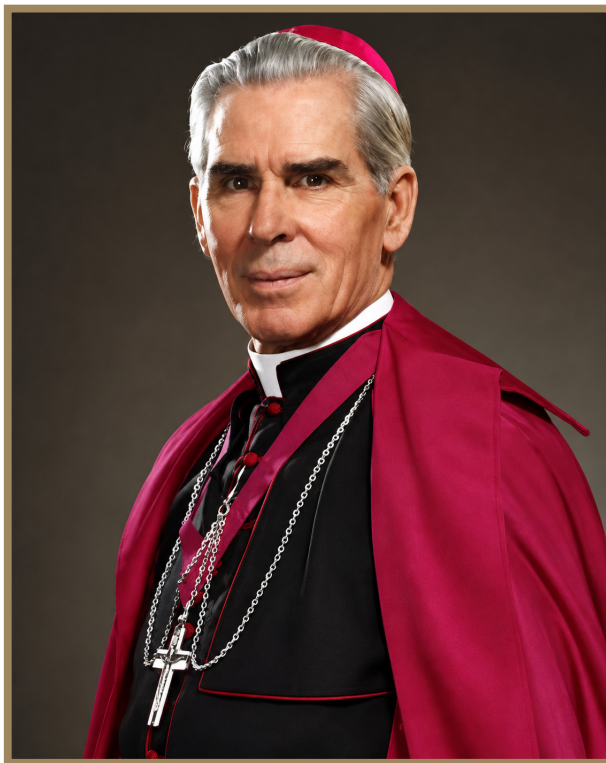


BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

ORDER OF MASS

His Excellency

MOST REVEREND TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO

Archbishop for the Military Services, USA

Principal Celebrant and Homilist at Noon

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSIONAL HYMN



1. Ye watch-ers and ye ho - ly ones, Bright ser - aphs,
2. O high - er than the cher - u - bim, More glo - rious
3. Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, Ye pa - tri -
4. Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds, In praise of
5. O friends, in glad-ness let us sing, Su - per - nal

cher - u - bim, and thrones, Raise the glad strain, Al - le -
than the ser - a - phim, Lead their prais - es, Al - le -
archs and pro - phets blest, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
love that still a - bounds, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
an - thems ech - o - ing, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -

lu - ia! Cry out, do - min - nions, prince-doms, powers, Vir -
lu - ia! O bear - er of the e - ter - nal Word, Most
lu - ia! Ye ho - ly Twelve, ye mar - tyrs strong, All
lu - ia! Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re -
lu - ia! To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And

tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels' choirs, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le -
gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord,
saints tri - um - phant, raise in song,
peat the song of glo - ry here:
God the Spir - it, Three in One,

lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia!

GREETING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And with your spirit.

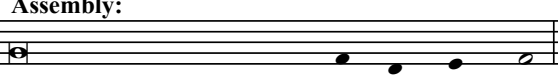
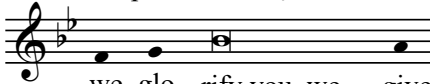
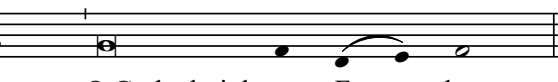
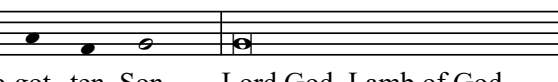
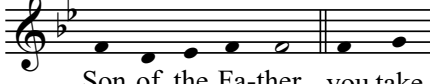
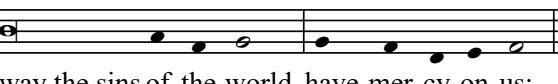
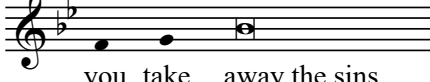
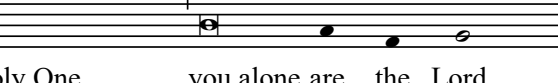
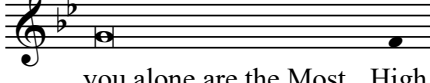
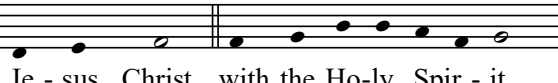
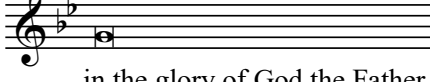
PENITENTIAL ACT

(12:00) Assembly: I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Celebrant: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Assembly: Amen.

