

# CELEBRATE!

A NEWSLETTER FOR VIEWERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SUNDAY TV MASS

**SUMMER  
2024**

- 1** 16 New Priests Ordained
- 2** TV Mass Online Channel reaches 100,000
- 4** 16 New Priests Ordained (cont.)

The Sunday TV Mass airs every Sunday morning on WDCW-50 at 10:30 a.m.

## Production Crew

*Producer & Director:*  
John Capobianco

*Technical Director:*  
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*Audio:* Nathan Bark

*Cameras:* John Landers,  
Karin Öhlund and Mark Irons

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*Editor:* Brian Burgess

*Floor Director:*  
Bob Hemmerich



The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of  
Washington

## Prayers for Vocations Answered: 16 New Priests Ordained



The 16 newly ordained priests and Cardinal Wilton Gregory pose at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception after the June 15, 2024 ordination. (Catholic Standard photo/Mihoko Owada)

### BY THE CATHOLIC STANDARD

TV Mass viewers often pray for vocations. The power of those prayers was on full display on June 15, 2024, when the Archdiocese of Washington ordained a record 16 new priests.

It was a truly historic day for the local church in Washington. (Along with the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington sponsors the TV Mass, which is broadcast locally in addition to its posting weekly on YouTube.)

A standing-room-only crowd filled the aisles of the Upper Church of the largest Catholic church in the United States, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (the TV Mass is filmed in the Basilica's lower-level Crypt Church) to share in the liturgy ordaining the largest class for the Archdiocese of Washington in 64 years. Cardinal Wilton Gregory ordained 16 new priests, representing a diverse group of ages and backgrounds, from those who grew up in Washington and Maryland parishes to a grandfather starting a new chapter past the age when many retire, to immigrants from Rwanda, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Vietnam and several men with previous careers in the military.

The concelebrants at the Ordination Mass included Cardinal Donald Wuerl, the archbishop emeritus of Washington; Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, who also serves as the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Archbishop Charles Dufour Jr., the archbishop emeritus of Kingston, Jamaica; Washington Auxiliary Bishops Roy Campbell Jr., Juan Esposito and Evelio Menjivar; and 210 priests.

In his homily, Cardinal Gregory noted that priestly vocations develop over a lifetime, with the encouragement of family and friends, and he thanked them for helping the men about to be ordained to hear and respond to God's call.

The cardinal said priests must continue to develop and deepen that vocation, centering their lives on prayer and the sacraments. The priesthood, he said, reflects the mystery of how "God loves each of us unconditionally and calls us into His friendship."

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## Basilica honored for high subscriber numbers; a celebrant shifts duties

BY MIGUEL GUILARTE

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where the TV Mass is filmed, was honored by YouTube for reaching 100,000 subscribers. There are about 2.7 billion users of YouTube and fewer than 1 percent have reached that milestone. As the TV Mass is provided on the Shrine's website, online viewers of the weekly liturgy contributed to that reach.

Father Kevin Regan, a regular celebrant of the TV Mass, sees that as a mark of how Mary is being brought to people. "It is Mary's house." The Mass enables Mary to "reach into people's own homes" to feel connected there, he said. "With so many different cultural expressions of the Mother of God in the Basilica, it kind of shows the diversity of her heart for all her children." Father Regan recently stopped being a part of the rotation of TV Mass celebrants to become priest-secretary to Washington's Cardinal Wilton Gregory.

The Sunday TV Mass is filmed in the Crypt Church of the Basilica, serving Catholics in the Washington, D.C., over-air television market as well as thousands of online participants who are unable to be physically present with a local worshipping community for the Eucharistic liturgy.

Father Regan has dropped out of the TV Mass rotation for now due to the new responsibilities that he has working with Cardinal Gregory, who is archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. Among those, he manages day-to-day details of the Cardinal's activities and accompanies him to Masses, meetings, and other activities in the Washington area and beyond.

Fr. Regan was ordained as a priest in the Archdiocese of Washington in 2008. After continuing his studies for one more year, he was assigned in 2009 to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, where he served as a vicar for three years.

He served as a pastor of the Archdiocesan parishes St. John Neumann and Holy Family, and then he served as vice rector of St. John Paul II Seminary.

He said he misses being able to celebrate the TV Mass.

"There is a bit of sadness, but it is related not to just the TV Mass, but an adjustment of my previous ministry from being in a parish or being in a seminary to being in direct service to the cardinal," he said.

"I get a bit sad, I still get to serve the Cardinal when he has the TV Mass, so I am still there," he said.

The Basilica has been providing the TV Mass on WDCW channel 50 in Washington, but also began posting it on the Basilica's YouTube channel in 2016. The TV Mass averages about



Father Kevin Regan celebrates the TV Mass from the Crypt at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. . Photo courtesy of John Capobianco

35,000 views weekly on YouTube alone.

