



November 9, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 | 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17 | Jn 2:13-22

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Although today's feast marks the dedication of one of the most important churches for Catholics, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, it's ultimately not a celebration of a building, but a celebration of all members of the Church. As Paul reminds us, we are "the temple of God" and the Spirit of God dwells in us. We see in the Gospel that Jesus has immense love for the temple and wishes to protect it. He uses a whip made from cords to drive out the money-changers, telling them, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace." So, too, he loves and cherishes his Body, the Church – the place his presence dwells. Today's feast invites us to consider our love and zeal for the Church. As our love for the Lord grows, we will grow to love what our Savior loves.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our first reading offers a beautiful image that can help us understand our mission as disciples. The prophet Ezekiel has a vision of the temple with water flowing out of it. Wherever the water flowed, there was abundant life, including "every sort of living creature," "abundant fish," and "fruit trees of every kind" whose "leaves shall not fade, nor the fruit fail." Since we are God's temple, Ezekiel's vision invites us to be sources of life-giving water, nourishment, and healing for the world around us. A powerful way to evangelize is simply to strive to be conduits of goodness in the world, right where we are. When others are lost in desolation, how can we offer a drink to quench their spiritual thirst? When people around us are hungry, how can we offer physical or spiritual food to ease their hunger? Where there is division, how do we bring healing and hope? Through these actions, we give others a taste of the goodness that life with God offers.

PRAY

At every Mass, during the Prayer of the Faithful, we pray for the needs of the Church first. This is intentional – as the Church is the Bride of Christ. Pay particular attention to what we pray at this moment and consider how you can show your love for the Church by praying for her and for the needs of the Church throughout the world in your personal prayer this week.