

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



OPENING MASS
NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE

“FOR GIVING THANKS TO GOD
FOR THE GIFT OF HUMAN LIFE”

22 JANUARY 2026

THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

THE OUR FATHER

THE HAIL MARY

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

ON THE LARGE BEAD BEFORE EACH DECADE

Eternal Father,
I offer You the Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ
in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

ON THE 10 SMALL BEADS OF EACH DECADE

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion
have mercy on us and on the whole world.

AFTER FIVE DECADES, THE CONCLUDING DOXOLOGY (THREE TIMES):

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.

SOLEMN EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

His Excellency

MOST REVEREND JAMES D. CONLEY

Bishop of Lincoln

Principal Celebrant and Homilist



His Eminence

CHRISTOPHE CARDINAL PIERRE

Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America

His Eminence

ROBERT CARDINAL McELROY

Archbishop of Washington

His Eminence

SEÁN CARDINAL O'MALLEY, OFM CAP.

Archbishop Emeritus of Boston



Their Excellencies

CONCELEBRATING ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS



CONCELEBRATING ABBOTS AND PRIESTS

ATTENDING DEACONS

ORDER OF MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

INTROIT

For the sake of your name, O Lord, give me life.

(Psalm 143:11)

AT THE PROCESSION



1. Praise the Lord! you heav'ns, a - dore him; Praise him, an - gels,
2. Praise the Lord! for he is glo - rious; Ne - ver shall his
3. Wor - ship, hon - or, glo - ry, bless - ing, Lord, we of - fer
4. Tell his praise in song and sto - ry, Bless the Lord with
5. To the Lord whose love has found them Poor men cry in
6. Taste and see! in faith draw near him, Trust the Lord with
7. In our need he walks be - side us, Ears a - lert to



in the height; Sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; Praise him,
pro - mise fail; God has made his saints vic - to - rious; Sin and
as our gift. Young and old, your praise ex - press - ing, Our glad
heart and voice; In my God is all my glo - ry, Come be -
their dis - tress; Swift his an - gels camped a - round them Prove him
all your pow'rs; Seek and serve him, love and fear him, Life and
ev - 'ry cry; Watch - ful eye to guard and guide us, Love that



all you stars and light. Praise the Lord! for he has spo - ken;
death shall not pre - vail. Praise the God of our sal - va - tion!
songs to you we lift. All the saints in heav'n a - dore you,
fore him and re - joice. Join to praise his Name to - geth - er,
sure to save and bless. God it is who hears our cry - ing
all its joys are ours; True de - light in ho - ly liv - ing,
whis - pers, "It is I." Good shall tri - umph, wrong be right - ed,



Worlds his might - y voice o - beyed; Laws which nev - er
Hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim; Heav'n and earth, and
We would join their glad ac - claim; As your an - gels
He who hears his peo - ple's cry; Tell his praise, come
Though the spark of faith be dim; Taste and see be -
Peace and plen - ty, length of days; Come, my child - ren,
God has pledged his prom - ised Word; So with ran - somed



shall be bro - ken For their guid - ance he has made.
all cre - a - tion Praise and glo - ri - fy his name.
serve be - fore you, So on earth we praise your name.
wind or weath - er, Shin - ing fa - ces lift - ed high.
yond de - ny - ing, Blest are those who trust in him.
with thanks - giv - ing Bless the Lord in songs of praise.
saints u - nit - ed Join to praise our liv - ing Lord.

OPENING REMARKS

Robert Cardinal McElroy
Archbishop of Washington

Christophe Cardinal Pierre
Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America

SIGN OF THE CROSS

GREETING

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

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.

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

Assembly: Amen.

The musical notation is presented on three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notation is divided into two sections: 'Cantor/Choir' and 'Assembly'. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.' for both the Cantor/Choir and the Assembly. The second staff contains the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy.' for both. The third staff contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.' for both. The notation uses quarter notes, half notes, and whole notes, with slurs indicating phrasing.

Cantor/Choir: Assembly:

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING I

Isaiah 49:1–6

Maria Tirado, *reader*

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 56:2–3, 9–10a, 10b–11, 12–13



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:63c, 68c



Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

HOMILY

Most Reverend James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fatima Godfrey, *reader*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the bright - ness of God.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right - eous - ness shine on my path, And

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

(Choir) *Let My Prayer Come Like Incense*

Robert E. Kreutz
(1922–1996)

Let my prayer come like incense before you, O Lord,
The lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice.

(Psalm 141:2)

I thank you Lord with all my heart
In the presence of the angels to you I sing.
I bow low before your holy temple
I praise your name for your mercy and faithfulness.

(Psalm 138:1–2a)

PREFACE

Bishop: 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.

