St Joseph Parish was founded in 1857. The first mass was offered on Christmas day by Father Thaddeus Anwander, C.S.s.R., a Redemptorist priest, in the home of a local parishioner.

On December 29, 1857, seven men from the congregation purchased a square of ground from the Nicholas Noel Destrehan family and set up a church building trust fund. The first church building, a wood frame, was erected in 1859; upon its deterioration, a brick church was built in 1910 which suffered hurricane damage in 1915.

The present church was completed in 1927. It was built in the Spanish Baroque Style. Renovations that began in 1980 were completed in 1992. It is a magnificent structure with stained glass windows dedicated to the life of St. Joseph and stained glass windows in the choir loft depicting the history of the church.

On October 27, 1986, St. Joseph Church was named the Westbank Shrine of St. Joseph by Philip M. Hannan, Archbishop of New Orleans.

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