



January 1, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With deep gratitude to God, I joyfully announce the official opening of the Bicentennial Jubilee Year of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. On this Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, we begin a sacred year of reflection, celebration, and renewal as we journey toward the two hundredth anniversary of our diocese on July 18, 2026.

Our Catholic roots in this region run deep, reaching back more than 350 years to the earliest missionary encounters in the Mississippi Valley. In 1764, the first Mass was offered in the settlement of St. Louis on the site where the Old Cathedral now stands. In 1818, Bishop DuBourg chose St. Louis as the episcopal seat of the growing frontier Church. In 1826, Pope Leo XII established the Diocese of St. Louis and entrusted Bishop Joseph Rosati with a vast mission territory that extended from the Louisiana border to the Rocky Mountains.

We are heirs to this missionary legacy. Our parishes, schools, charitable ministries, religious communities, and lay leaders all bear witness to the enduring light of Christ passed down through generations. Now, in our own time, we are called to carry that light forward with courage, joy, and faith.

This Jubilee Year invites us to honor the past, celebrate the present, and commit ourselves anew to the mission of Christ. Special initiatives, moments of prayer, pilgrimages, and parish celebrations throughout the year will help deepen our communion, renew our missionary zeal, and strengthen the bonds that unite us as one Church.

In honor of this historic milestone, the Holy See, through the Apostolic Penitentiary, has graciously granted a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, to the truly penitent and devout Christian faithful. This indulgence, available through July 26, 2026, is a beautiful gift of God's mercy, inviting us to deeper conversion and renewed holiness. To receive this grace, the faithful may visit several sacred sites I have designated as pilgrimage locations:

All Saints Parish
Basilica of St. Louis, King of France
Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis
Most Holy Trinity Church (St. Josephine Bakhita Parish)
Shrine of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne
St. Alphonsus Parish (Millwood)
St. Cecilia Parish

St. Charles Borromeo Parish
St. Francis Borgia Parish
St. Ferdinand Parish and the Old St. Ferdinand Shrine
St. Joachim Parish (Old Mines)
Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul (Cardinal Rigali Center)
St. Vincent de Paul Parish (Perryville)
Ste. Genevieve Parish (Ste. Genevieve)

Please visit www.ArchSTL200.org to learn more about these sites, the conditions for receiving the indulgence, and the special provisions for the sick and homebound.

Today, on this first day of the Jubilee Year, I invite you to join your hearts in prayer as we offer the Bicentennial Prayer together and ask God to bless our Archdiocese with unity, holiness, and hope. Let us give thanks for the gift of our faith and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us into a future filled with grace and renewed purpose.

May our patron saints Saint Louis, King of France, Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, and Saint Vincent de Paul intercede for us. May Mary, Mother of the Church, wrap us in her mantle of love. And may this Bicentennial Jubilee be a time of profound gratitude, spiritual renewal, and missionary joy for all the faithful of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitch T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis