



# YOUTH MASS FOR LIFE

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese *of* Washington

JANUARY

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FRIDAY

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23

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9:30 A.M.

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2026

CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE  
WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Cardinal Robert McElroy  
PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT



The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese *of*  
Washington

## DECREE OF THE APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY

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 at least spend 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.

Cardinal De Donatis  
Apostolic Penitentiary

# ORDER OF MASS

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Psalm

Psalm 143

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

#### Verse 1

Lord, hear my prayer, in your faithfulness  
listen to my pleading; answer me in  
your righteousness. Do not enter into  
judgment with your servant; before you  
no one can be just.

#### Verse 2

I remember the days of old, I muse on all  
your wonders; the work of your hands I  
remember. I stretch out my hands to you,  
my soul to you like a parched land.

#### Verse 3

In the morning I seek you, let me hear of  
your mercy, for in you I have confidence.  
Show me the path I should walk, for I  
entrust my life to you.

#### Verse 4

Instruct my heart, that I may do your will,  
for you are God my savior. May your  
good spirit guide me, on level ground.

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### Sign of the Cross

### Greeting

### Penitential Act

### Collect

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

*Jeremiah 1:4-10*

In the days of King Josiah, the word of the Lord came to me, saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. "Ah, Lord God!" I said, "I know not how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord answered me, Say not, "I am too young." To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord. Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying, See, I place my words in your mouth! This day I set you over nations and over kingdoms, to root up and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant.

The Word of the Lord.

**R./ Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17*

**R./Since my mother's womb, you have been my strength.**

### Second Reading

*1 John 3:1-3*

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord.

**R./ Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Two staves of musical notation in G clef. The first staff shows 'Alleluia' with a dotted half note, a eighth note, a sixteenth note, a eighth note, a dotted half note, a eighth note, a sixteenth note, a eighth note, and a dotted half note. The second staff shows 'Alleluia!' with a dotted half note, a eighth note, a sixteenth note, a eighth note, a dotted half note, a eighth note, a sixteenth note, a eighth note, and a dotted half note.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

In your mercy give me life, O Lord, and I will do your commands.

## Gospel

*Matthew 18:1-5, 10*

The disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

Fr. Danny Morrison

*Parochial Vicar, Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, Maryland*

## Profession of Faith

## Universal Prayer

# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## Offertory Psalm

### Psalm 16

“You will show us the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence; the fullness of joy in your presence.”

#### Verse 1

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord. My happiness lies in you alone.”

#### Verse 2

Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows. I will not take part in their offerings of blood. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; you yourself who secure my lot.

#### Verse 3

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord before me always; with him at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

#### Verse 4

And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my flesh shall rest in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to hell, nor let your holy one see corruption.

## Holy, Holy, Holy

*Heritage Mass*



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

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## Mystery of Faith

*Heritage Mass*



Save us, Sav - ior of the world, for by your  
Cross and Res - ur - rec - tion you have set us free.

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## Great Amen

*Heritage Mass*



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

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## COMMUNION RITE

### The Lord's Prayer

### Sign of Peace

### Lamb of God

*Heritage Mass*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.

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## Communion Hymn

### I Received the Living God

Refrain

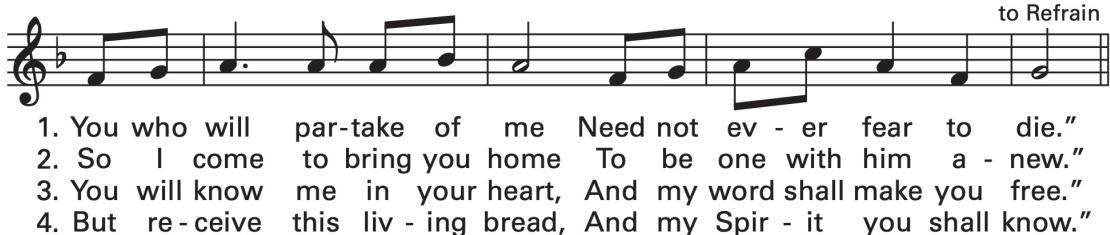


I re-ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of  
joy. I re-ceived the liv-ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

Verses



1. Je-sus said: "I am the Bread Knead-ed long to give you life;  
2. Je-sus said: "I am the Way, And my Fa - ther longs for you;  
3. Je-sus said: "I am the Truth; If you fol - low close to me,  
4. Je-sus said: "I am the Life Far from whom no thing can grow,



1. You who will par-take of me Need not ev - er fear to die."  
2. So I come to bring you home To be one with him a - new."  
3. You will know me in your heart, And my word shall make you free."  
4. But re - ceive this liv - ing bread, And my Spir - it you shall know."

Text: 77 77 with refrain; anon. Music: Anon.

## Communion Hymn

### O Come To The Altar

*Elevation Worship*

#### Verse 1

Are you hurting and broken within?  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself?  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?  
Jesus is calling

#### Refrain

O come to the altar,  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
the precious blood of Jesus Christ

#### Verse 2

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes,  
Come today there's no reason to wait;  
Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy,  
from the ashes a new life is born;  
Jesus is calling

#### Bridge

Oh what a Savior,  
Isn't He wonderful,  
Sing hallelujah, Christ is risen  
Bow down before Him,  
For He is Lord of all,  
Sing hallelujah, Christ is risen

CCLI Song # 7051511

Chris Brown | Mack Brock | Steven Furtick | Wade Joye

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# CONCLUDING RITES

## Prayer after Communion

## Blessing and Dismissal

## Recessional Hymn

**Your Grace Is Enough**

*Matt Maher / Chris Tomlin*

### Verse 1

Great is Your faithfulness, O God  
You wrestle with the sinner's heart  
You lead me by still waters into mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart

### Refrain

So remember Your people, remember Your children, remember Your promise, O God  
Your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough for me

### Verse 2

Great is Your love and justice God  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of your salvation  
And all Your people sing along

### Refrain

So remember Your people, remember Your children, remember Your promise, O God  
Your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough for me

CCLI Song # 4477026

Matt Maher

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