

## FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

### Dear Parish Family,

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome—the oldest and highest-ranking of the four major basilicas, often called the **"Mother Church"** of all churches in the world. Though it may seem curious to honor a building, this feast reminds us that sacred spaces matter—and even more, that *we ourselves* are God's living temple.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus drives out the money changers from the temple, declaring, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* His words point beyond bricks and mortar to the temple of His body—and by extension, to the Church as His mystical body. Jesus is the true sanctuary where heaven and earth meet.

Ezekiel's vision in the first reading offers a powerful image of life flowing from the temple—a river that brings healing and fruitfulness wherever it goes. This water symbolizes the grace that flows from Christ and His Church, nourishing the world and renewing creation.

Then comes St. Paul (1 Cor 3) who reminds us that we are "God's building," with Christ as the foundation. Each of us is a temple of the Holy Spirit, called to holiness and unity. The Church is not just a structure, it is a living community, built of faith, love, and sacrament.

So, our dear Sisters and brothers, as we honor the Lateran Basilica today, let us also recommit ourselves to being sacred spaces—places where God dwells, where grace flows, and where others encounter Christ.

May our parish continue to be a spiritual home, **"One Family in Christ"** built on the foundation of Jesus, radiating life to all who enter.

### With prayers and gratitude,

Fr. Albert and Msgr. Mike

