

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE  
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



CLOSING MASS  
NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE

“FOR THE PRESERVATION  
OF PEACE AND JUSTICE”

23 JANUARY 2026

# ORDER OF MASS

*His Eminence*

**SEÁN CARDINAL O'MALLEY, OFM CAP.**

Archbishop Emeritus of Boston

*Principal Celebrant and Homilist*

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### ENTRANCE HYMN



1. O God be-yond all prais-ing, We wor-ship you to - day  
2. The flow'r of earth - ly splen-dor In time must sure - ly die,  
3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav - ior, Ac - cept the love we bring,



And sing the love a - maz - ing That songs can - not re - pay;  
Its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der To you, the Lord most high;  
That we who know your fa - vor May serve you as our King;



For we can on - ly won - der At ev - 'ry gift you send,  
But hid - den from all na - ture Th'e - ter - nal seed is sown,  
And wheth - er our to - mor - rows Be filled with good or ill,



At bless - ings with - out num - ber And mer - cies with - out end:  
Though small in mor - tal stat - ure, To heav - en's gar - den grown:  
We'll tri - umph through our sor - rows And rise to bless you still:



We lift our hearts be - fore you And wait up - on your word,  
For Christ who came from heav - en From death has set us free,  
To mar - vel at your beau - ty And glo - ry in your ways,



We hon - or and a - dore you, Our great and might - y Lord.  
And we through him are giv - en The fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
And make a joy - ful du - ty Our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## OPENING REMARKS

Monsignor Walter R. Rossi  
*Rector of the Basilica*

## SIGN OF THE CROSS

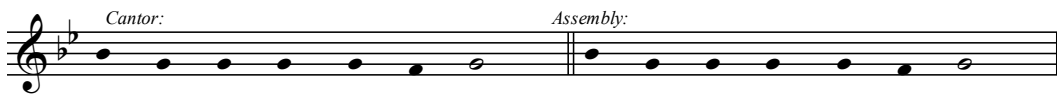
## GREETING

Cardinal: Peace be with you.  
Assembly: And with your spirit.

## PENITENTIAL ACT


Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:

*Cantor:* Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. *Assembly:* Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.



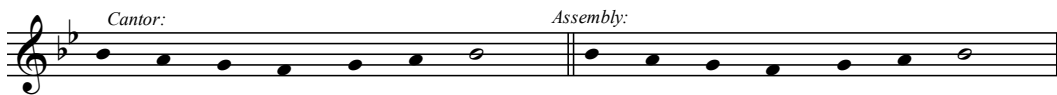
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

*Cantor:* Chri - ste e - le - i - son. *Assembly:* Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

*Cantor:* Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. *Assembly:* Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.



## COLLECT

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING I

I John 4:19 – 5:4

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 72:1–2, 14 and 15bc, 17



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;  
the white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13–18

HOMILY

Seán Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap.  
*Archbishop Emeritus of Boston*

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry  
2. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter,  
3. For your church, that ev - er - more Lifts its ho - ly  
4. For, your - self, best Gift Di - vine! To this world so

of the skies, For the love which from our birth  
par - ent, child, Friends on earth, and friends a - bove;  
hands a - bove, Off - 'ring up on ev - 'ry shore  
free - ly giv'n; Word In - car - nate, God's de - sign,

O - ver and a - round us lies:  
For all gen - tle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to  
Its pure sac - ri - fice of love:  
Peace on earth and joy in heav'n:

you we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

## PREFACE

Cardinal: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

Assembly: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name, for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.

## PREFACE DIALOGUE

Cardinal: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And with your spirit.

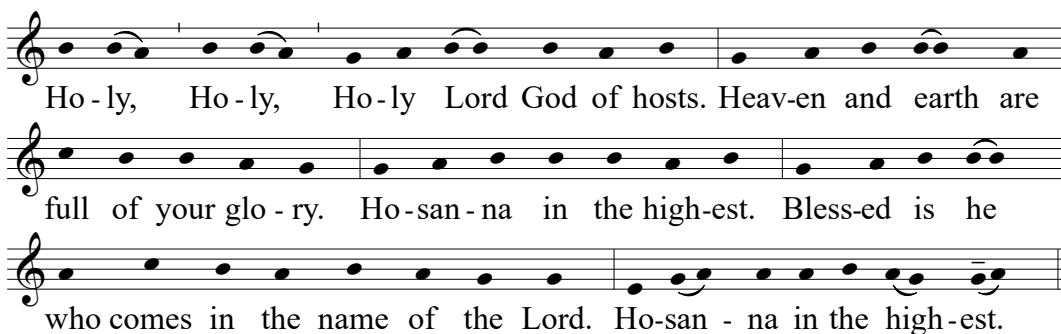
Cardinal: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them up to the Lord.

