



## ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

*Cardinal Rigali Center*  
20 Archbishop May Drive  
Saint Louis, MO 63119-5738

December 15, 2025

Dear Father,

As shared in our October 20th pre-launch letter, next year the Archdiocese of St. Louis will joyfully commemorate **the 200th anniversary of our founding as a diocese in 1826**. This once-in-a-generation Jubilee is an invitation for every parish community to enter more deeply into the mystery of God's enduring presence among us and to celebrate the vibrant, living history of Catholic faith in our region.

**At the direction of Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, the Archdiocese will open the Bicentennial Jubilee year on January 1, 2026, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.**

We are pleased to share with you the **Bicentennial Jubilee Launch Instructions for Parishes** which contain all the directives and resources needed for the launch and beyond. The resources provided are designed to be both inspirational and practical. Please review the following instructions carefully and share them with your parish staff at your earliest convenience.

Prayer cards and posters are in the process of being delivered to parishes and schools this week. **Please wait to display these items until January 1.**

We have created a [\*\*Digital Resource Site\*\*](#) to serve as the central site for digital downloads including logos, brand guidelines, Archbishop's Monthly Intentions, bulletin ads, customizable templates, signage designs, and more. Content will continue to be added throughout the year.

In addition, please be aware that our Catholic school leaders (principals and PSR directors) are also receiving a letter this week from Archbishop Rozanski inviting them to join in the unified launch of the Jubilee Year after the holiday break.

As we approach this joyful year together, may the Holy Spirit renew our hearts and strengthen our mission to share the light of Christ with our communities.

With excitement and gratitude,

The Bicentennial Jubilee Committee



## Archdiocese of St. Louis Bicentennial Jubilee Launch Instructions for Parishes

To mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we invite each parish to joyfully launch the Bicentennial Jubilee Year with the following coordinated efforts:

**Sunday, December 28, 2025**

**Prepare your parish community for the Bicentennial Jubilee Year:**

**Bulletin Publications:**

- **Please include the *Bicentennial Pre-Launch Message*** “Get Ready to Celebrate Our Bicentennial Jubilee!” as part of a pastor’s message in your printed and digital bulletins – see page 5.
- **Include the full-page Bicentennial ad** in your printed and digital bulletins.

**Pulpit Announcement:**

- **Announce that the Bicentennial Jubilee** will launch on Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Learn more in this and next week's parish communications. The church bells across the Archdiocese of St. Louis will ring out at 10:00 am signifying the opening of the Bicentennial Jubilee celebration....

## Thursday, January 1, 2026, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Launch the Bicentennial Jubilee Year with joyful celebration.

### Display Materials

- **Share the commemorative prayer cards and posters** by placing them in gathering areas. These visible signs mark the opening of the Bicentennial Jubilee Year and connect your parish to the archdiocesan-wide celebration.

### Bell Ringing

- **Peal church bells at 10:00 a.m. for three minutes** as a joyful public witness of the Bicentennial Jubilee opening.

### Prayer & Worship

- **Include the [Archbishop's January Intention](#)** in the Prayers of the Faithful at all Masses. The Digital Resource Site provides a Word document with text only as well as publication images for each month.
- **Begin reciting the [Bicentennial Prayer](#)** at Masses, gatherings, or meetings throughout the year. Encourage families and ministries to pray it together.
- **Read [Archbishop's Letter to the Faithful](#) at Mass.**

## Sunday, January 4, 2026

Continue the launch celebration and deepen engagement:

### Bulletin Printed and Digital Publications:

- Publish Archbishop Rozanski's *Bicentennial Letter to the Faithful*
- Include the full-page Bicentennial ad in your bulletin
- Include the *Bicentennial Prayer* in your bulletin
- Publish *Archbishop's January Intention*
- Publish Bicentennial-themed word games and/or coloring images

## Ongoing Engagement

**Please invite ongoing participation and help your community discover new opportunities as they become available throughout the Bicentennial Jubilee Year.**

We invite you to utilize the [\*\*Celebration Playbook\*\*](#) as you begin planning and discerning how your parish or ministry will celebrate the Bicentennial. The playbook is a collection of ideas and tools to assist in bringing the Jubilee theme to life in ways that best fit your own community.

