



DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17 John 2:13-22

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of the St. John Lateran Basilica. It is the basilica of the bishop of Rome, the pope. It is dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. John Evangelist.

This church (St. Matthew) was dedicated in May of 2003 and blessed by Bishop Banks.

I would like to share with you a story on this feast day. In Jewish folklore, there's a beautiful story about the place where the great temple in Jerusalem was built.

The perfect place for God's altar

According to the legend, two brothers had adjoining farms. One older brother was married and had a family; the younger brother lived alone. When the harvest came, the younger brother said to himself, "My brother has a wife and children and many responsibilities. I'll help him by giving part of my harvest to his family." So, in the middle of the night, he slipped into his brother's house and secretly filled his brother's bins with grain from his own harvest.

Meanwhile, the married brother had a similar thought: "My brother has no wife or children and leads a very lonely life. He has no one to care for him in the winter of his days. I'll take some of my grain and add it to his harvest so he will never be in need." And so, during the night, the older brother secretly filled his brother's bin with grain from his bounty.

For years the brothers never knew why their grain supplies never dwindled — until one night they both set out for the other's house at the same time. In the dark they met, each carrying sacks of grain to fill the other's bin. They realized immediately what each had been doing all those years. They dropped their sacks and embraced.

And on the spot where the brothers embraced, God directed that the altar of his temple be built.

"Here at last is the place where I will build my temple," God said. "For where brothers meet in love, there my presence will be."

(Source: Connections, November 2025)

It's a great story of how the Temple was located in Jerusalem.

But I have a better story, that where this church (St. Matthew) is – or any church in the world – that people will treat each other and everyone else as brothers and sisters, because of what we share in this church. God's word and sacrament unites us as family with each other and everyone else.

It's the reason churches are built. We are to reflect that we are God's family. Like all families there are going to be some ups and downs, but the bottom line is we are family.

As we break bread together, we are always reminded why the Lord gave us the gift of himself in this bread. It helps us grow as his family. Do this in remembrance of me is not just for us while in the church, but also how we act when we leave the building, for we are always church, no matter where we are.

Thanks for listening.

Prayer: Bringing Home the Word