

Daily Homily
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Feast
31 Ordinary Week: Thursday
[9 November 2023](#)

As we dig ourselves out from this past Tuesday, this Feast is a good Feast to remind ourselves regarding what we are truly about.

In the office of being a Pope, he has many roles. One role that he fulfills would be his regular duties of being the Bishop of Rome. As Bishop of Rome, his cathedral isn't St. Peter's Basilica but rather the Basilica of St. John Lateran. Today, we honor the Pope's church.

It has quite a history that should not be overlooked. The land was donated by the Lateran family. A church was built there, the Popes of the past did live there. That original structure endured earthquakes, fire, pillaging, wars. The Pope at one time fled for his life to France for several years, only to come back to find the church almost completely demolished. All of us, as Church, do we ever feel like this?

They rebuilt. The present structure has been standing since 1646, initiated by Pope Innocent X.

In the Office of Readings for today is this great homily offered for this feast... it's a homily that states that any church building should be reflective of who we are as, people, as members of God's Church. This is a piece of that homily, "Do you wish this basilica to be full of light? God too wishes that your soul be not in darkness, but that the light of good works shine in us... Just as you enter this church building, so God wishes to enter into your soul, for he promised: *I shall live in them, and I shall walk the corridors of their hearts.*"

Look to this feast today... the Church has always been battered and bruised... taken for granted and exiled, stifled and oppressed... but we simply rebuild.