



Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France

THE OLD CATHEDRAL

FIRST CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER



FOUNDED IN 1770

PRESENT CHURCH DEDICATED IN 1834

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME JANUARY 25, 2026

PASTORAL STAFF

Archbishop of St. Louis
The Most Reverend
Mitchell T. Rozanski

Rector
Father Nicholas W. Smith
Director, Office of Sacred Worship

In Residence
Father Joseph Jiang

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses
5:30 PM (Sunday Vigil)
8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM,
and 5:00 PM

Daily Masses
Monday through Friday
7:00 AM and 12:10 PM
Saturday - 7:00 AM

Live Stream Mass
7:00 AM Weekdays & 10:30 AM Sunday
Access live streams at oldcathedralstl.org

Devotions
Perpetual Help Devotions:
Tuesdays - 12:00 PM

SACRAMENTS

Confessions
Monday through Friday
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM

Marriage
Please arrange at least six months in
advance of the desired date.
To reserve a date, or for more
information, please contact
Tracy Marklein at 314-308-0091
tracymarklein@archstl.org

Baptisms
Sundays, following the 12:00 PM Mass
Please call 314-231-3250 to arrange

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 25

8:00 AM Edward Schnieders

10:30 AM Parish Family
(Live Streamed)

12:00 PM Agnes H. Bonacorsi

5:00 PM Luisa Maria Magnani

Monday, January 26

7:00 AM Mary Ann Stone

12:10 PM Edward Costigan, Jr. (NS)

Tuesday, January 27

7:00 AM EOHSJ Legacy Society (NS)

12:10 PM Ron Weber

Wednesday, January 28

7:00 AM Father Harold Volker (NS)

12:10 PM Ruth E. Kinsock

Thursday, January 29

7:00 AM Deceased Members of the
Saale Family

12:10 PM Souls in Purgatory (NS)

Friday, January 30

7:00 AM Personal Intention of
Ronald Hirbe

12:10 PM Jim Blum

Saturday, January 31

7:00 AM Mary Ellen Varone

5:30 PM Robert Healy

Sunday, February 1

8:00 AM Parish Family

10:30 AM Leonilda & Robert Marklein
(Live Streamed)

12:00 PM Ron & Sue Kippenberger

5:00 PM Bernice Healy

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THE OLD CATHEDRAL

209 WALNUT STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63102
314-231-3250

Email: oldcathedral@att.net

Website: oldcathedralstl.org



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25, 2026

Sunday: Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17
Monday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/ Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25
Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/ Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25, 2026

Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Celebrate Catholic Schools Week
Monday: Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
Tuesday: St. Angela Merici, Virgin
Wednesday: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: Weekday In Ordinary Time
Friday: Weekday In Ordinary Time
Saturday: St. John Bosco, Priest
Next Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



THANKS TO THE ACA

*for the many ways in which it supports
the works of the Old Cathedral*

OLD CATHEDRAL WEEKLY GIVING

The Old Cathedral has long been recognized as one of the most historic and beautiful churches of its time.

Our parish is proud of its more than 240 year history as a vibrant Roman Catholic Parish. Your presence, prayer, and generous kindness continue to make it so.

Your weekly donations can be made by mail or in person, or online at:

oldcathedralstl.org/give

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Weekly Collection Thru 1/18/2026

Online Donations	\$ 608.00
Collection	\$ 3,827.00
Total	\$ 4,435.00



OLD CATHEDRAL FIRST SUNDAY TOURS

We are pleased to offer Old Cathedral tours on the first Sunday of the month following the noon Mass.

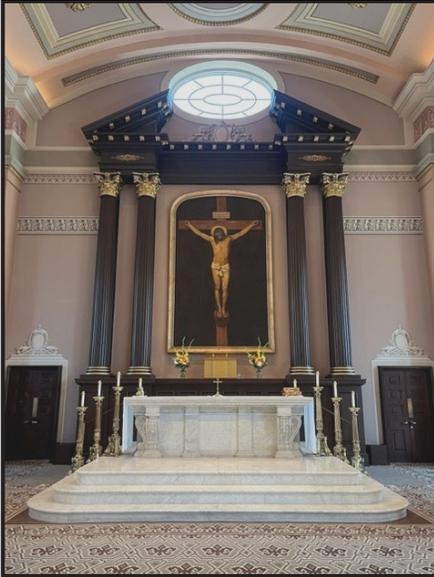
Tour: February 1

For group tours of 10 or more email oldcathedral@att.net
Please call for questions:
314-231-3250

MUSEUM HOURS
oldcathedralstl.org



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FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Old Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors:

We all know that in the history of the Church there have been, and still are, divisions among Christians. In writing to the Church at Corinth, Paul does not hide his irritation with the splinter groups within that community. Each group seemed to have its allegiances, which made them look more like opposing teams than a united community of faith. Sadly, personality cults had grown up around Cephas and Apollos, even Paul himself, putting the focus on them rather than Christ.

For Paul this was intolerable, as he pleaded for them to be united not just in faith and belief, but in life and practice. It was Christ, he wrote, who had been crucified, and it was in his name alone that they had been baptized and saved. How on earth could anyone dare to claim for themselves what belonged to Christ? Paul's message was very clear: Put Christ at the center

and keep your focus on him alone. He must be the source of unity, and the Gospel should never be used for division or disunity.

This call to singlehearted focus on Christ is evident in today's Gospel. As Peter and the others leave everything to follow Christ, he becomes the focus of their immediate and total response. From now on Christ is the center of their lives.

In our own time, thankfully, past disagreements that once gave rise to much division and even violence have now given way to efforts at dialogue and cooperation. While much remains to be done, there is a growing understanding that the invitation to follow Christ involves a shared identity and dignity. We are each called by Christ and invited to follow him, leaving behind all that might separate us from his love.

But Christian unity is not just something out there, something for Church leaders alone to work on. It is equally a part of every community of faith. The challenge for all Christians is to ask what we can do to build harmony and unity within our local community. What can we do to put Christ and his Gospel at the center of our lives so that it shines forth and attracts others? As Saint Paul reminds us, a Christ-centered community is one that works to diminish disagreements and put aside divisions by honoring Christ and seeing him as the only source of unity and forgiveness. As we close this week celebrating Christian unity, let's ask God for the grace to draw closer to him and closer to one another.

Blessings on your week. Stay safe!

-Father Smith

THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEAR-END DONATION

Your support has helped us reach our Year-End Goal, allowing us to proceed with essential repairs and upgrades to our indoor and outdoor lighting system.

The new lighting system will allow us to showcase the beauty, artistry, and architectural importance of the Basilica. This is especially meaningful as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of St. Louis in 1826.

During this historic year, many will come through our doors, and your gift will help make sure the Basilica shines as a symbol of faith, history, and welcome.

Please know that we truly appreciate your support in this essential initiative and will keep you updated as progress is made.



St. Thomas Aquinas offers habits of thought for a complex world

St. Thomas had a habit of inviting his readers to think through objections by making distinctions

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This week, as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we also observe the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas on January 28.

Don't worry — I'm not going to recommend that everyone needs to read St. Thomas' masterpiece, the "Summa Theologiae."

But I do think — especially as the nation turns 250 and the Archdiocese of St. Louis turns 200 — that everyone would benefit from adopting some of the Angelic Doctor's habits of thought. Let me name two in particular.

First, St. Thomas had a tremendous capacity to listen to objections — and not only to listen to them, but to take them at their best. Every question in the "Summa Theologiae" begins with an objection to the position that Thomas wants to take — in fact, usually with at least three (and sometimes as many as 10!). St. Thomas did that for many reasons: in part because the objections were really out there and needed to be answered; in part because many of the objections were partially true, and those partial truths needed to be integrated into a more complete picture; in part because he thought the faith could stand up to those objections.

Whether it's a political debate, a philosophical debate or a theological debate, we'd do well to take a page from his book.

Second, St. Thomas had a habit of inviting his readers to think through objections by making distinctions. Let's make a distinction between what the Bible says and what the Bible teaches.

It says that some of the ancient patriarchs had many wives; it doesn't teach that polygamy is OK.

If God is everywhere, does it really matter where we pray? Every place can be a place of prayer, but there's a real difference for us when we pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Aren't we all God's children? Yes, but there are multiple layers of that: God is the father of all creatures, all rational creatures, all the baptized and all the saints in different ways.

How does the distinction between object, intention and circumstance qualify every moral action? If you do a good deed, but for the wrong reason, in the wrong way or at the wrong time, the intention and circumstances make it less good.

Those are just a few examples of the power of distinctions in how the Catholic faith approaches the world. A complex world requires many distinctions.

Jesus said — and we read it this week in Mark 4 — "The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you."

It's fair to say that American public discourse has become characterized by not listening carefully to objections, by not making the most of them and by not making distinctions in reasoning. This measure has been measured out and measured back so many times that it's spiraled into shouting matches and echo chambers. Can we do better?

St. Thomas' habits are a school for something better. As the archdiocese turns 200 and the nation turns 250, he offers a model of maturity. We don't need to know all the answers he knew; that's a field for specialists. (And it's good that we have specialists.) But we can all learn something by adopting his habits of thought. Schooling ourselves in those habits will benefit ourselves, the Church and American culture.

