When a church is dedicated, the proper Ritual Mass is always used, with the colour white or a festive colour. The dedication of a church, however, is not to take place during the Paschal Triduum, on the Nativity of the Lord, on the Epiphany, on the Ascension, on Pentecost Sunday, on Ash Wednesday, on the weekdays of Holy Week, or on the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day).

Entrance Antiphon

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people (E.T. alleluia).

Or, with Psalm 121:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (E.T. alleluia).

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said (sung).

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
pour out your grace upon this place
and extend the gift of your help
to all who call upon you,
that the power of your word and of the Sacraments
may strengthen here the hearts of the faithful.
Through our Lord Jesus, Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

The Creed is said; the Universal Prayer is omitted.

Prayer over the Offerings

May the gifts of your joyful Church
be acceptable to you, O Lord,
so that your people, gathering in this holy house,
may come through these mysteries to everlasting salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Eucharistic Prayer I or III is said with this Preface (‘The Mystery of God’s Temple’), which is an integral part of the Rite of the Dedication of a Church.

V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

V. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy.

For you have made the whole world a temple of your glory, that your name might everywhere be extolled, yet you allow us to consecrate to you apt places for the divine mysteries.

And so, we dedicate joyfully to your majesty this house of prayer, built by human labour.

Here is foreshadowed the mystery of the true Temple, here is prefigured the heavenly Jerusalem.

For you made the Body of your Son, born of the tender Virgin, the Temple consecrated to you, in which the fullness of the Godhead might dwell.

You also established the Church as a holy city, built upon the foundation of the Apostles, with Christ Jesus himself the chief cornerstone: a city to be built of chosen stones, given life by the Spirit and bonded by charity, where for endless ages you will be all in all and the light of Christ will shine undimmed for ever.

Through him, O Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, we give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, holy Lord God of hosts…
In the Eucharistic prayers, the dedication of the church is commemorated according to the following formulas:

a) In Eucharistic Prayer I, the proper form of the Hanc igitur (Therefore, Lord, we pray) is said:

Therefore, Lord, we pray:
graciously accept this oblation of our service,
and of these your servants,
who in a spirit of faith
have offered to you this church (in honour of N.)
and built it with tireless labour.
(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

b) In the intercessions of Eucharistic Prayer III, after the words the entire people you have gained for your own, the following is said:

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,
who dedicate this church to you:
may it be for your family a house of salvation
and a place for the celebration of your heavenly Sacraments.
Here may the Gospel of peace resound
and the sacred mysteries be celebrated,
so that your faithful,
formed by the word of life and by divine grace
on their pilgrim way through the earthly city,
may merit to reach the eternal Jerusalem.
There, in your compassion, O merciful Father,
gather to yourself all your children
scattered throughout the world.
To our departed brothers and sisters
and to all…

Communion Antiphon

My house shall be a house of prayer, says the Lord:
in that house, everyone who asks receives,
and the one who seeks finds,
and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened (E.T. alleluia).

Or:

Like shoots of the olive,
may the children of the Church be gathered
around the table of the Lord (E.T. alleluia).

Prayer after Communion

Through these holy gifts we have received,
O Lord, we pray,
instill in our minds an increase of your truth,
so that we may constantly adore you in your holy temple
and glory in your sight with all the Saints.
Through Christ our Lord.
Solemn Blessing at the End of Mass

The Bishop, with hands extended over the people, says:

May God, the Lord of heaven and earth, who has gathered you today for the dedication of this church, make you abound in heavenly blessings.
R. Amen.

May God, who has willed that all his scattered children be gathered in his Son, grant that you become his temple and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

May you be made thoroughly clean, so that God may dwell within you and you may possess with all the Saints the inheritance of eternal happiness.
R. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, * and the Son, * and the Holy * Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
R. Amen.

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