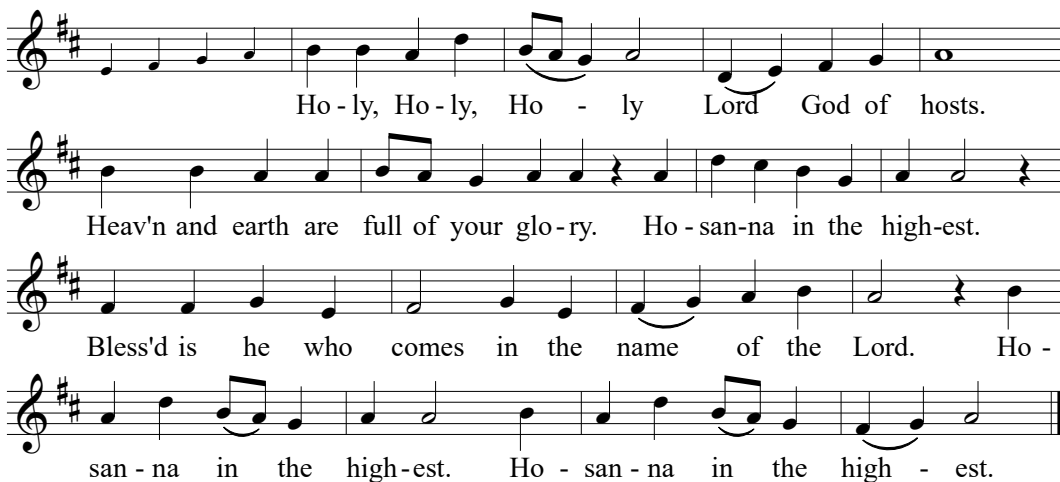
PREFACE DIALOGUE

Bishop: The Lord be with you.
Assembly: And with your spirit.

Bishop: Lift up your hearts.
Assembly: We lift them up to the Lord.

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Assembly: It is right and just.

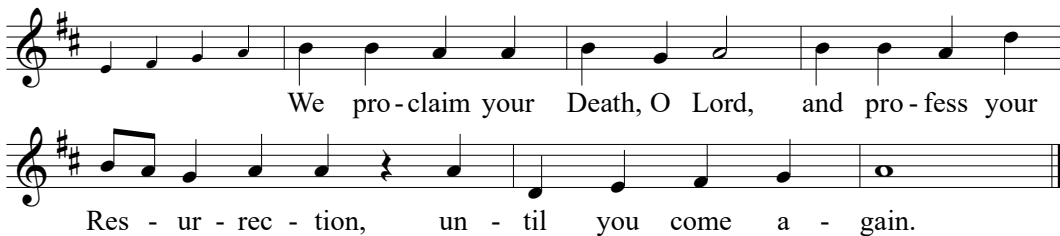
PREFACE ACCLAMATION



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

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.' The second staff contains 'Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est.' The third staff contains 'Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -' and the fourth staff contains 'san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your
Res - ur - rec - tion, un - til you come a - gain.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the lyrics 'We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your' and the second staff contains 'Res - ur - rec - tion, un - til you come a - gain.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

GREAT AMEN



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

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a single staff. The lyrics are 'A - men, a - men, a - men.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the staff.

COMMUNION RITE

LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

SIGN OF PEACE

LITANY AT THE BREAKING OF BREAD

(Choir) *Missa Quarti toni*
Agnus Dei

Tomás Luis de Victoria
(1548–1611)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life,
and in your light, we see light.

(Psalm 36:10)

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. The King of love my shep-herd is, Whose
 2. Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow My
 3. Con-fused and fool-ish oft I strayed, But
 4. In death's dark vale I feel no ill With



good-ness fails me nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
 ran-somed soul he's lead-ing, And where the ver-dant
 yet in love he sought me, And on his shoul-der
 you, dear Lord, be-side me, Your rod and staff my



I am his, And he is mine for ev-er.
 pas-tures grow With food ce-les-tial feed-ing.
 gent-ly laid, And home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
 com-fort still, Your cross be-fore to guide me.

5. You spread a table in my sight;
 Your saving grace bestowing;
 And, O, what transport of delight
 From your pure chalice flowing!

6. And so through all the length of days
 Your goodness fails me never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
 Within your house for ever.



I will sing, I will sing of your sal-va-tion.

(Choir) *Behold, O God our Defender*

Herbert Howells
(1892–1983)

Behold, O God our defender,
and look upon the face of thine Anointed.
For one day in thy courts is better than a thousand.

(Psalm 84:9–10)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Bishop: The Lord be with you.
Assembly: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow down for the blessing.

Bishop: Bestow increase of heavenly grace
on your faithful, O Lord;
may they praise you with their lips,
with their souls, with their lives;
and since it is by your gift that we exist,
may our whole lives be yours.

