

# Celebrating 100 Years

*As America's first basilica*

The Basilica of Saint Mary honored the 100th anniversary of its designation as the first basilica in the United States on February 1, 2026. The historic decree recognized the church's architectural beauty, liturgical vitality, and significance within the Catholic Church in America.

On February 1, 1926, Pope Pius XI deemed the Pro-Cathedral of Saint Mary worthy of the title "by reason of the piety of its worshippers as well as by the splendor of its ritual and the richness of its adornment." From that time forward, the Pro-Cathedral of Saint Mary became known as The Basilica of Saint Mary.

The recent events in our city showed that The Basilica's mission is as important and relevant as ever, providing a place for comfort and peace and fostering a community that cares for the vulnerable.

A centennial Mass with Archbishop Bernard Hebda was held on February 1, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a pancake breakfast and commemorative program. ✚



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY



Photo credit: Ken Fournelle



“ ... by reason of the piety of its worshippers as well as by the splendor of its ritual and the richness of its adornment. ”

— February 1, 1926, Pope Pius XI



(Clockwise from top)

Susan Mulheron, Chancellor for Canonical Affairs at Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Archbishop Bernard Hebda.

Archbishop Bernard Hebda with Basilica priests.

Pancake breakfast being served.

Johan van Parys, Ph.D., Managing Director of Ministries, Director of Liturgy and the Sacred Arts.