GLORIA

<i>Celebrant:</i>	Assembly:
	
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo - ple of good will.	
	
We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you,	
	
we glo - rify you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry,	
	
Lord God, heav'n - ly King, O God, almighty Fa - ther.	
	
Lord Je - sus Christ, Only Be-got - ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God,	
	
Son of the Fa-ther, you take away the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us;	
	
you take away the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer;	
	
you are seated at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer-cy on us.	
	
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,	
	
you alone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir - it,	
	
in the glory of God the Father. A - - - men.	

(Choir) *Mass of Saint Louis*
 Kyrie eleison; Gloria in excelsis Deo

Frank Speller
 (1938–2017)

COLLECT

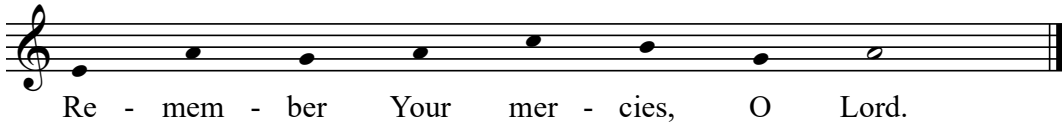
LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING I

Ezekiel 18:25–28

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9



READING II

Philippians 2:1–11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:27



My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:28–32

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(All bow during these two lines.)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a light as shows a feast;
Such a joy as none can move;

Such a truth as ends all strife;
Such a feast as mends in length;
Such a love as none can part;

Such a life as kill - - - eth death.
Such a strength as makes his guest.
Such a heart as joys in love.

(Choir) *Beati quorum via*

Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852–1924)

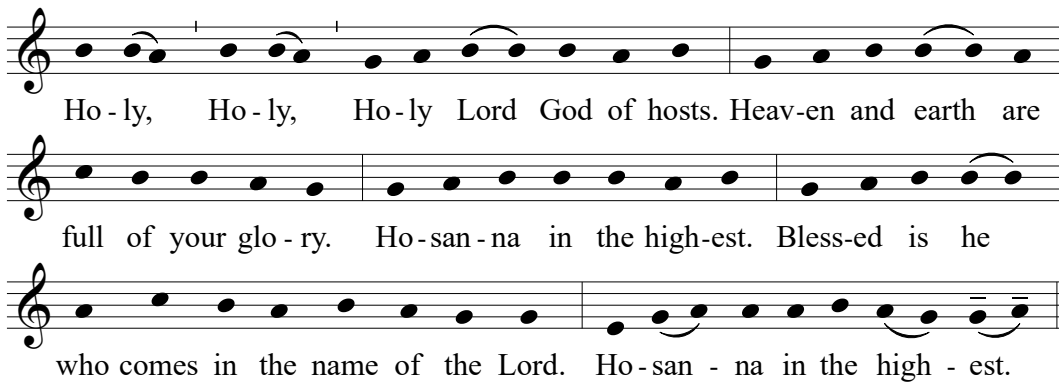
*Beati quorum via integra est:
Qui ambulant in lege Domini.*

Happy are those whose path is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

(Psalm 119:1)

PREFACE DIALOGUE

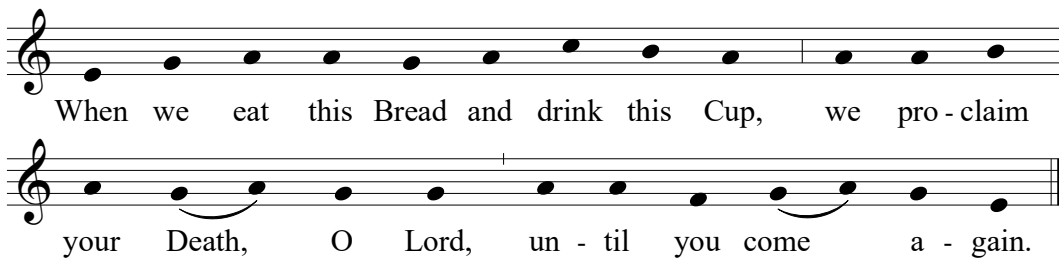
PREFACE ACCLAMATION



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes and rests. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the corresponding notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are'. The second staff contains 'full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he'. The third staff contains 'who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro - claim
your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes and rests. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the corresponding notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro - claim'. The second staff contains 'your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.'.

GREAT AMEN



A - men, A - men, A - men.

