

Pastor's Letter

November 9, 2025—The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Dear Church Family,

The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, which we celebrate today, is a significant occasion in the Catholic liturgical calendar, honoring the Pope's cathedral church in Rome and symbolizing the unity of the universal Church. Though many associate St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican with the Pope, St. John Lateran is, in fact, the official cathedral of the Pope as the Bishop of Rome and holds the title of "Mother and Head of all Churches in the City and the World."

The history of the basilica dates back to the fourth century, following Emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan, which granted religious freedom to Christians. Constantine donated the Lateran Palace, which previously belonged to the Laterani family, to the church, and the basilica was built next to it. Pope Sylvester I dedicated the new structure in 324 A.D., initially naming it the Archbasilica of the Most Holy Savior. The dedication of this first official Christian place of worship marked a turning point in the life of the church, signifying the end of centuries of persecution and a huge shift for the Church in its relationship with the society and culture of the time.

Over the centuries, the basilica has endured fires, earthquakes, and wars, leading to several reconstructions. It was later also dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, eventually becoming known popularly as St. John Lateran. Our celebration today reminds us of our roots and our connection to the universal church in every time and place.

As beautiful and historic as the basilica of St. John Lateran is, St. Paul reminds us of something very important. The physical structures that we build as our places of worship are not the true church. We are. As St. Paul says, "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? As significant as our buildings are, the greatest monument we can build for God is to proclaim the good news of salvation by our words and actions and dedicate ourselves to living as a people united in mind, heart, and spirit. Each of us are living stones, built on the foundation of Christ into a house where all people can come and experience the love of God.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott



Today we will hear the true story of a fellow parishioner who has embraced stewardship as a way of life and the difference it has made for them. Is something holding you back from embracing this incredible way of life?

Pray about it this week. Review the stewardship materials you received in the mail and take a step forward in faith. Remember to bring your commitment card to Mass next week.

Next Sunday is Commitment Sunday!



Big news! The 50/50 raffle for Catholic Heart Workcamp is currently at \$970! Right now your half would be \$485!!! Drawing is at St Joseph Donut Day, December 7.

Tickets will be available for purchase:
-November 9 @ St. Brigid during the Donut Social
-November 9 @ St. Thomas after Mass