

This week, on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Church's liturgical calendar has provided the solemnity of "the Anniversary of the Dedication of Consecrated Churches whose Date of Consecration is Unknown". Not only does the Church commemorate the events of Our Lord's life on Earth, and the heroic lives of Our Lady and the Saints, but it has also traditionally commemorated the dedication of churches. The universally celebrated Church dedications are as follows: on November 9<sup>th</sup>, is the dedication of the Lateran Basilica—the Pope's cathedral. Also in November, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, is the dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul in Rome; and on August 5<sup>th</sup> is that of the Basilica of St. Mary Major. These are days that remind all Catholics of our connection to Rome and the Pope.

In our archdiocese, the dedication of Holy Rosary Cathedral (November 24<sup>th</sup>) is another day that reminds us of our connection together as a local church. This year, however, the day falls on Christ the King Sunday, and will not be observed.

Our parishes, too, have days of dedication that should be commemorated: Christ the Redeemer Church on July 5<sup>th</sup>; Saint Anne's in Gull Lake on July 6<sup>th</sup>; and Saint Joseph's in Cabri on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Why should we celebrate a building, though? The meaning of the word "church" in English is borrowed from a Greek word for "belonging to the Lord". We are assembled in a house of the Lord every Sunday, and it is right to set aside holy things for the Holy One. Every church, then, is a joyful and reassuring sign of Emmanuel—"God among us".