Cardinal: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

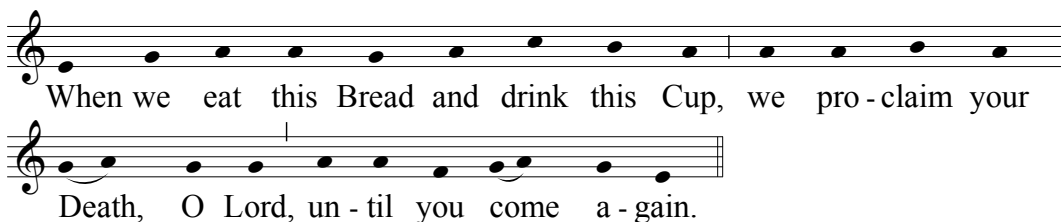
Assembly: It is right and just.

## 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.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



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

## GREAT AMEN



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

# COMMUNION RITE

LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

SIGN OF PEACE

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.

## **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*



## COMMUNION PROCESSION



1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, For -  
 2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To  
 3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, Each  
 4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His  
 5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, We'll



giv - en, loved, and free, In awe and won - der  
 find, as all are fed, The new com - mu - ni -  
 proud di - vi - sion ends. The love that made us  
 pres - ence, al - ways near, Is in such friend - ship  
 go our dif - f'rent ways, And as his peo - ple



to re - call His life laid down for me.  
 ty of love In Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 makes us one, And stran - gers now are friends.  
 bet - ter known: We see, and praise him here.  
 in the world, We'll live and speak his praise.



Eat this bread and drink this cup, and I will



raise you up on the last day, says the Lord.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### SOLEMN BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Cardinal: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow down for the blessing.

Cardinal: May the God of all consolation  
order your days in his peace  
and grant you the gifts of his blessing.

Assembly: Amen.

Cardinal: May he free you always from every distress  
and confirm your hearts in his love.

Assembly: Amen.

Cardinal: So that on this life's journey  
you may be effective in good works,  
rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity,  
and may come happily to eternal life.

Assembly: Amen.

Cardinal: And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

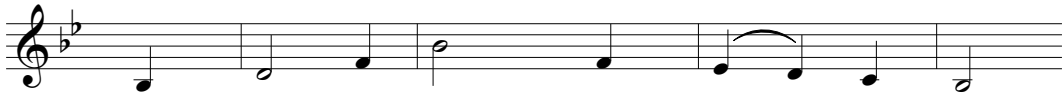
Assembly: Amen.

Deacon: Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

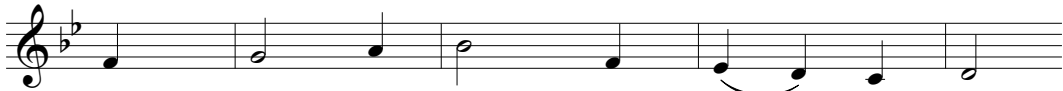
*We ask you to respect our custom of standing in place  
and singing the complete Recessional Hymn.*



1. Forth in the peace of Christ we go;  
2. King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;  
3. Christ's are the lips, his word we speak;  
4. We are the Church; Christ bids us show



Christ to the world with joy we bring;  
King - ship with him his ser - vants gain;  
And we are pro - phets whose deeds pro - claim  
That in his Church all na - tions find



Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,  
With Christ the Ser - vant Lord of all,  
Christ's truth in love that we may be  
Their hearth and home where Christ re - stores



Christ in our hearts, the world's true King.  
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.  
Christ in the world to spread Christ's name.  
True peace, true love, to all man - kind.



## PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA

Prot. N. 00007/2026-1214/25/I

### Decree

The Apostolic Penitentiary, to increase the devotion of the faithful and the salvation of souls, by special virtue of the faculties granted to it by the most Holy Father and our Lord in Christ Leo XIV, Pope by Divine Providence, Minister of our faith and joy, having considered the recent petitions brought forth by His Eminence Robert Walter Cardinal McElroy, Metropolitan Archbishop of Washington, graciously grants, from the immense mercy of God and the heavenly treasures of the Church, a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff), to be gained by the faithful who are truly penitent and motivated by charity. This indulgence may also be applied, by way of suffrage, to the souls of the faithful detained in Purgatory. The indulgence is granted to those who participate in sacred celebrations that will be held with great public attendance throughout the annual event called the “March for Life,” on January 22 and 23, 2026, in the entire Archdiocese of Washington (especially in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in the Cathedral Church itself), or spend at least a suitable period of time in pious meditation, prayer, or other works of Christian piety to the glory of God, and pour out pious prayers to God for harmony and peace among peoples against the aberrations of the day, concluding with the Our Father, the Creed and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, Mother of Mercy.

The elderly, the infirm, as well as those who care for them, and all who for serious reasons cannot leave their homes, may likewise obtain the plenary indulgence, provided they reject all sin with a contrite heart and resolve to fulfill, as soon as they are able, the three usual conditions. They may gain the indulgence if they spiritually unite themselves to the sacred celebrations, especially when these are broadcast through the means of communication, offering their prayers, sufferings, or the inconveniences of their own lives to the merciful God, comforting themselves in tribulation.

Therefore, to make access to divine pardon through the keys of the Church easier, out of pastoral charity, this Apostolic Penitentiary earnestly requests that the diocesan penitentiary, the cathedral clergy, pastors, and priests endowed with the necessary faculties to hear confessions make themselves available with a ready, generous, and merciful spirit for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance.

This decree is valid for this occasion only. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given in Rome, from the offices of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on the 5th day of January, in the year of the Lord 2026.

*Angelus card. de Donatis*  
*Penitentiarius Major*

*+ Christophorus Iosephus Nykiel*  
*Episcopus Tit. Velicensis, Rector*

## **HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE**

The National Rosary for Life and all-night vigil at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception began in 1979 from the inspiration of Maryknoll Brother Goretti Zilli from New York. Fifty people attended the first vigil Mass celebrated by Father John Gabin of Philadelphia in the lower level Crypt Church. Eucharistic adoration and other devotions continued through the night, with Father John Randall of Providence offering Mass at midnight. Brother Michael Cerrone (who later became Army Chaplain Father Michael Cerrone) coordinated and led prayers through the night for an end to abortion, and then led the group in the March for Life the following morning.

Key organizers of the first Vigil also include Mrs. Sally Reynolds and the Mothers of Mary of the Archdiocese of Detroit, Miss Virginia Murphy and the Immaculate Heart Reparation Society of D.C., as well as groups from Michigan and Rhode Island. At their request the following year, Cardinal John Carberry asked the Bishops' conference to co-sponsor the event. With every passing year, thousands of Catholics from all over the country have responded enthusiastically and in ever greater numbers by taking part in the National Prayer Vigil for Life.

Today, the founders' dream of a program of prayer for life exceeds anything they could have envisioned. The Great Upper Church of the Basilica fills to overflowing for the opening liturgy, which is concelebrated by hundreds of clergy, including Bishops, Cardinals, and the Apostolic Nuncio, the Holy Father's personal representative in the United States. With the assistance of the Eternal Word Television Network, the Opening and Closing Masses of the National Prayer Vigil for Life are televised live worldwide.

After the Opening Mass, the evening portion of the Vigil program concludes with a Holy Hour for Life in the live broadcast. On the following morning, thousands more gather in the Great Upper Church for the Closing Mass of the Vigil before taking part in the March for Life on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

The Church and the Pro-Life movement are deeply indebted to the visionaries who began this event decades ago. May this great prayer for life continue as their lasting legacy for years to come.

## NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE 2027

Opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life  
*Thursday, January 21, 2027 at 5:00 P.M.*

Closing Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life  
*Friday, January 22, 2027 at 8:00 A.M.*



Help women in your community to choose life.  
Learn about “Walking with Moms in Need” at [walkingwithmoms.com](http://walkingwithmoms.com).



The National Prayer Vigil for Life is co-sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and the Campus Ministry Office of The Catholic University of America.



The National Prayer Vigil for Life (“the Event”) is being recorded, and all persons entering this facility grant to EWTN and its respective licensees, affiliates and related organizations the rights to use your image, likeness and voice or other sound effects for any live or recorded video display of the Event, for any other transmission or reproduction of the Event in whole or in part, and for other legal purposes throughout the world in any media now known or subsequently developed.



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



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*Rector of the Basilica*

Rev. Msgr. Vito A. Buonanno  
Rev. Ismael N. Ayala  
Rev. Raymond A. Lebrun, 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

Liturgical Ministers of the Basilica of the National Shrine  
Knights of Columbus, Ushers of the Basilica of the National Shrine  
Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, Sacristans of the Basilica of the National Shrine

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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