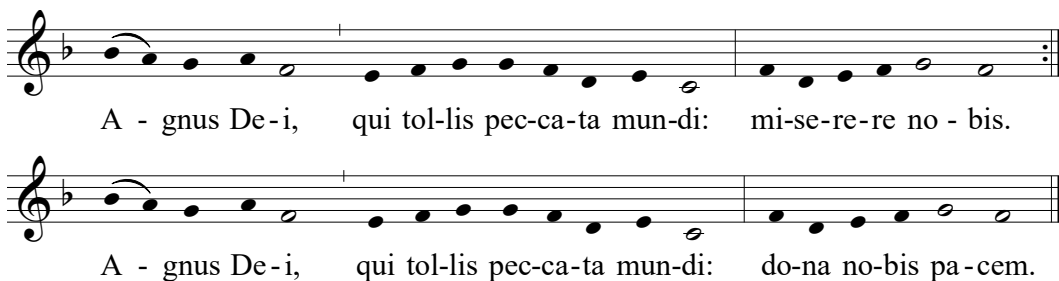
The musical notation consists of a single staff of music. It begins with a treble clef. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes and rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the corresponding notes. The lyrics are 'A - men, A - men, A - men.'.

COMMUNION RITE

LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

LITANY AT THE BREAKING OF BREAD



A - gnus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no - bis.

A - gnus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: do-na no-bis pa-cem.

(Choir) *Mass of Saint Louis*
Agnus Dei

Frank Speller
(1938–2017)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,
by which you have given me hope.
This is my comfort when I am brought low.

(Psalm 119:49–50)

COMMUNION PROCESSION



O bless-ed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For Our Fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

For Non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

For Those Not Receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1996

(Choir) *Panis angelicus*

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835–1921)

*Panis angelicus fit panis hominum;
Dat panis cælicus figuris terminum.
O res mirabilis! Manducat Dominum
Pauper, servus et humilis.
Te, trina Deitas Unaque, poscimus,
sic nos tu visitas, sicut te colimus;
per tuas semitas duc nos quo tendimus,
ad lucem quam inhabitas.*

The Bread of angels was made the Bread of man;
He confined the heavenly Bread to a thing of size and shape:
O marvelous thing! That a poor man,
A humble servant, should eat the Lord.
We beseech you, O God, Three in One,
Visit us, thus, even as we worship you.
Lead us into your ways; and by them may we direct our course
to the Light in which you dwell.

(Sacris solemniis, Saint Thomas Aquinas, 1225–1274)

(Choir) *Ave Maria*

David Conte
(b. 1955)

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus
ventris tui, Jesus.*

*Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus
nunc et in hora mortis nostræ.
Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee!
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

MARIAN ANTIPHON (at Noon Mass)

Sal-ve Re-gi-na, Ma-ter mi-se-ri-cor-di-ae: Vi-ta, dul-ce - do,
et spes no-stra, sal - ve. Ad te cla-ma-mus, ex-su-les,
fi-li-i He-vae. Ad te sus-pi-ra-mus, ge-men-tes et flen-tes
in hac la-cri-ma-rum val-le. E-ia er-go, Ad-vo-ca-ta no-stra,
il-lus tu-os mi-se-ri-cor-des o-cu-los ad nos con-ver-te. Et Je-sum,
be-ne-dic-tum fruc-tum ven-tris tu-i, no-bis post hoc ex-si-li-um
o-sten - de. O cle - mens: O pi - a:
O dul - cis Vir-go Ma - ri - a.

*Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
to you we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN

*We ask you to respect our custom of standing in place
and singing the complete Recessional Hymn.*



1. God, we praise you! Lord, we bless you! God, we name you sov-'reign
2. True a - pos - tles, faith-ful proph-ets, Saints who set their world a -
3. Je - sus Christ, the king of glo - ry, Ev - er - last - ing Son of
4. Christ, at God's right hand vic - to - rious, You will judge the world you



Lord! Might - y King whom an - gels wor - ship, Fa - ther,
blaze, Mar - tyrs, once un - known, un - heed - ed, Join the
God, Hum - ble was your vir - gin moth - er, Hard the
made; Lord, in mer - cy help your ser - vants For whose



by your church a - dored: All cre - a - tion shows your
grow - ing song of praise, While your church on earth con -
lone - ly path you trod: By your cross is sin de -
free - dom you have paid: Raise us up from dust to



glo - ry, Heav'n and earth draw near your throne, Sing - ing
fess - es One ma - jes - tic Trin - i - ty: Fa - ther,
feat - ed, Hell con - front - ed face to face, Heav - en
glo - ry, Guard us from all sin to - day; King en -



“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord of hosts, and God a - lone!”
Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit, God, our hope e - ter - nal - ly.
o - pened to be - liev - ers, Sin - ners jus - ti - fied by grace.
throned a - bove all prais - es, Save your peo - ple, God, we pray.

