

CATHEDRAL  
BASILICA



OF SAINT LOUIS



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD DECEMBER 25, 2025

### MASSSES ON THE LORD'S DAY

5:00 pm Sat (vigil)  
8:00 am, 10:00 am,  
12:00 noon, 5:00 pm

#### Live Streaming

Sunday Mass at 10 am  
Daily Mass at 8 am

### WEEKDAY MASSES

7:00 am (Mon-Fri)  
8:00 am (Mon-Sat)  
12:05 pm (Mon-Fri)

### OPEN WEEKDAYS

6:30 am – 5:00 pm

### LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Evening Prayer  
4:30 pm (Sat)

### OPEN SATURDAY/ SUNDAY

7:00 am – 6:30 pm

### CONFESSIONS

7:30–8:00 am  
(Monday through Friday)

3:30–4:50 pm (Sat)  
9:00–9:50 am (Sun)  
11:00–11:50 am (Sun)

### PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Following 8:00 am &  
12:05 pm Mass (Tues)

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

3:30 pm–4:30 pm (Sat)  
8:30 am–11:45 am  
(Every First Friday)

4431 Lindell Boulevard Saint Louis, MO 63108-2403



## WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski and the people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis welcome you and hope that your time in our Mother Church may be an opportunity to share our faith and joy in Jesus Christ.

Please enjoy the beauty of this building dedicated to the glory of God and built for the inspiration of all who enter.

All visitors who are not of the Catholic faith are welcome to join us in prayer, but not to receive Holy Communion. Reception of Holy Communion is a sign of unity of faith and full membership in the Catholic community. Together let us pray for the eventual unity of all believers.

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 in the main body of the church. The great center dome, which pulls the eye towards heaven, 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 completed in 1988 by the Ravenna Mosaic Co. In the Cathedral, we have two types of mosaics, Italian, which are used in the Blessed Mother and All Saints Chapels, and Byzantine, which is in the remainder of the Cathedral. Italian style are made of colored marble rather than glass, it lacks the reflective quality and

looks more like painting rather than mosaics. Tiffany Company of New York installed these two chapels. Tiffany did not use marble however; they used glass in pastel colors that were semi opaque to resemble marble. The Byzantine style in the rest of the Cathedral is made of colored glass and gold leafed glass. They are very bold and intense colors. When installed, they use a small tool to tilt random gold tesserae pieces to reflect the light and shine.

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 on April 4, 1997. Having that distinction, the Cathedral displays two special symbols, the tintinnabulum (the bell) and the ombrellino (the umbrella) – these are currently in the Blessed Mother Chapel during the Christmas Season.

Depending where you are in the Cathedral here are some things you may see in the mosaics. A boy on crutches. A deer. A globe of the world. A headless saint. Jonah & the whale. Keys of St. Peter. A lamb. A llama. A shamrock. The Statue of Liberty. A steamboat. A cabin. A snail. A cowboy. An hourglass. The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Baptisms. Tongues of fire. Symbols of the four Evangelists. Books. A Raggedy Andy doll. An angel blindfolded. An anchor. The six days of creation. The Ten Commandments. A harp. A dove. St. Louis with the Crown of Thorns. A sailboat. White horses & a chariot. A lunchbox. Loaves of bread. Peacocks. There is beauty all over the Church, and even more celebrating the birth of our Savior.

The poinsettias that decorate the Cathedral are in honor of loved ones of parishioners and visitors alike. There are over 200 in the Church. The clergy and staff at the Cathedral wish all of you a Merry and very Blessed Christmas!

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”





## FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

As we celebrate the joy and wonder of Christmas, I offer my heartfelt greetings and blessings to you and your loved ones. This holy season invites us to pause and reflect on the miraculous gift of God's love, revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ—God made flesh, who chose to dwell among us.

In the midst of the busyness and excitement that often accompany these days, it is important to turn our hearts toward the true meaning of Christmas. The Nativity of our Lord reminds us that God's love is both personal and profound. In the quiet simplicity of a Bethlehem stable, Jesus entered the world as a child—vulnerable, humble, and radiant with promise. This is the great mystery of our faith: that the Creator of the universe became one of us so that He might draw near to us, bringing the gifts of peace, hope, and salvation.

