

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



Each year on November 9, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica—the oldest and highest-ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. It is often called the “Mother Church” of all Christendom. This feast reminds us that the Church is not just a building, but a living temple of God’s presence among His people.

In recovery, we come to see that God is not confined to a particular place or ritual. He dwells in hearts made new by surrender, humility, and grace. Step Two assures us that a Power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity, and Step Three invites us to let God rebuild the inner temple of our souls according to His design.

The first reading from the prophet Ezekiel offers an image of restoration and life flowing from God’s dwelling place (Ezekiel 47:1–2, 8–9, 12):

*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 vision beautifully reflects our own spiritual awakening. Once dry and lifeless, we have discovered that grace flows through us when we open our hearts to God. The living water of His mercy nourishes our recovery and brings healing not just for ourselves, but for those around us.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul reminds us that God’s temple is not a physical structure but a spiritual one built within us (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.*

Addiction and self-will once desecrated the temple of our hearts. Through recovery, confession, and prayer, God is rebuilding His dwelling place within us. We are learning to care for this inner temple through honesty, accountability, and daily conversion. As we clean house—emotionally and spiritually—we make room for the Spirit to flow freely again.

Reflection Questions

In the Gospel for this feast, Jesus drives the money changers from 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."

This moment of righteous anger reminds us that purification is sometimes painful. The process of recovery can feel like Jesus overturning the tables in our hearts, driving out resentment, pride, or denial. Yet this cleansing is necessary for peace to take root.

At the same time, Jesus promises that His own Body—the true temple—will be raised up. Likewise, our recovery is not destruction but renewal. The same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead restores us, one day at a time, transforming our weakness into strength and our despair into hope.

As we celebrate this feast, we remember that we are both part of the Church's great temple and unique dwelling places of God's Spirit. Our lives become living altars of gratitude when we share our story, offer compassion, and carry the message to others. The water flowing from the temple becomes the life of grace flowing through us.

- How has God rebuilt or renewed the “temple” of your life through recovery?
- What old attitudes or habits still need to be “driven out” so that God’s Spirit can dwell more freely in you?
- How can you allow the living water of God’s grace to flow from your recovery into the lives of others?

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 info@circatholicinrecovery.com
- 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

Sunday Mass Readings this Week

: **Isaiah 66:1-2**. Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Psalm 124:1-8. Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17
; **John 2:13-22**