Through Christ our Lord.
Assembly: Amen.

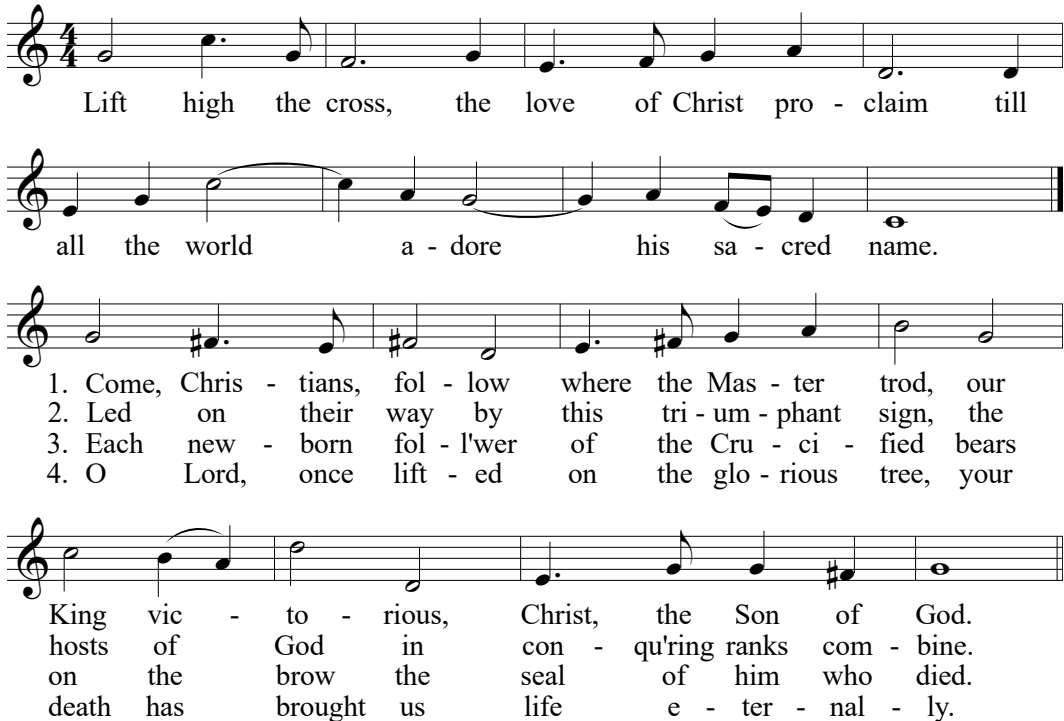
BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Bishop: 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.*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where the Mas - ter trod, our
2. Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign, the
3. Each new - born fol - l'wer of the Cru - ci - fied bears
4. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your

King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
on the brow the seal of him who died.
death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.



*The National Holy Hour for Life
follows the conclusion of the Opening Mass
of the National Prayer Vigil for Life
at 7:00 p.m. in the Crypt Church.*

*Night Prayer in the Byzantine Rite will immediately follow
the National Holy Hour for Life in the Crypt Church,
celebrated by the Most Reverend Kurt R. Burnette,
Bishop of the Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic.*

*All prayer activities will conclude at 9:00 p.m.,
and the Basilica will close for the night at that time.*

Please see the following pages for more information.

NATIONAL HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE

His Excellency

MOST REVEREND JAMES T. RUGGIERI

Bishop of Portland

Presider

EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

EXPOSITION HYMN



1. O Sav - ing Vic - tim, o - p'ning wide The gate of
2. To your great name be end - less praise, Im - mor - tal



heav'n to us be - low! Our foes press on from ev - 'ry side:
God - head, One in Three; O grant us end - less length of days



Your aid sup - ply, your strength be - stow.
When our true na - tive land we see. A - men.

OPENING PRAYER

ROSARY FOR LIFE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE OUR FATHER

THE HAIL MARY *(recite three times for an increase of faith, hope, and charity)*

THE GLORY BE (THE DOXOLOGY)

THE FATIMA PRAYER

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins,
save us from the fires of hell,
lead all souls to Heaven,
especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

FIRST LUMINOUS MYSTERY:

The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan

That all baptized Christians
will be open to the Holy Spirit
and bear witness to the sanctity of life.

SECOND LUMINOUS MYSTERY:

The Wedding Feast at Cana

For all husbands and wives,
that they treasure the priceless gift of married love
by generously accepting children
through procreation and adoption.

THIRD LUMINOUS MYSTERY:

The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

That those who pray and work
for greater respect for human life
will be guided by the Beatitudes
and reveal the face of Christ to others.

FOURTH LUMINOUS MYSTERY:

The Transfiguration

That our world will be transfigured
by the witness of faithful Christians
so that all may understand
the priceless value of every human being.

