



BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2026

**Basilica to Join Pope Leo XIV's Invitation to Celebrate Prayer Vigil for Peace
Saturday, April 11, at 12:10 p.m.**

Faithful Invited to Join In-Person or Online

In his *Urbi et Orbi* address on Easter Sunday, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV remarked: "I invite everyone to join me in a prayer vigil for peace that we will celebrate here in Saint Peter's Basilica next Saturday, April 11."

In response to the Holy Father's initiative, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest Roman Catholic Church in North America and the preeminent Marian shrine of the United States, will celebrate a Prayer Vigil for Peace on Saturday, April 11, at the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

His Eminence, Christophe Cardinal Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio (papal ambassador) to the United States, will be the principal celebrant and homilist of the Mass.

All the faithful are invited to participate in this Mass and to unite with Pope Leo XIV and the Universal Church in praying for peace in our world.

May Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of peace, and Our Lady, Queen of Peace, intercede for our needs.

For those unable to attend in person, the Mass will be livestreamed at www.nationalshrine.org/mass.

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ABOUT THE BASILICA

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is the largest Roman Catholic church in North America, and it is among the ten largest churches in the world. Dedicated to the patroness of the United States, the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception, the Basilica is the nation's preeminent Marian shrine and patronal church and has been designated a national sanctuary of prayer and pilgrimage. Among those who have visited the National Shrine during its 100+ year history are Pope Francis, Pope Benedict XVI, Saint Pope John Paul II, and Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta.