

CATHEDRAL VISITING HOURS

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

MOSAICS MUSEUM HOURS

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

CATHEDRAL TOUR*

Sunday at 1:00 pm

Monday – Friday

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

*Tours can be arranged for any size group.

Please call (314) 373-8240 for more information.

CATHEDRAL SHOP

10:00 am – 4:00 pm Daily

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday:

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12 noon & 5:00 pm

Saturday:

8:00 am and 5:00 pm

Monday – Friday:

7:00 am, 8:00 am, 12:05 pm

CONFESSIONS

Monday – Friday:

7:30 am – 8:00 am

Saturday:

3:30 pm – 4:50 pm

Sunday:

9:00 am – 9:50 am and 11:00 am – 11:50 am

CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINT LOUIS

4431 Lindell Blvd. (at Newstead Ave.)

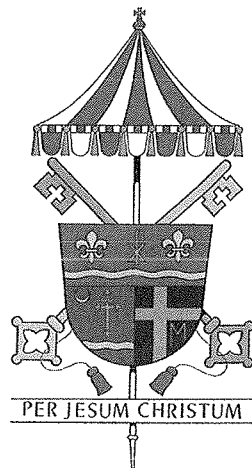
Saint Louis, Missouri 63108

(314) 373-8200

Handicap Accessible

VISITORS GUIDE

ENGLISH



CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINT LOUIS

4431 Lindell Blvd.
Saint Louis, Missouri 63108

TOUR OF THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINT LOUIS

Welcome to the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis! Archbishop John Glennon began the building of this beautiful expression of faith in 1907 providing an uplifting environment for Catholic worship and an inspiring place for private prayer. Its unique design combines architecture of Romanesque style on the exterior with a wondrous Byzantine style interior.

In the narthex (vestibule) the mosaics depict the life of our patron, Saint Louis IX, King of France, and provide a preview of the beauty yet to be discovered in the main body of the church. The great center dome, which pulls the eye heavenward, and the two lesser domes and half domes, together with the arches, reveal in mosaic art the story of the Catholic Faith from creation to the last judgment. Portraying scenes from both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, the mosaic work pictures men and women of our Judeo-Christian history as well as illustrating the more recent development of the Catholic Church in North America and particularly in St. Louis.

This is one of the largest collections of mosaics in the world, created by 20 different artists and covering 83,000 square feet. The installation, containing 41.5 million pieces of glass tesserae employing over 7,000 colors, began in 1912 and was completed in 1988 by the Ravenna Mosaic Co. In recognition of its beauty and the historical significance of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Pope John Paul II designated the Cathedral of St. Louis a Basilica in 1997.

The Mosaic Museum, on the lower level, provides additional information on the construction of the Cathedral Basilica and the installation of the mosaic artwork. The Cathedral Shop, located to the west of the vestibule, offers books and postcards providing detailed information on the history of the church.

Proceeds from the operation of the museum and shop and your donations are used for the support and preservation of this inspiring and historic St. Louis landmark. Whether you have come to pray or to simply view the beauty, we hope you are nourished in spirit and will return again to the Cathedral Basilica.

1) NARTHEX

This gathering place is a fine example of Byzantine style art and architecture. The lower wall is buff marble to symbolize earth. The mosaic panels above are paved with a series of scenes about the life of Saint Louis IX, King of France (1214–1270), patron saint of the city. The barrel vaulted ceiling is covered by a swirling green vine symbolic of Christ, who is also portrayed in the central mosaic as “teacher” or “Pantocrator”.

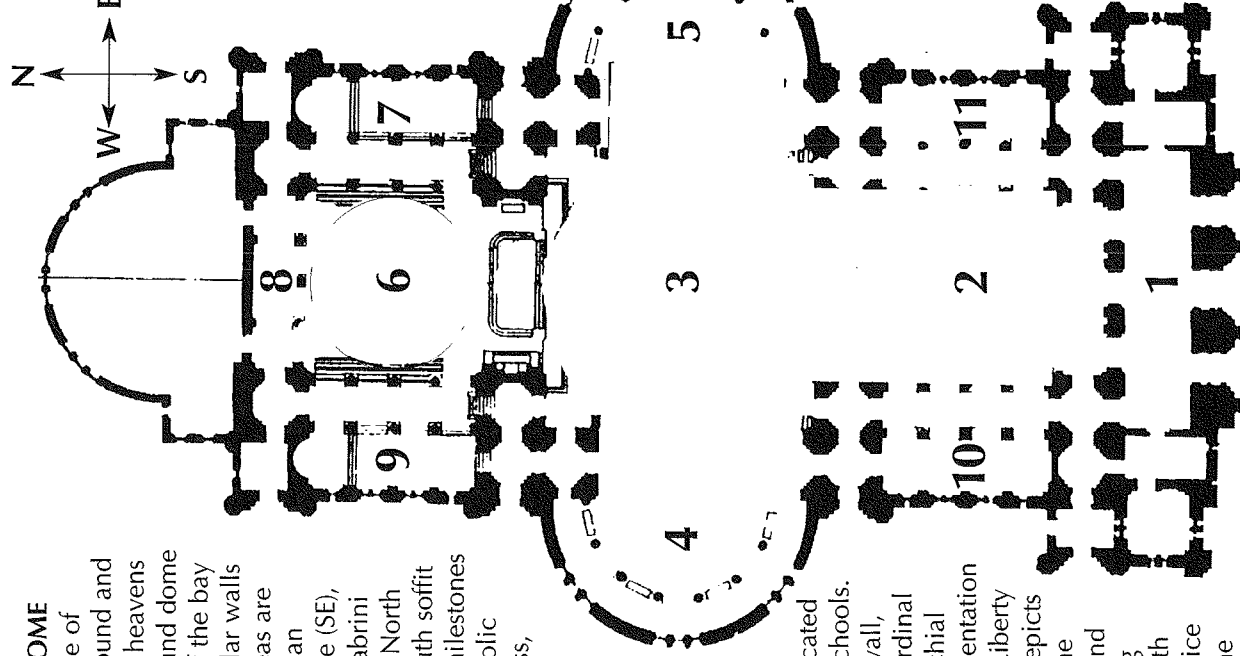
2) THE HISTORIC BAY AND DOME

The great seal of the Archdiocese of St. Louis on a dark blue background and surrounded with the stars of the heavens is the dominant mosaic. The round dome mounted on the square space of the bay is supported by inverted triangular walls called pendentives. The four areas are covered with mosaics of American saints: Rose Philippine Duchesne (SE), Elizabeth Seton (SW), Mother Cabrini (NW), and Isaac Jogues and the North American martyrs (NE). The south soffit or under-arch notes important milestones of the establishment of the Catholic Church in St. Louis, the first mass, first baptism, and the seal of the city. The east soffit is dedicated to the works of charity of communities of sisters and brothers. The north soffit tells of the founding and work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the United States. The west soffit portrays the orders of dedicated teachers of St. Louis parochial schools. The east lunette, or half round wall, speaks to the work of Joseph Cardinal Ritter in desegregating the parochial schools of St. Louis and the presentation of the Declaration of Religious Liberty of Vatican II. The west lunette depicts the Jesuit missionary thrust on the frontier by Frs. Jean Marquette and Pierre Desmet, and the on-going St. Louis mission in Bolivia, South America. The brilliant blue cornice with the vine of Christ behind the Byzantine style angels proclaiming the eight Beatitudes was installed in 1927.

3) THE CENTRAL DOME

A heavenly vision on a background of brilliant red rises 143 feet from the floor to the central spotlight, symbolic of the power of God's love. The mosaic panels are dedicated to the Holy Trinity (N), Ezeckial the Prophet (E) receiving the word of God, the woman of the Apocalypse (S) and Elias (W) taken up to heaven in the fiery chariot. At the base of the dome is a rippling wave symbolic of the dome of water, which according to Genesis, separates heaven and earth. The sixteen angels represent eight archangels and eight commemorative angels. Each angel has a constellation of stars at its feet. The four large angels of the pendentives depict the Old Testament (NE), New Testament (NW), Ecclesiastical authority (SW) and civil authority (SE). The east arch has God, the Creator, as its central figure, flanked by the story of creation. The north arch is the Arch of Triumph, with Christ the Savior, as it's central motif. John the Baptist is on His left with the prophets

and kings of the Old Testament and the Virgin Mary is on His right with apostles and saints of the New Testament. The west arch, the Arch of Sanctification, is dedicated to the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit and the saints, doctors, and teachers of the Church. The south Arch of Judgment tells the story of the last day from the souls rising from the dead, to Christ's judgment, to the souls condemned are passing through ice, symbolic of the lack of love.



St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. John Chrysostom of the Eastern rite and St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Ambrose of the Western rite. The south soffit, completed in 1927, contains mosaics of the priesthood of the Old and New Testaments. The east soffit mosaics are Old Testament prototypes of the Sacrifice of Jesus. The east lunette repeats the Old Testament theme in the portrayal of the Passover feast. The north wall of the Cathedral is pierced by a brilliant red stained glass window containing a gold cross surrounded with the crown of thorns. The mosaic arch around the window pictures the deer of Psalm 42 which “long for the water as we long for the Lord.” The west soffit, designed by St. Louisan Robert Harmon, depicts the fulfillment of the Old Testament in the nativity and marriage feast of Cana mosaics. The west wall, completing the New Testament theme, is a portrayal of the Last Supper after the DaVinci fresco in the refectory in the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, Italy. The large structure over the main altar is the “baldachino” whose top dome imitates the main exterior dome of the Cathedral. The white marble figure of Christ crucified dominates the sanctuary. The white marble figure of Christ bishop's chair, or “cathedra,” is on the west side of the sanctuary. It is this chair that makes of this church a “cathedral.”

7) THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

Housing the tabernacle, this chapel is reserved as a place for private prayer. The mosaic panels here depict various aspects of the gift of Eucharist. The red color of the ambulatory ceiling and the angels holding instruments of torture recall the suffering of Christ.

8) THE BISHOPS HALL

This hall contains Italian style mosaics of the coats of arms of the men who have served as bishops and archbishops of the St. Louis diocese.

9) THE BLESSED VIRGIN'S CHAPEL

Created by Tiffany Company of New York in the Italian style, this chapel contains mosaic panels depicting Mary's Presentation, Annunciation, Visitation to Elizabeth, and the Assumption.

10) THE ALL SAINTS CHAPEL

Also the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany, this chapel is dedicated to the early classification of saints as either apostles, confessors, martyrs or virgins.

11) ALL SOULS CHAPEL

Designed in the Viennese Reconstructionist architectural style, this chapel uses black marble to symbolize death and white marble to symbolize resurrection or eternal life. The statue is of the Risen Christ. The chapel is over the burial place for Cardinal Glennon, Cardinal Ritter, Cardinal Carberry and Archbishop May who have served as leaders of the St. Louis Church. Cardinals Glennon, Ritter and Carberry's hats (gallero) hang above their burial place.

4) THE WEST TRANSEPT

The west soffit contains images of Jesus' baptism and Ascension to heaven. The transept mosaic, rendered in flaming colors of red, violet and blue pictures the occasion of the Holy Spirit's descent on the apostles inspiring them to go forth and preach the Word of God. The fourteen stations of the cross are mounted on the plain lower walls of the east and west transepts above the confessionals.

5) THE EAST TRANSEPT

The east transept portrays Christ's resurrection and His appearance to the woman, Mary, and His disciples at Emmaus. The mosaic on the soffit or underarch of the raising of Lazarus from the dead is symbolic of Jesus' resurrection. The baptismal font and ambry for the Holy Oils are located in the east transept.

6) THE SANCTUARY DOME

Mosaics picture the twelve apostles bearing symbols of their lives. The four pendentive mosaics are images of four doctors or teachers of the church,