BLESSED FULTON JOHN SHEEN
MAY 8, 1895 & DECEMBER 9, 1979



Fulton John Sheen, born May 8, 1895, in El Paso, Illinois, was the eldest of four sons, born to Newton and Delia (née Fulton) Sheen. He was raised and educated in the Roman Catholic faith. Originally named Peter John Sheen, as a young boy he came to be known by his mother's maiden name, Fulton. After his baptism, his mother dedicated him to the Blessed Virgin Mary, a dedication he himself renewed at his First Holy Communion. Over the course of many dedicated, steadfast years, he was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Peoria at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Peoria, Illinois, on September 20, 1919.

On Sunday morning, May 16, 1920, the land on which the Basilica of the National Shrine now stands was blessed by Archbishop Giovanni Bonzano, the Apostolic Delegate to the United States. Leading the worship procession that day was a cross bearer and two candle bearers, one of whom was the newly ordained Reverend Fulton John Sheen. At that time, he was a theology student at The Catholic University of America. The relationship that began that day between this young priest and the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was to last more than a lifetime.

Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, rector of The Catholic University of America and founder of the National Shrine, appointed Father Sheen to the theology faculty in 1926. In his autobiography, *Treasure in Clay*, Archbishop Sheen recounted a meeting during his second year of teaching in which the "brilliant, gifted, saintly rector" said to him, "Young man, this university has not received into its ranks in recent years anyone who is destined to shed more light and luster upon it than yourself.

God bless you.” Some two years later, on Sunday evening, March 2, 1930, the “light and luster” of which Bishop Shahan spoke made its debut across the American airwaves.

The radio career of Fulton J. Sheen was launched with the inaugural broadcast of *The Catholic Hour* sponsored by the National Council of Catholic Men (NCCM) in cooperation with NBC Radio. Monsignor Sheen hosted this program for the next twenty years. The program began on a 17-station network. By 1950, it was carried by 118 NBC affiliates and by short wave around the world to an average weekly listening audience estimated at 4 million persons just in the United States. In the fall of 1951, now Bishop Sheen, appointed Auxiliary Bishop of New York by Pope Pius XII, ordained in Rome on June 11 earlier that year, began his *Life is Worth Living* television series. By 1956, he was appearing on 123 ABC-TV stations around the country. This program was replaced in 1961 by *The Fulton Sheen Program*, which ran until 1968.

It was estimated that this two-time Emmy winner (Most Outstanding Television Personality) reached 30 million people a week. When acknowledging the award in 1952, he said, “I feel it is time I pay tribute to my four writers—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.” In addition to his radio and television work, Bishop Sheen also wrote two news columns: “God Love You” for the Catholic press and “Bishop Sheen Speaks” for the secular press.

The opening of the Marian Year to commemorate the centenary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception was set for December 8, 1953. The American bishops saw this celebration as the perfect time to launch their appeal to complete the construction of the National Shrine, which had stalled in 1932 with the death of Bishop Shahan. In cooperation with this effort, the NCCM arranged for *The Catholic Hour* to be broadcast from the Crypt Church at 2:00 p.m. EST each Sunday in November over 143 NBC stations.

To further encourage the faithful, a Kinescope titled “America’s Shrine to Mary” featuring Bishop Sheen was filmed in the Crypt Church in November. It aired on Thursday, December 3, 1953, between 10:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Fifteen minutes before airtime, the good Bishop gave a 15-minute radio address on the Mutual Broadcasting Company.

The appeal of the American bishops was enthusiastically fulfilled and on November 20, 1959, the National Shrine was dedicated. Bishop Sheen walked in the entrance procession with the other members of the American hierarchy. For Bishop Sheen however, this route was rather familiar, as he had walked it in a similar liturgical procession almost forty years earlier, before the time of the marble and limestone walls. Following the completion and dedication of the National Shrine in 1959, the Midnight Mass or first Mass for Christmas was broadcast regularly from the Great Upper Church by ABC-TV. Bishop Sheen was among the earliest and most frequent celebrants and preachers of this Mass.

