St. Ann Catholic Church has rich 150-year history


The Faith Community of St. Ann is deeply rooted in faith and has a strong commitment to prayer and family life centered on the Eucharist. In 1856, a tract of land was donated by the Jean Gallot family for the first chapel, which was built in 1873 then named the St. Joseph Chapel. Here the "free people of color" who inhabited the community known as the Mallet Woods were able to gather and worship.

Many people walked miles, and others who were able used horse and buggy to get to church.

In 1924, a second tract of land was donated by the Knights of Peter Claver Council No. 39, and this was used to build a school by Saint Katherine Drexel to provide both formal and religious education to the people of the area.

Through prayer and the sacrifices of the founding fathers of the parish, on April 25, 1951, St. Ann Church was incorporated and in 1954, was established by the Diocese of Lafayette and assigned to the Josephite Fathers and Brothers with Rev. John Barnett serving as the first pastor.

The church that stands now was built with volunteer labor and donations of cotton and money from the farmers at that time. Since then, the parish has had many dedicated priests and others providing for the spiritual needs of the parish through the efforts of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, the Trinitarian Priests and Brothers, Diocesan Priests and presently the Claretian Community Priests.

From the church parish, many people have gone on to the religious life. Presently Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD is the bishop of Beaumont; the Rev. Gregory Semien with the Diocese of Lafayette; St. Joan Marie is a Holy Cross Sister and Br. Kerry Guillory is a member of the Franciscan Order.