As you celebrate, we'd love to see and share those moments. Tag your photos and stories with #ArchSTL200 so together we can showcase the light of our Catholic faith across the archdiocese.

### **Encourage Parishioners to Explore the Bicentennial Jubilee Website**

Launching in early 2026, the Bicentennial website [www.ArchSTL200.org](http://www.ArchSTL200.org) will serve as the public hub for:

- Interactive historical timelines and milestone stories
- Locating events across the archdiocese
- Opportunities for prayer, service, and reflection
- Shop commemorative Bicentennial Merch
- Teasers and invitations to upcoming archdiocesan initiatives, including:  
“Christ’s Light Among Us” Photo Contest: celebrating faith in everyday life, “Prayer of the People”: a unifying act of intercession across the archdiocese, and more initiatives designed to engage hearts and foster unity

**Digital Resource Site:** <https://resources.archstl.org/article/303232/bicentennial-resources>

If you have questions or need additional resources, please contact Linda Putnam, Director of Special Projects, [lindaputnam@archstl.org](mailto:lindaputnam@archstl.org) 314-792-7427.

## **Bicentennial Pre-Launch Message**

**Please include this message as part of a pastor's message to parishioners in parish communication (bulletin, Flocknote, etc.) on Sunday, December 28, 2025**

Get Ready to Celebrate Our Bicentennial Jubilee!

On January 1, 2026, communities across the Archdiocese of St. Louis will come together in joy and prayer to officially launch the Bicentennial Jubilee Year. This Jubilee Year marks a significant milestone as we prepare for the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of St. Louis on July 18, 1826. It is a time to celebrate and honor our rich Catholic heritage, deepen our faith, and recommit ourselves to carrying the light of Christ into the future.

Please look for upcoming parish communications for more information, and on January 1st, visit the website dedicated to celebrating the bicentennial: [ArchSTL200.org](http://ArchSTL200.org).

To begin this holy year in unity, Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski has asked that all church bells throughout the archdiocese ring at 10:00 a.m. on January 1. When you hear the bells, pause and lift your heart in prayer. Offer thanksgiving for all those who came before us carrying the Catholic faith through generations, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us so we may carry our faith forward with renewed joy, hope, and commitment to the Gospel.

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¡Prepárense para celebrar Nuestro jubileo bicentenario!

El 1 de enero del 2026, las comunidades de toda la Arquidiócesis de St. Louis se reunirán con alegría y oración para inaugurar oficialmente el Año Jubilar del Bicentenario. Este Año Jubilar marca un hito importante en nuestra preparación para el 200 aniversario de la fundación de la Diócesis de St. Louis el 18 de julio de 1826. Es un momento para celebrar y honrar nuestra rica herencia católica, profundizar nuestra fe y renovar nuestro compromiso de llevar la luz de Cristo al futuro.

Por favor, busque las próximas comunicaciones de la parroquia para obtener más información, y el 1 de enero, visíten el sitio web dedicado a la celebración del bicentenario: [ArchSTL200.org](http://ArchSTL200.org).

Para comenzar este año santo en unidad, el arzobispo Mitchell Rozanski ha pedido que todas las campanas de las iglesias de la archidiócesis repiquen a las 10:00 a.m. del 1 de enero. Cuando oigan las campanas, hagan una pausa y eleven su corazón en oración. Den gracias por todos aquellos que nos precedieron llevando la fe católica a través de las generaciones, y pidan al Espíritu Santo que nos guíe para que podamos llevar nuestra fe adelante con renovada alegría, esperanza y compromiso con el Evangelio.