

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



The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica celebrates the unity of the whole Church under one spiritual roof. The Lateran Basilica is known as the “Mother Church,” reminding us that we are all part of God’s family—His living temple of faith, hope, and love.

As family members affected by addiction, we know how fractured that sense of unity can feel. The disease of addiction damages trust, communication, and belonging. But through recovery and faith, God restores what was broken. He rebuilds our homes—not merely as structures, but as places of peace where His Spirit can dwell.

In the prophet Ezekiel’s vision (Ezekiel 47:1–2, 8–9, 12), water flows from the temple, bringing new life wherever it goes:

*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.*

This image mirrors what happens when God’s grace flows through our relationships. Healing begins within us and spreads outward to those we love. When we release control, practice humility, and allow God’s love to guide us, life begins to flow again where there was once drought and division.

Saint Paul reminds us that God’s temple is not made of stone, but of living hearts (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.*

When we tend to our spiritual lives—through prayer, honesty, and fellowship—we become dwelling places of peace for others. God’s grace radiates outward, transforming our families from within.

In this Sunday's 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."*

Sometimes, God must cleanse the inner temple of our hearts too. When we are filled with fear, resentment, or control, there is little space left for grace. Jesus does not destroy the temple but restores it to its purpose. In the same way, when we surrender our will and make space for God, our hearts and homes become sanctuaries of peace once again.

The Lateran Basilica stands as a sign of unity—a reminder that the Church, like our recovery community, is made up of people who have found healing and purpose by letting God dwell among them. We honor this feast by remembering that our families, too, are part of this living temple, called to reflect God's mercy and forgiveness.

## Reflection Questions

- What does it mean for your home or family to be a “living temple” of God's presence?
- Where do you sense God inviting you to let go of control so that healing can flow more freely?
- How can you share God's peace with your family, even when circumstances are difficult?

### 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**