



The BASILICA of SAINT MARY of the ASSUMPTION

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The Mass of Blessing and Installation of the Basilica Insignia

The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption - Monday, 14 August 2023 at 7.00 pm

On Sunday, 14 August 2022, His Excellency, Bishop Earl K. Fernandes was scheduled to celebrate the feast of our parish patroness with a special Mass at 7 pm. It just so happened that he received a special decree in the postal mail about 2 weeks before that scheduled Mass that allowed him to share some wonderful news at that upcoming Mass with the people of St. Mary of the Assumption. And that Sunday evening Mass, the Introductory Rites of the Mass were a bit different. After the Penitential Act, the Bishop crossed the Sanctuary, entered the ambo, and announced publicly that the Holy Father, Francis, through a decree promulgated by the Apostolic See on 7 July 2022 has raised our parish church to the honor of Minor Basilica. At the conclusion of the bishop reading the decree, singing of the *Gloria* followed – naturally. This honorary title recognizes the historical significance, architectural beauty, and liturgical renown of our this church of St. Mary of the Assumption. By virtue of this designation, a minor basilica shares a special relationship with the See of Rome and with the Holy Father.

A document entitled *Domus ecclesiae* issued in November of 1989 gives norms, requirements for a church to be considered for the special title, the duties proper to a basilica in liturgical and pastoral life, and concessions, or special privileges and responsibilities, connected with the title.

One of the concessions is that the basilica can display the papal crossed keys to manifest the special relationship the Pope has initiated by bestowing the basilica honor. The crossed keys are typically added to the church's seal or coat of arms, and can be added to liturgical furnishings, used on media and communications, etc. Also, traditionally, the church procures for itself other visible reminders of this spiritual bond with the Universal Church and the Holy Father: the tintinnabulum and the umbraculum. Typically, these items follow a general appearance but are crafted to be unique to the particular basilica. These items are said to come from history as elements that would often accompany the Holy Father in travels. A special bell and liturgical kind of umbrella mounted on poles. Our parishes coat of arms was updated in time for that special Mass last year with the minor basilica umbrella and crossed keys.

For the tintinnabulum (bell) and umbraculum (liturgical umbrella) the design process, procuring materials, and crafting of the two basilica elements has taken more than the past year. Both basilica elements have just recently been completed and received at the parish of Saint Mary.

We are grateful to announce that His Excellency, Earl K. Fernandes will return to our parish and basilica on Monday, 14 August 2023 for a special sacred liturgy, *The Mass of Blessing and Installation of the Basilica Insignia*, at 7 pm that evening. Our past bishops, all priests, and all the faithful are invited as this is indeed a time of rejoicing for all across the Church of Columbus. All are welcome to come and pray this unique Mass in the life of the Diocese and the life of this basilica and celebrate with us as these special basilica elements will be presented and blessed.

We encourage those who come for the 7 pm Mass to try to come early for liturgical music preludes, and after the Mass, a reception will be held outside in the courtyard. It is our intention to also offer a live-stream of this Mass on our website, YouTube, and Facebook for those who cannot make it. The Mass will be archived and available to watch after the celebration for those who cannot watch "live".

The Lord has chosen her, His loved one from the beginning. He has taken her to live with Him.