On October 11, 1966, Pope Paul VI appointed Bishop Sheen as Bishop of Rochester. Just shy of three years later, on October 6, 1969, the Holy Father accepted Bishop Sheen’s resignation as Bishop of Rochester and appointed him Titular Archbishop of Newport, Wales, an appointment which allowed him the flexibility to continue preaching.

The relationship between the National Shrine and Fulton J. Sheen was a constant. The celebration of the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the Shrine on November 11, 1969, featured not only

the premiere of *A Solemn Mass for Peace*, composed for the occasion by Jean Langlais, organist of the Basilica of Saint Clotilde, Paris, but also the preaching of Archbishop Sheen. The Great Upper Church was packed. Father, Monsignor, Bishop, and Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen had been a frequent celebrant and preacher at the National Shrine both during and after his teaching tenure.

In 1974, the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and The Catholic University of America jointly established the Patronal Medal, given in recognition of the contributions of an individual towards the advancement of Marian devotion, theology, and the general appreciation of the place of Mary in the life of the Church, our nation, and the University. The first person so honored was Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Two months before his death, Archbishop Sheen had a moment with Pope Saint John Paul II at Saint Patrick's Cathedral on October 2, 1979, as the new Pontiff was beginning his first pastoral visit to the United States. The Holy Father, who had read many of the writings of Archbishop Sheen, embraced him and said, "You have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus. You are a loyal son of the Church" (*Treasure in Clay*). Archbishop Sheen died on December 9, 1979, at the age of 84.

In 1989, friends and benefactors of the National Shrine installed the marble lectern in the Crypt Church as a tribute to the memory of this man of rhetorical and philosophical eloquence. A brass plate added atop the marble base on March 12, 2012, reads, "In memory of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895–1979). A life-long friend of the Shrine whose nationally televised talks and Masses from the National Shrine greatly contributed to its growth."

In 2002, recognizing Archbishop Sheen's Midwest roots, Bishop Daniel Jenky, C.S.C., of the Diocese of Peoria officially petitioned the Vatican to open the Cause for his beatification and canonization. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints officially opened the Cause of Archbishop Sheen on September 14, 2002, granting him the title "Servant of God". The Vatican announced on June 28, 2012, that the life of Fulton J. Sheen was one of "heroic virtue", for which he received the title "Venerable Servant of God". On July 6, 2019, Pope Francis officially recognized the miracle unanimously approved by doctors, theologians, and cardinals in the Congregation of the Causes of Saints that was needed for beatification. The miracle involves the unexplained recovery of James Fulton Engstrom, a boy born apparently stillborn in September 2010 to Bonnie and Travis Engstrom of the Peoria-area town of Goodfield. Engstrom's parents prayed to the late Sheen for his recovery.

The Mass of Beatification of the late American Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen took place at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at The Dome at America's Center in Saint Louis, Missouri, presided by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, representing Pope Leo XIV, the first pope born in the United States. The Holy Father, speaking at the Wednesday General Audience in Saint Peter's Square on the eve of the beatification, held up Archbishop Sheen as an example for everyone engaged in evangelization: "May the example and intercession of this holy bishop, known for his evangelizing work through the media, inspire many others likewise to find new ways of spreading the Gospel message with joyful enthusiasm."

— *biography collated and adapted from the writings of*
Geraldine M. Rohling, PhD, MAEd, Archivist-Curator Emerita of the Basilica,
The Archbishop Fulton John Sheen Foundation, the Fulton J. Sheen Company, Inc., and Vatican News



Blessed Fulton J. Sheen presiding and preaching at the Solemn Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, 1964, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



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To make a secure contact-free donation online in support of the National Shrine, please scan the following QR code using the camera on your smartphone or device:



Thank you for your generosity and support of Mary’s Shrine!

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Rev. Msgr. Walter R. Rossi
Rector of the Basilica

Rev. Msgr. Vito A. Buonanno
Rev. Ismael N. Ayala
Rev. Andrew Knop, O.M.I.
Priests of the Basilica

Deacon Joseph Pak
Deacon Timothy Wolfkill
Deacon Yannick Allepot
Deacons

Peter Latona, D.M.A., *Director of Music*
Benjamin J. LaPrairie, M.M., *Associate Director of Music*
Adam S. Chlebek, M.M., *Assistant Director of Music*
Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine

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