

**A NEW OLD CHURCH
FOR
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

The Folsom Reconstruction

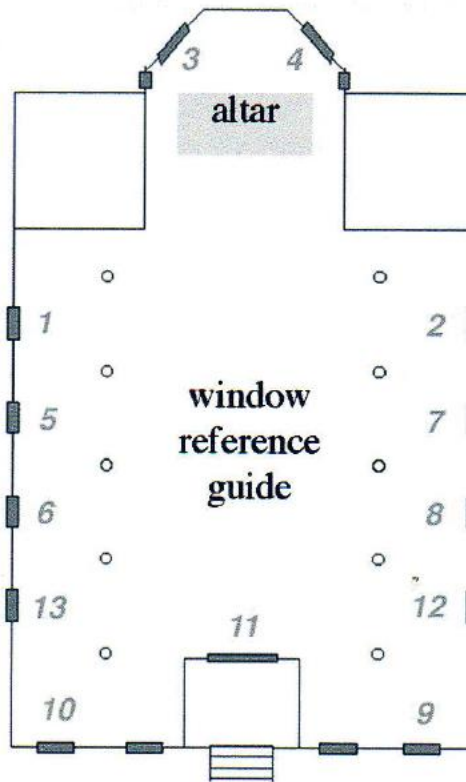
The walls were moved out, the columns moved in and the sanctuary reduced in depth.

It was 1920 when Fr. Odilo Alt, OSB traveled north from St. Joseph's Abbey in Covington, LA in search of Catholics. Just west of Folsom, LA he found much more than he thought possible.

He found a settlement of over 60 people who called themselves Catholic, although only the very oldest had been baptized and none had seen a priest for over 40 years.

A local barn was converted into a temporary mission church and the task of baptizing and teaching began. Fr. Odilo said the first Mass in the Mission Church of SJB on April 11, 1920. The Parish was established in 1921.

In 1934, the nearby Chinchuba Institute suffered a devastating fire. All that remained was the church awaiting a new home. In 1939, the church was dismantled and reassembled in Folsom. The transition started in 1939 and culminated in the dedication which occurred on May 13, 1940.



THE WINDOWS

The first 11 windows described below were moved from Chinchuba and were created by Emil Frei, St. Louis, MO.

1. Dedicated to memory of Fr. Mignot, the founder of Chinchuba School for deaf and mute children. It depicts St. Hyacinth OP.

2. St. Elizabeth of Hungary feeding the poor.

3. St. Peter

4. St. Rita of Cascia

5. Christ curing a mute child

6. St. Jean Baptiste De La Salle instructing children.

7. An angel carrying a prayer to the Blessed Mother.

8. St. Catherine of Alexandria

9. Christ surrounded by children.

10. Children playing under the watchful eye of their guardian angel.

11. A transom window, it depicts St. Athanasius and dedicated to Sr. Mary Athanasia, first superior at Chinchuba.

12. A history of the Benedictines came from St. Scholastica's Priory Chapel.

13. A small window from St. Scholastica depicts St. Augustine being baptized by St. Ambrose.

14. A window in the vesting room was created locally in 1999 by Gordon Binder in memory of Margaret DeFrance, the mother of Fr. Jonathan DeFrance, OSB.

"THE LITTLE CATHEDRAL IN THE WOODS"