

**Feast of the Dedication of the  
Lateran Basilica in Rome**



The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica honors the Mother Church of Rome, a symbol of God's dwelling with His people. It reminds us that we, too, are living temples—sacred spaces where God desires to dwell and bring peace.

For those of us who grew up in dysfunctional homes, this image carries deep meaning. Many of us learned to see the world as unstable and unsafe. Our "inner temples" were built on fear rather than faith. Yet in recovery, God is restoring what was broken, laying a new foundation of trust, humility, and grace.

Ezekiel's vision of water flowing from the temple (Ezekiel 47:1–2, 8–9, 12) offers a picture of this restoration:

*The angel brought me back to the entrance of the temple,  
and I saw water flowing out from beneath the threshold of the temple toward the east...  
Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live...  
Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine.*

God's healing flows gently through the cracks in our hearts. The river of grace softens what was hardened and brings life where there was once desolation.

Saint Paul reminds us that we are God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16–17):

*Do you not know that you are the temple of God,  
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?  
If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person;  
for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.*

Many of us have spent years believing we were unworthy of love. Recovery invites us to replace those lies with truth: God's Spirit already dwells within us. We are His beloved children. As we practice honesty, forgiveness, and service, we begin to rebuild the inner sanctuary where peace can reside.

## Reflection Questions

In the Gospel, Jesus cleanses the temple (John 2:13-17):

*He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area... and said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."*

Jesus' cleansing reminds us that healing sometimes requires disruption. Recovery often involves facing uncomfortable truths and removing behaviors or patterns that no longer serve us. God is not destroying us; He is restoring His image within us.

Like the Lateran Basilica, our hearts are consecrated spaces—holy not because of perfection, but because of presence. As we allow God's Spirit to dwell within us, we discover a peace that surpasses understanding. We learn that we are not abandoned buildings, but living temples of grace, continually renewed one day at a time.

- What does it mean to you that you are a “temple of God” where His Spirit dwells?
- What parts of your inner life still need cleansing, healing, or renewal?
- How can you cooperate with God's rebuilding work in your recovery and relationships?

### **Catholic in Recovery Novena**

*Begin today and join the Catholic in Recovery community as we unite in prayer!*

- Receive a reflection and prayer in your inbox
- Journey with the intercession of St. Jude, St. Monica, St. Joseph, St. Augustine and other saints related to addiction recovery
- Register today by visiting [catholicinrecovery.com/cir-novena](http://catholicinrecovery.com/cir-novena)

### **Sunday Mass Readings this Week**

: **Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12**  
**Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9**  
**1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17**  
; **John 2:13-22**