"I still remember and recall the faces of the people that I served that were watching and so it gives me hope to someday return to the altar publicly. If the TV Mass needs me when I am freed up again, I can come back," said Father Regan.

The producer of the TV Mass also misses the priest's participation.

"Fr. Regan has been a terrific priestly presence for us, his experience not only as a pastor before but his representation of all the work at the John Paul II Seminary," said John Capobianco, the producer of TV Mass. "This is a gift for our viewers and he brought a real attention to the Church."

Capobianco put the online popularity of the TV Mass into perspective.

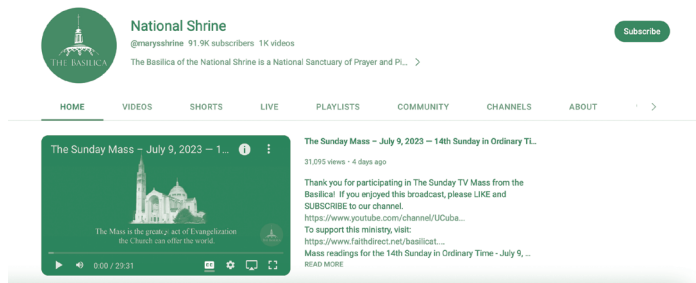
"The online viewership of the TV Mass has grown from before the pandemic. YouTube viewership of our Mass has certainly contributed to the growth in the Shrine's subscriber numbers," he said.

"There has been a great growth, and it continues to be kind of those who appreciate being able to watch the Mass from the Basilica in that way. The 100,000 subscribers to YouTube are a big milestone".

Capobianco said that "the beauty of the liturgy is attractive to offer in a broadcast. We try to highlight that beauty. We offer not only the Shrine's music and the terrific homilies that they offer, but we also try to show the beauty of the Shrine, to bring in all the artwork of the Basilica in order to enhance the production experience that the Mass offers."

## Watch the TV Mass Online

The Mass is available to watch online on the National Shrine's YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/user/marysshine](http://www.youtube.com/user/marysshine)



Make sure to like, share, and subscribe to the channel to never miss another TV Mass!

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For more information, contact  
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## CELEBRATE!

is produced by The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.

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# 4 NEW PRIESTS ORDAINED

(Cont'd. from page 1)



Newly ordained Father James Fangmeyer Jr. at left, is vested by his uncle, Father Lee Fangmeyer, the pastor of Mother Seton Parish in Germantown, Maryland, who is a regular celebrant priest for the TV Mass. (Catholic Standard/Mihoko Owada)

After the Mass, hundreds of people assembled at chapels throughout the Basilica's side chapels and lower hall to receive a personal blessing from the new priests.

Among those gathering to receive a blessing from Father James Fangmeyer Jr., was his uncle, Father Lee Fangmeyer – the pastor of Mother Seton Parish in Germantown, Maryland – who had vested the new priest at the Mass. Father Lee Fangmeyer is a regular celebrant of the TV Mass.

“His vocation is all his own,” said Father Lee Fangmeyer, who added, “to recognize we share in the priesthood of Jesus, it’s really quite remarkable.”

In the crowd waiting to get a first blessing from Father Stephen Wong – who served the U.S. Army, in active military service and then as a civilian for a total of four decades – was Rob Delaney, who as an Army captain had worked with him in Korea. He said that the new priest is a man who “lives the biblical teaching about being a good shepherd and caring for his neighbor. He was being a shepherd long before he decided to be a priest.”

A large crowd of people waited outside the Our Lady of La Vang Chapel for a first blessing from Father Joseph Thong Van Nguyen, a native of Vietnam with two brothers who are priests and another brother who is in a religious order preparing for priesthood.

Father Joseph Thong Van Nguyen was vested at the Mass by his brother, Father Trung Nguyen, a priest serving in New Zealand. Also attending the ordination Mass were his brothers, Father Tien Nguyen, a Scalabrinian priest serving in Florida, and Brother Khuong Van Nguyen, a member of the Rosminian religious order who is studying for the priesthood in Rome.

Two busloads of Missionaries of Charity sisters, residents, and volunteers from the Gift of Peace house in Washington attended the Mass. Newly ordained Father Gregory Zingler had been a live-in volunteer there for a decade. His children and grandchildren also were in the congregation.

## WDCW-50 local station guide

The TV Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. ET on WDCW-50.



Use the chart below to determine the channel on your television.

TV Provider	Channel
<b>Antenna/no cable</b>	50
<b>Comcast</b>	
DC and Montgomery	23
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Northern VA	3
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