Am I obligated to celebrate the anniversary?
Yes.

When do I celebrate the anniversary?
The date that you commemorate is the date when the Order of the Dedication of a Church was carried out. The Office of Archives at the Central Office may be helpful in determining this date. Sometimes, a church has been dedicated more than once; in these cases, the most recent dedication is usually commemorated. The date of dedication is not to be confused with the date of canonical erection, which dates are not necessarily the same.

Which celebrations impede it? When this happens, am I obligated to transfer the anniversary? How do I do that?
The anniversary occupies the first rank in the Table of Liturgical Days. It is impeded by those celebrations that rank higher than it. If the Anniversary of the Dedication falls on the same day as one of those celebrations, the anniversary is always transferred to the closest day not listed under numbers 1-8 in the Table of Liturgical Days. Additionally, for the pastoral advantage of the people, a priest may choose to observe an anniversary that occurs during Ordinary Time on the preceding or following Sunday, provided that the anniversary ranks above that Sunday in the Table of Liturgical Days.

What about Funeral Masses and Ritual Masses?
On this day, Funeral Masses are permitted. Ritual Masses are not.

Which prayers and readings do I use for the Mass?
From the Roman Missal’s Common of the Dedication of a Church, use “On the Anniversary of the Dedication, In the Church that was Dedicated.” Both the Gloria and the Creed are said. From either volume II, III, or IV of the Lectionary, choose readings from numbers 701 to 706. Because the day is a solemnity, there are always two readings before the Gospel. During the season of Easter, the first reading is selected from number 702.

---

1 Before the promulgation of the 1983 Code, there seems to have been a distinction between consecration and solemn consecration. Usually, the date of solemn consecration is observed. Today, after substantial change to the Church building, it is often the practice to ‘re-dedicate’ it. Usually, it is this second date that is observed.

2 Roman Missal, Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar.

3 The Paschal Triduum; Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, Pentecost; Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter; Ash Wednesday; Weekdays of Holy Week; the Octave of Easter; Solemnities of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Saints; All Souls; and the Solemnity of the principal Patron of the place, city, or state

4 Roman Missal, Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, no. 58.

5 GIRM, 380.

6 GIRM, 372.

7 GIRM, 53, 68.
What about the Liturgy of the Hours?
In any volume of the breviary, use the “Common of the Dedication of a Church” for the following hours: Evening Prayer I, Office of Readings, Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer, and Evening Prayer II. For Night Prayer, use “After Evening Prayer I/II On Sundays and Solemnities.”

Other ways to celebrate?
- Celebrate the major hours of the Liturgy of the Hours in common in the church.
- Celebrate the mass with greater solemnity.
- Perform acts of devotion in honor of the Church’s patron and or the martyr or saint whose relics are placed under the altar.
- If your church has candles marking the anointings of the church, light these during more solemn liturgical celebrations.
- Encourage the faithful to obtain a plenary indulgence by visiting the Church on the day of its dedication and there devoutly reciting an Our Father and the Creed.\(^8\)

---

The Solemnity of the Title of a Church

Am I obligated to celebrate the title’s feast day? As a solemnity?!
Yes and yes.

When do I celebrate it?
Oftentimes, the title of a Church is assigned a date in the General Roman Calendar of the Roman Missal. Use this date. If the title is not assigned a date in the General Calendar, consult the Martyrology. The calendar in use immediately prior to the reforms following the Second Vatican Council may also be helpful.

Which celebrations impede it? When this happens, am I obligated to transfer it? How do I do that?
The Solemnity of the Title of a Church occupies the first rank in the Table of Liturgical Days. It is impeded by those celebrations that are listed higher than it.\(^9\) If the Solemnity of the Title falls on the same day as one of the above celebrations, the Solemnity of the Title is always transferred to the closest day not listed under numbers 1-8 in the Table of Liturgical Days. Additionally, for the pastoral advantage of the people, a priest may choose to observe a titular feast that occurs during Ordinary Time on the preceding or following Sunday, provided that the titular feast ranks above that Sunday in the Table of Liturgical Days.\(^10\)

---

\(^8\) *Manual of Indulgences*, 33, §1, 6°

\(^9\) The Paschal Triduum; Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension, Pentecost; Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter; Ash Wednesday; Weekdays of Holy Week; the Octave of Easter; Solemnities of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Saints; All Souls; the Solemnity of the principal Patron of the place, city, or state; and the Solemnity of the anniversary of the dedication of one’s own church.

\(^10\) *Roman Missal*, Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, no. 58.
What about Funeral Masses and Ritual Masses?
On this day, Funeral Masses are permitted.\(^\text{11}\) Ritual Masses are not.\(^\text{12}\)

Which prayers and readings do I use for the Mass?

**Prayers.** From the *Roman Missal’s* Proper of Saints or the appropriate Common, or *Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, volume I. Both the *Gloria* and the Creed are said.\(^\text{13}\)

**Readings.** From vol. II or III of the *Lectionary*, choose readings from the Proper of Saints or the appropriate Common, or *Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, volume II. Because the day is a solemnity, there are always two readings before the Gospel. During the season of Easter, the first reading is selected from the New Testament (generally from Acts or Revelation).

What about the Liturgy of the Hours?
In any volume of the breviary, all is taken from the “Proper of Saints” and the appropriate common for the following hours: Evening Prayer I, Office of Readings, Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer, and Evening Prayer II. For Night Prayer, use “After Evening Prayer I/II On Sundays and Solemnities.”

Other ways to celebrate?
- Consider praying a novena leading up to the celebration.
- Celebrate the major hours of the Liturgy of the Hours in common in the church.
- Celebrate the mass with greater solemnity.
- Perform acts of devotion in honor of the Church’s patron.
- Encourage the faithful to obtain a plenary indulgence by visiting the Church on the solemnity of its titular and there devoutly reciting an Our Father and the Creed.\(^\text{14}\)

---

\(^\text{11}\) GIRM, 380.

\(^\text{12}\) GIRM, 372.

\(^\text{13}\) GIRM, 53, 68.

\(^\text{14}\) *Manual of Indulgences*, 33, §1, 5°