

Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains designated a Minor Basilica by Pope Francis

Storied Cincinnati church becomes the 89th basilica in the United States

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St. Peter in Chains

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Pope Francis has designated the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains a Minor Basilica, the first such title given to a church in the Cincinnati Archdiocese and just the 89th in the United States.

The historic Cincinnati church will now go by the name Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains.

“For all of us who live and worship in our archdiocese, this is a great blessing and honor that has been bestowed on our cathedral church,” said Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. “Let us pray on this day, as we honor Our Lady in her Assumption, that the Church of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, her clergy and faithful, along with all the people of this great city, may benefit from this blessing and give thanks for all that the Lord has brought to fruition.”

The title was requested in 2018 by Father Jan Kevin Schmidt, Rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains since 2017, with permission from Archbishop Schnurr.

The cathedral, which will celebrate its 175th anniversary this November, is the oldest cathedral, built as a cathedral, that is still in use in the United States.

The announcement came just before 11:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday. In attendance to hear the historic announcement were Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley and his family. “The Catholic Church and the large number of Catholics in our region have helped make the Greater Cincinnati area the great place it is to live, work, play and pray,” said Mayor Cranley.

In addition to the announcement today, a special Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains on Saturday, November 7, at 11:00 a.m. to mark the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the dedication of the church. During the Mass, the symbols granted in virtue of the church’s designation as a minor basilica will debut for the first time and be enshrined.