



YOUTH MASS
FOR LIFE
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese *of* Washington

JANUARY

FRIDAY

23

9:30 A.M.

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



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 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 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 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



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Great Amen

Heritage Mass



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COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Heritage Mass



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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,

to Refrain



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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