St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us!

Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski

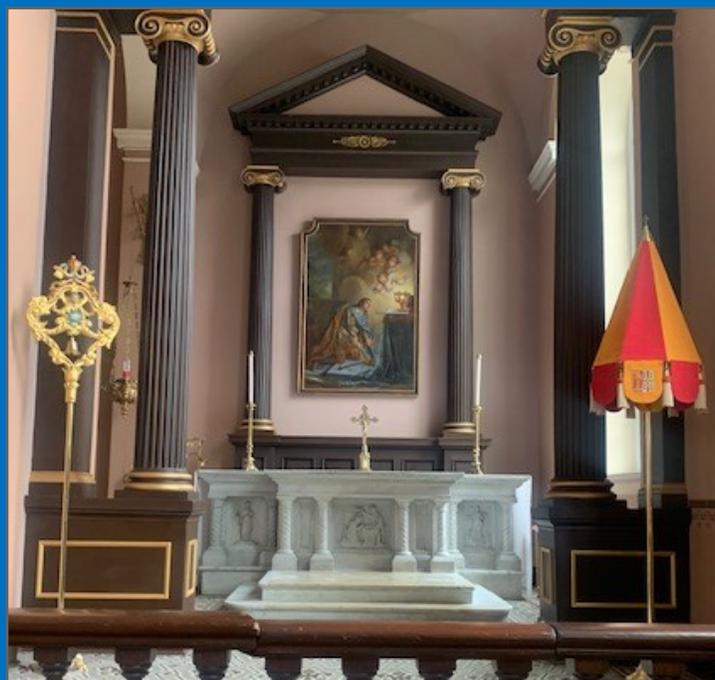
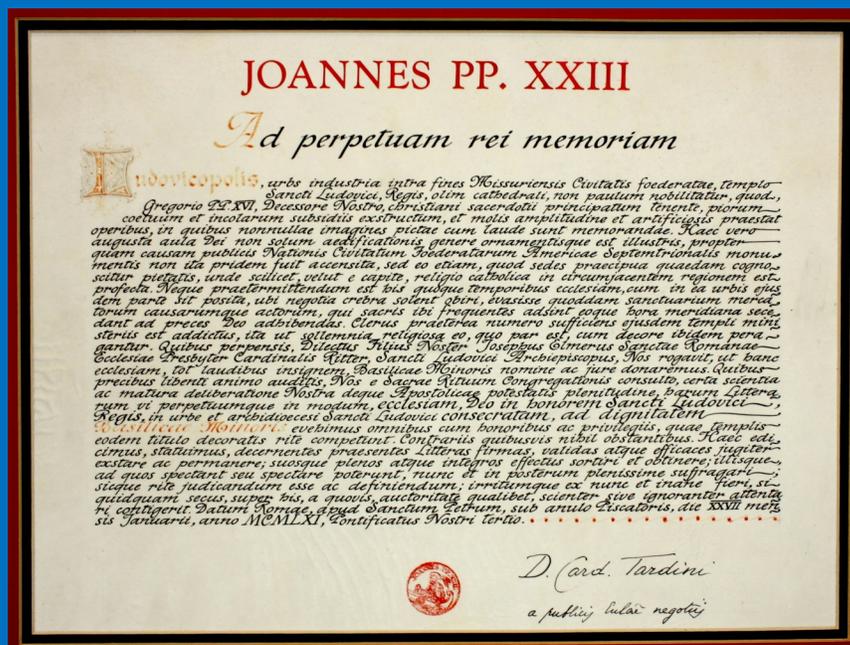


OLD CATHEDRAL HISTORY

On January 27, 1961,
Pope John XXIII decreed
basilican status upon the
Church of St. Louis IX,
King of France.

The official name of the
Cathedral became the
Basilica of Saint Louis,
King of France

Original decree featured right.



A basilica is granted certain privileges including the right to display an umbraculum, or “big umbrella,” and tintinnabulum, or “little bells.”

The red and yellow stripes of the umbraculum are encrusted with the coats of arms of Pope John XXIII, Cardinal Ritter, Bishop Rosati (as builder of the church), and the official seal of the Basilica of Saint Louis. The tintinnabulum is carved of wood in a baroque style and covered in gold leaf.

The official seal was designed in Rome and presented as a privilege of the basilican status.

The fleur de lis was featured on St. Louis' house of Valois flag. The red conch shells represent the two crusades in which St. Louis participated. St. Louis died of illness in the second crusade. The striped umbraculum caps the seal. Red and gold ropes thread from the gold tintinnabulum at the bottom tip of the seal. Both denote basilican status.