

The cornerstone for the Cathedral was placed on August 15, 1849. The Cathedral was completed in October 1852. We are proud to be an Urban Parish serving not only the needs of our parishioners but also the spiritual and social needs of the downtown Louisville community.

The mission of daily feeding the hungry at the Cathedral of the Assumption was born of necessity and charity in the 1930's when the city of Louisville reeled from the effects of the Great Depression and the local devastation of the Great Flood of 1937. We started serving cheese sandwiches on the steps of the parish rectory. At some point the meal became bologna sandwiches, a dessert, and a drink out the front door of the rectory, and this continued on 5th street until the 1990's. The mission was relocated to the alley where sandwiches were served from the Archbishop's garage on a fold down hatch. This is the origin of the name, Bologna Alley.

During the renovation of the Cathedral it was determined to have a kitchen where we could take our mission to the next level. Due to the generosity of a number of people we were able to open Sandefur Dining Room in 2001. We now serve a sit-down lunch 365 days a year. In 2016, over 39,000 lunches were served. The lunch usually includes a homemade soup, a sandwich, usually bologna, a dessert and any number of side items depending on the generosity of the many organizations that provide vegetables, bread and other items for our use.

The program would not exist were it not for the over 400 unique volunteers who make the operation a success. These volunteers come from the entire metro area, including a large number of retirees, volunteers from large corporations, small business people with downtown offices, university, high school and elementary students. It is truly a community program and another example of the compassion of the people of Louisville.

We are blessed that we are able to share our resources with our less fortunate brothers and sisters.