FIFTH LUMINOUS MYSTERY:

The Institution of the Eucharist

That through our worthy reception of the Eucharist
and frequent Eucharistic Adoration,
Jesus will teach us to love sacrificially
the least and neediest among us.

CLOSING PRAYER

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve:
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

℣. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:
O God, whose Only Begotten Son,
by his Life, Death, and Resurrection,
has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life,
grant, we beseech thee,
that meditating on these mysteries
of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may imitate what they contain
and obtain what they promise,
through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHORAL MEDITATION

(Choir) *Sicut cervus*

Ziprianus
(fl. 1560)

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.
Miserere mei et parce peccatis meis.*

As the deer longs for running streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
Have mercy on me and spare my sins.

(Psalm 42:1)

REFLECTION

Most Reverend James T. Ruggieri
Bishop of Portland

CHORAL MEDITATION

(Choir) *I Lift Up My Eyes*

Margaret Burk
(b. 1990)

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved,
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
so that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over
your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

(Psalm 121)

BENEDICTION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

BENEDICTION HYMN

1. Tan - tum er - go Sa - cra - mén - tum
2. Ge - ni - tó - ri, Ge - ni - tó - que

Ve - ne - ré - mur cér - nu - i:
Laus et ju - bi - lá - ti - o,

Et an - tí - quum do - cu - mén - tum
Sa - lus, ho - nor, vir - tus quo - que

No - vo ce - dat rí - tu - i;
Sit et be - ne - díc - ti - o:

Prae - stet fí - des sup - ple - mén - tum
Pro - ce - dén - ti ab u - tró - que

Sén - su - um de - féc - tu - i.
Com - par sit lau - dá - ti - o. A - men.

ANTIPHON

Bishop: You have given them bread from heaven.
Assembly: Having all sweetness within it.

PRAYER

Bishop: O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray,
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Assembly: Amen.

THE DIVINE PRAISES

Blessed be God.
Blessed be his holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be his most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

HYMN

1. Ho - ly God we praise thy Name, Lord of all, we
2. Ho - ly Fath - er, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spi - rit,

bow be - fore thee; all on earth thy scep - ter claim,
Three, we name thee, while in es - sence on - ly One,

all in heaven a - bove a - dore thee; in - fi - nite thy
un - div - i - ded God we claim thee; then, a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is thy reign.
bend the knee and con - fess the my - ster - y.



*Follow the Hymn,
Night Prayer in the Byzantine Rite
will be celebrated in the Crypt Church
by the Most Reverend Kurt R. Burnette,
Bishop of the Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic.*

*All prayer activities will conclude at 9:00 p.m.,
and the Basilica will close for the night at that time.*



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 maior

+ Christophorus Iosephus Nykiel
Episcopus tit. Velutinus, 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.



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



Rev. Msgr. Walter R. Rossi
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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception gratefully acknowledges the following authors and composers whose materials are employed in this worship leaflet: **MASS Entrance Procession** Text: v. 1–3, Psalm 148, st. 1–2, *London Foundling Hospital Collection*, st. 3, Edward Osler (1798–1863), v. 4–7, Psalm 34, para. Timothy Dudley-Smith (1924–2024), © 1984, Hope Publishing Co. Music: HYFRYDOL. **Kyrie, Eucharistic Acclamations, Great Amen** Text: © 2010, ICEL. Music: Peter Latona (b. 1968), © 2011. **Psalm Response** Music: Leo C. Nestor (1948–2019), © 1988. **Gospel Acclamation** Music: Peter Latona, © 2014. **Preparation Hymn** Text and Music: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934), © 1970, 1975, Celebration. **Communion Procession** Text: Psalm 23, Henry Baker (1821–1877), alt. Music: ST. COLUMBA. **Communion Procession** Music: Peter Latona, © 2021. **Recessional Hymn** Text: I Corinthians 1:18, George W. Kitchen (1827–1912) and Sydney H. Nicholson (1875–1947), alt. Music: CRUCIFER. **HOLY HOUR Exposition** Text: Saint Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225–1274), tr. Edward Caswall (1814–1878), alt. Music: DUGUET. **Benediction** Text: Saint Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225–1274). Music: Chant Mode III. **Hymn** Text: *Großer Gott, wir loben dich*, ascr. Ignaz Franz (1719–1790), tr. Clarence A. Walworth (1820–1900). Music: GROSSER GOTT. Copyrighted materials reprinted with permission under Onelicense.net #A-701285. All rights reserved. **Cover Sketch** Art: H. C. Shaug.



BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Rev. Msgr. Walter R. Rossi, Rector

400 Michigan Avenue, NE • Washington, DC 20017-1566

(202) 526-8300 • www.nationalshrine.org