The Cathedral Basilica, with its stunning mosaics and sacred beauty, stands as a living testament to the light of Christ. It is a blessing to gather in this holy space—whether you are a longtime member of our parish family or a visitor joining us for the first time. Your presence enriches our community, and together we share in the warm glow of Christ's light, which shines in our hearts and illuminates the world.

As we celebrate the wonder of the Incarnation, let us remember that Christmas is not only a moment in time but a way of living. The birth of Christ calls us to embody His love each day—to act with compassion, to seek reconciliation, to serve with generosity, and to bring hope to those in need. When we live in this spirit, the joy of Christmas extends far beyond December 25, becoming a guiding light throughout the year.

I am deeply grateful for all who make the Cathedral Basilica a place of vibrant worship, welcome, and fellowship. Your prayers, your service, and your steadfast support help our parish continue its mission as a beacon of faith in our city and beyond. As we rejoice in the birth of our Savior, may we be renewed in our unity in Christ and strengthened by His abiding presence.

On behalf of all the clergy, staff, and volunteers of the Cathedral Basilica, I wish you and your loved ones a blessed and grace-filled Christmas. May the peace, love, and joy of Christ fill your hearts this season and remain with you throughout the coming year.







DECEMBER 25, 2025



2025 Baptisms





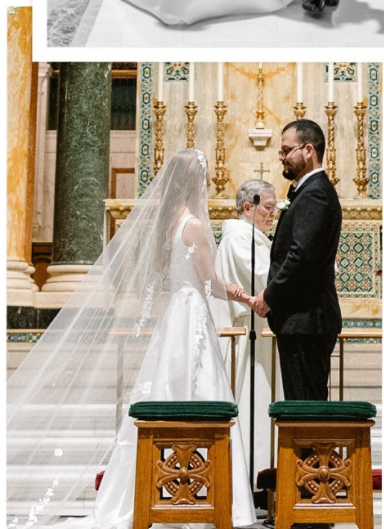
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2025 Weddings





DECEMBER 25, 2025





***“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who carry good tidings!” Isaiah 52:7***

As the half-way point between heaven and earth, the mountain stands at the crossroads between God and mankind. Moses received the law upon Mount Sinai. Elijah heard God’s voice in the gentle breeze in a cave near Sinai’s peak. Abraham promised the new lamb of God in place of Isaac upon Mount Moriah, upon which the Temple was built in later centuries. Peter witnessed Jesus’ glory in his Transfiguration on Mount Tabor.

As Abraham, Moses, Elijah, and Peter returned from the mountains, they carried deep in their memory the mystery encountered: that God’s love is stranger and more beautiful than their wildest imaginings. God is not in the earthquake, but in the gentle wind. God does not demand our lives, but promises his Lamb. God is brilliant light, whose deep desire is to guide us into friendship with Himself by the law and covenant. Christ is a true man, hiking with his friends, yet also the glorious redeemer in whom the Father is well pleased.

The strangeness of God becomes the secret fire in the hearts of these men who would lead Israel and the Church. Many years later, Peter writes: “[Jesus] received honor and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, ‘This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain” (2 Peter 1: 17-18). If it surpasses comprehension that a man could be so loved by God, even more so that my own humanity is likewise cherished by God. How beautiful the feet of those who carry to us such wondrous tidings coming down the mountainside!

Today, however, we go not up but down. Not to the mountain, but the cave. The mountain may be for the prophets, the patriarchs, and the great leaders of our faith. The cave is for the poor, unlettered men who could not grasp the meaning of the wind and fire, but whose hearts are deeply moved by a mother holding her newborn son.

In the most remarkable twist of revelation, God is born in a cave. He does not ask us to meet him half-way, at the crossroads of heaven and earth. He baffles us by his own humility: “Come to where your animals are stored, smelling of dung and straw! Stop. You have always passed by this place quickly, just grabbing a halter and moving on, but here is a revelation more marvelous than the trumpets on Mount Sinai.

Humanity was not brought to obedience through my Majesty, perhaps they will come to adore my humility. The glory of heaven overwhelms, so I will draw them by the charity of earth. The stony hearts shall not be cracked open, but melted by the warm hearth and gentle friendship of Mary and Joseph. If you will not obey me as your Father, receive me as your child.”

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant. O come, ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of Ages. O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**Fr. Charles Archer**  
**Parochial Vicar**

