Thousands Attend Youth Rally and Mass for Life

Nearly 18,000 young adults attended this year’s Youth Rally and Mass for Life on January 24, the annual event hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington. The rally generates energy and zeal from Catholic youth traveling to Washington, D.C., for the national March for Life.

Packed into the Capital One Arena in downtown Washington, teens and youth from around the country and world gathered to celebrate and witness to the gift of life in all stages and pray for an end to abortion. Groups who attended this largest annual archdiocesan event included the Catholic schools in the archdiocese as well as from more than 50 dioceses around the country.

The rally included inspirational speakers, music, prayer, opportunity for the sacrament of confession, and culminated with a celebration of the Mass by Washington Archbishop Wilton Gregory, who was joined by nearly 160 concelebrating priests and bishops from across the country. Archdiocesan priest Father Daniele Rebeggiani was the homilist.

“This Mass is an invitation for all of us to leave everything, to abandon our life totally to the Lord, to be witness to the fact that a life spent to do the will of God is the greatest life possible,” Father Rebeggiani said in his homily.

Before the Mass, Archbishop Gregory spoke with the media regarding the importance of the pro-life issue in the Church and world.

“Part of the rally, part of our Catholic witness, is that while life within the womb is certainly threatened, on so many levels, it is the first step of the significance of life in all of its manifestations,” he said.


The rally took place in the morning, and afterwards, groups headed out to the National Mall for the annual national March for Life.

Please see page 2 for more pictures of the Rally and Mass for Life.
In this issue of the Women of the Crypt series, we continue exploring the lives of the female saints whose mosaics adorn the basilica’s Crypt Church where the TV Mass is celebrated, just as the models of their holy lives beautify the universal Church.

St. Agatha, whose feast day was earlier this month on February 5, was a virgin and martyr of the early Church in Italy. Though little is known of her life, legend holds she was a noblewoman of great beauty. When she refused the advances of the governor of Sicily, she was accused of being a Christian. When further attempts to make Agatha renounce her faith and defile her chastity failed, Agatha was tortured and executed.

A text about her martyrdom recounts her questioning by the governor, who asks, “Art not thou, that art so noble by birth, ashamed to lead the life of a base and slavish Christian?” Agatha replies, “Better by far is the baseness and slavery of a Christian than the wealth and pride of kings.” The Latin text of this is depicted on her mosaic in the Crypt Church. In her mosaic, Agatha holds a palm, the symbol of martyrdom, yet also of victory. Beside her is the instrument of her torture; above this, however, is a crown, signifying the crown of glory she won through her martyrdom. Also depicted is an adorned cross.

Pictures from the Rally and Mass for Life

Clockwise from Upper Left: Archbishop Gregory greets the pilgrims from Australia; Sr. Maria Juan stands beside an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as she addresses the young people at the Youth Rally; Deacons serve at the Youth Rally Mass; Archbishop Gregory blesses Isabelle Morrison, 7, during the Mass procession. (CS photos/Andrew Biraj)
**Watch the TV Mass Online**

The TV Mass is available online for those viewers who are unable to watch on TV. Many already watch the Mass online, with Masses during Ordinary Time gaining more than 15,000 views.

**Missals Now Available**

The 2020 Saint Joseph Sunday Missal is now available to order! It began on the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1, 2019, for the entire liturgical year.

This pocket-sized missal is a wonderful tool to help TV Mass viewers understand the Mass and actively participate in it.

The missal provides each Sunday’s prayers, readings and responses so viewers can unite with the prayers of the priest and recite or sing their parts with understanding and devotion. It includes the Order of Mass in two colors and large type with the People’s Parts in bold type for quick identification. The Missal also includes an updated hymnal section with over 90 popular hymns as well as many prayers.

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**Do you need a Eucharistic Minister to visit you on Sundays?**

Please call your local parish to request a Eucharistic Minister visit you at home.

If you live in the Archdiocese of Washington and are not sure which parish is closest to you, please call Claudia Cheek at 301-873-4516.

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**Easter Mass**

April 12, 2020
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

On Easter morning, Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge will celebrate a special hour-long Mass that will air on April 12 at 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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**Celebrate!**

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JOIN THE TV MASS CONGREGATION!

Share the TV Mass with friends and family by asking if they would like to be part of the congregation.

7:30 - 8:45 pm
Crypt Church
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
400 Michigan Avenue NE, Washington, D.C.
(enter through the front lower doors by the gift shop / free parking)

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The Sunday TV Mass airs every Sunday morning:
10:30 am on WDCW Channel 50, Washington, DC.

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