

Daily Homily
Dedication of St. John Lateran
Feast
32 Week, Ordinary Time, Monday
9 November 2020
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Today's feast is about history, and it is about mystery.

So first, a brief history.

St. Brendan is part of a big picture that goes all the way to Rome. As Catholics we are members of a bigger family than just St. Brendan Church. Our Mother Church is St. John the Evangelist Cathedral, located in downtown Cleveland. Cathedral is a word that means, "chair." The chair or the seat of our Bishop, our Apostle, is located in the Mother Church of St. John, downtown. Literally, Bishop Malesic, has his name on the chair that is located in the center of the sanctuary of the Cathedral. No one else may sit there during liturgical events, only him. When he is not there, the chair is left empty. St. Brendan and all the Catholic churches throughout the Diocese has a connection, a relationship with that church, downtown. Our community is affected by the work, the ministry, the choices, and decisions of what happens at the cathedral through the ministry of our bishop.

So that is the bigger picture of our St. Brendan Church. However, there is more... the Cathedral downtown and our church is part of an even bigger picture that takes us to Rome and that takes us to the feast we celebrate today. No doubt the most popular church building in Rome is St. Peter's Basilica. However, this church is just a shrine over the tomb of St. Peter himself. The church that hold more rank and importance is St. John Lateran Cathedral. This is where the chair of the pope is placed. The Pope is not only pastor of the Catholic Church throughout the world, but more specifically he is the pastor, the Bishop of Rome as well. Because of this, St. John Lateran claims the title of "Mother Church and head of all the churches in the city and in the world."

It is a church named after St. John the Evangelist and St. John the Baptist. The land on which it is built belonged to the Lateran family. The church goes back to the fourth century, at the time of Constantine. Over the years it was destroyed by fire, earthquakes, and war. Each time it was rebuilt. The current structure dates back to 1646.

That's the history. Here's the mystery...

And really all of this is only symbolic of yet a bigger picture. None of this would be or would matter except for the temple that has made all these things possible, the temple and the person of Jesus Christ. Through his life, death, and resurrection he has made our bodies into temples of the Holy Spirit... and our bodies our part of an even bigger picture, through this Eucharist, we too are fashioned and formed into the Body of Christ. It is all connected. We are part of a much bigger picture. We are part of something and someone greater than ourselves. All the more reason to hunger for this faith of ours. All the more reason to thirst for more. All the more reason to build this living stone into a holy foundation.

May zeal for His house, consume us, as well.