

## Theme of the Week - Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

On Sunday we celebrated the Feast Day of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. This Feast, first celebrated in 1724, marks the building of the ancient Palace founded in the Lateran district, consecrated by Pope Sylvester I in 324AD. This Basilica was built to mark an end to Christian persecution and the establishment of the first public Christian monument, symbolizing freedom, unity, and the foundation of the Church. A chapel dedicated to Saint John the Baptist was built inside it. This moved Pope Sergius III to dedicate it to Saint John the Baptist. Pope Lucius II also dedicated it to Saint John the Evangelist in the 12th century. Thus, the name of this Papal Basilica is the Basilica of the Most Holy Saviour and of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in the Lateran. Christians consider the Basilica to be the *mother church of all churches in the world*.

The church was destroyed several times over the course of the centuries, and always rebuilt. The final reconstruction took place under the pontificate of Benedict XIII. The church was rededicated in 1724. It was at that time that the feast celebrated today was established and extended to the universal Church. So the Gospel reading from the book of John, reflects this Basilica. Like Jesus, the Church was destroyed by raised back; 'Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." '.....But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken."

The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica allows us to remember the journey of the people and God's constant and faithful care. At the same time, we are reminded today that each one of us is a "house of God" in the Risen Jesus, because the Holy Spirit dwells in each one of us (cf. 1 Cor. 3:16). This awareness alone leads us to praise the Lord on the one hand, and on the other, it leads us to say, at times, "O Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof" (Mt. 8:8), He is already in us and He welcomes us and loves us not as we would like to be, but as we are, here and now. When we learn to keep our gaze fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, our faces will shine with light that flows from a "unified" heart. How can you be more **Loving** and **Compassionate**? **Compassionate** towards others but also **loving** by our just actions and forgiving words?

# Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Weekly Reflections  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
32<sup>nd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time



## A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, 'Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

So the Jews said to him, 'What sign do you show us for doing these things?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

### Prayer for the Week

Gracious and Loving God,

We give our thanks to our Church and this school community. We together reflect on your word and seek your will, we too can show others your Love like St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist proclaimed and experienced.

Continue to be with us.

Amen.

#### Day 1

It what year was the Basilica built? In what year was the feast day first celebrated?  
Who are the two John's the Basilica is named after?

#### Day 2

How does the Gospel reading from Sunday link to the history of the Basilica?

#### Day 3

How can you be more **Loving** and **Compassionate** by being like Jesus and the two Saint John's the Basilica is named after?