian children.

Church Point is now a part of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and the parish is under the diocese of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.
Msgr. Bienvenu aided in growth

The young priest had a reserve commission in the United States Army Chaplain and during the summer of 1950, he was assigned toဒugles of the Washington Artillery. In 1945, during the transition, the Civilian Conservation Corps, popularly known as "the CCC," was abolished, and Bienvenu was appointed to the Louisiana and Mississippi parishes. In October 1945, he was elevated to the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army. Bienvenu appointed in 1946 Bishop Jules J. Alzado installed Msgr. Bienvenu back in the Diocese of Lafayette and assigned him to Church Point. The priest was hard to find and was finally reached at the U.S. Army's Independence Hospital in New York. He was returned to Louisiana in 1950 and assigned to the mission under the direction of Bishop Jules J. Alzado. Msgr. Bienvenu's administrative offices were in the new brick building on Main Street, which housed the parish offices, classrooms, and sanctuary. All buildings were painted and landscaped. The new school was very popular among the parishioners.

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The church point branch of the Acadian Parish Library located in Church Point.

Familiar scenes in Church Point

The cathedral services and recitals were an important part of the parish life. The church offered various musical programs, including organ recitals, choir concerts, and special liturgical performances. The cathedral services were celebrated by the local priests and visiting clergy from other parishes. The church also hosted various social events, such as picnics, dances, and family reunions. The church was a hub of community gatherings and was known for its warm and welcoming atmosphere. The church's beautiful architecture and warm interior made it a popular destination for visitors and locals alike.
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