



# ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

## Office of Communications and Planning

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Gabe Jones

314.792.7557

[gabejones@archstl.org](mailto:gabejones@archstl.org)

## HAND-ILLUMINATED BIBLE TO BE ON PERMANENT DISPLAY IN ST. LOUIS

*Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis will be only cathedral in the nation with a Saint John's Bible*

**ST. LOUIS** – A Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible – the first hand-illuminated bible commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in 500 years – will be put on permanent display in the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis following the Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 17, at 2:30 p.m.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century in England. In this service, Scripture lessons are read which recount the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's messages and a brief prayer. Images from the St. John's Bible will be projected on the walls of the Cathedral Basilica during the service. The service is free and open to the public.

Volumes of the Saint John's Bible have been on display at several locations around the Archdiocese of St. Louis throughout 2017. The massive piece of art includes 1,165 pages and 160 illuminations. Newsweek Magazine has called it "America's Book of Kells." The original manuscript of seven volumes remains at St. John's University, but 299 sets were created as a "Heritage Edition" for travel and display around the world. The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis will be the only cathedral in the county to permanently house a Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible.

"The Archdiocese of St. Louis has appreciated sharing several volumes of the Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible with our community over the past year," said Archbishop Robert J. Carlson.

"Due to the generosity of a Cathedral Basilica parishioner, the archdiocese has secured its own Heritage Edition. The seven-volume set of The Saint John's Bible now becomes part of the rich history of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. It is my hope that this monumental work of faith and art will enrich the faith lives of our community for generations to come."

Photos of the Saint John's Bible and imagery of the illuminations are available upon request. More information about The Saint John's Bible can be found at [archstl.org/bible](http://archstl.org/bible).

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