

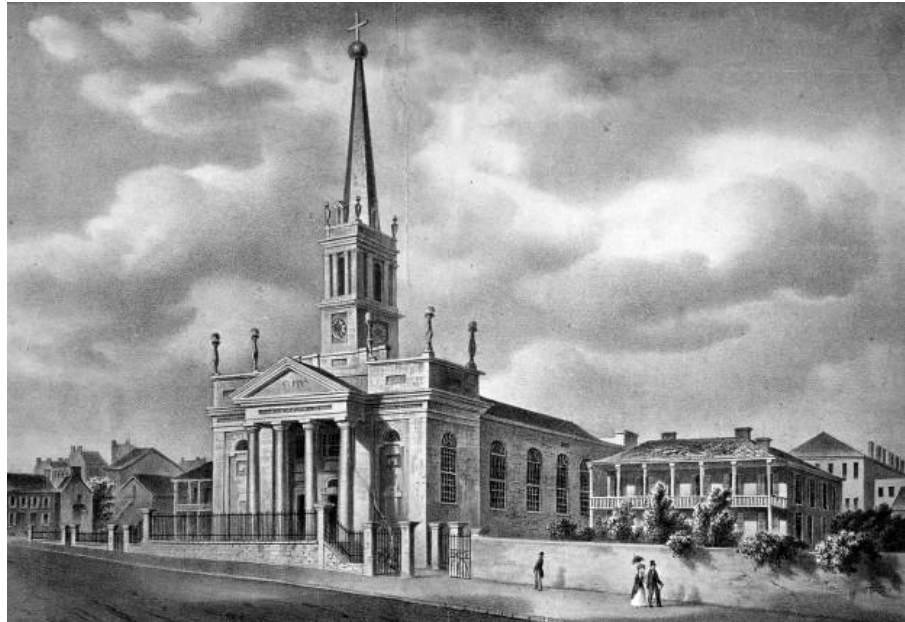


February 2026  
Season of Lent

Dear Legion Members,

This year, our Archdiocese of St. Louis is commemorating its Bicentennial Jubilee. Two hundred years ago, in 1826, Pope Leo XII divided the expansive Louisiana territory into two dioceses – New Orleans and St. Louis – and appointed Bishop Joseph Rosati, CM, as first bishop of St. Louis, which included the state of Missouri, the western half of Illinois, and all the American territory west of the Mississippi River and north of the state of Louisiana. A new era had begun, as described in the History of the Archdiocese, and the small French village would soon become a major American city. One of the first projects which Bishop Rosati addressed was the Church building on the riverfront which was on the verge of collapse. He began to lay plans for a beautiful place of worship. The following quotation comes from Jefferson National Parks Association:

*“When you visit the Gateway Arch, you do not expect to see a Catholic Church perched on the Arch grounds. Nor is it just any Church – it’s the first cathedral west of the Mississippi River. This handsome stone building is formally known as the Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France, but St. Louisans refer to it simply as the Old Cathedral. St. Louis was established as a French fur trading*



*post. Since then, the city has fallen under the control of three different countries (France, Spain and the United States). One thing, however, has remained the same since 1770: the ownership of the land where the Old Cathedral sits. Although the building has been changed several times...the property has been home to a Catholic Church.”* [Picture of Old Cathedral c. 1834. Credit: Missouri Historical Society]

We do not take for granted the tremendous heritage we enjoy as Catholics here in St. Louis. And it is our mission in 2026 to continue to make Jesus and His Church known to a world filled with so many people who are searching for meaning and seeking answers to life's challenges and demands. Those of us who have been privileged to encounter Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament know His power and Real Presence in our personal lives to give meaning, purpose and encouragement in our journey of life.

As you commit to your weekly time of Eucharistic Adoration with our Blessed Lord, may your time with Jesus be a renewal of faith. Thank the Lord Jesus for those ancestors who passed on the faith to you. Unite your mind and heart with the men and women who sacrificed so much so that you and I can gather regularly at Mount Grace Convent. Pray for an increase of vocations to the holy priesthood so that the Eucharist will always be available to us. Pray for an increase of vocations to the consecrated life, especially to the cloistered contemplative life. Pray for an increase of faith in our local Church of St. Louis which has experienced many blessings in the past, but also has many challenges for the future. Our Blessed Lord has promised us that He will not leave us abandoned. The gift of the Holy Eucharist sustains us and directs our attention to what truly matters – a life of holiness, a call to bring others to know Christ Jesus and the graces of His Church.

In this Bicentennial Jubilee of our Archdiocese may our renewal of faith be guided by the Immaculate Heart of our Mother Mary, whose words to the Archangel serve as our inspiration to trust completely in God's Divine Plan for us: "*Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum – Let it be done to me according to thy word.*"

From the rising of the sun to its setting, may our Eucharistic King be ever adored! Holy Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, pray for us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. Timothy P. Cronin

Spiritual Moderator, Legion of 1000 Adorers

Please mark your calendar to join us for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on **Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Mount Grace Convent.** This annual gathering of Legion of 1000 Adorers for Holy Mass commemorates the establishment of our beautiful spiritual organization by Joseph Cardinal Ritter in 1958.