

A few people active at St. Vincent's joined an all-day bus trip to Washington, DC to meet with elected Representative to advocate for immigration law reforms.



Representative Madeleine Dean office (D-PA-4), we met with Trevor McLean, Legislative Council



Representative Mary Gay Scanlon office (D-PA-5)

Visits were scheduled in advanced so we actually met with a staff member who listened to a planned presentation with three parts. 1. Introduction and thank you, 2. Personal story of how immigration issues negatively individuals and families, 3. What specific issues we want the Representative to support. See the two page “talking points” document found in the document for these items.



One of the two lobbyists for the Catholic organizations helped schedule our appointments.

The bus left Philadelphia at 5:45 AM on Thursday March 5, 2026 from St. Malachy



We left each Representatives office a folder with a detailed list of action items we hoped they could support and said we see it as a two-way street. Many of us have ongoing contact with internationals and can be called upon to provide support and aid if needed. This nine page document is the last one in this document.

Educate – Organize - Resist



Before leaving DC we had Mass in the Crypt Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception





ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
AUXILIARY BISHOP

222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299
Telephone (215) 667-2820 · Fax (215) 587-3561



5 January 2026
Feast of St. John Neumann

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin this new year 2026 and celebrate today, January 5, the feast of St. John Neumann, the fourth bishop of Philadelphia—and also an immigrant, I write to announce a pilgrimage-trip to Washington, D.C. primarily to advocate for immigration reform.

I invite you to join me on **Thursday, March 5, 2026** to travel to Capitol Hill along with the support of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference and the United States Bishops' Conference to meet with congressional representatives or their staff primarily to promote a reform of immigration law.

While all the faithful are welcome, for the first 50 to sign-up, there is a bus arranged to depart the Pastoral Center (222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia) at 5:45 am, with an itinerary to include visits at Congress. A Mass with our group is being planned at a sacred site, and each participant should plan to bring a bagged lunch. We expect to arrive back in Philadelphia at 9 pm. Sign-up is possible by either calling the Hispanic Ministry Office at 215-667-2820 or emailing Darlene Morales at dmorales@archphila.org.

In order to make the visit to Congress, it is essential that we have all those attending to sign-up by Friday, January 23 because it is necessary to have participants' zip codes to get meetings arranged with the proper congressional staff.

More information will be forthcoming by February, including an on-line session to prepare for the visits.

Please consider making this pilgrimage-trip on March 5, and pray for a reform of immigration including the respect for the dignity of every human person.

May God bless you this New Year, 2026.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Christopher Cooke

Most Rev. Christopher Cooke
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia



**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
AUXILIARY BISHOP**

222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299
Telephone (215) 667-2820 · Fax (215) 587-3561



✠
26 February 2026

Dear Pilgrim Advocates,

In preparation for our advocacy pilgrimage trip to Washington, D.C. for Thursday March 5, 2026, I offer the following details:

1. A final planning Zoom session will be on **Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 pm** with the following link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87284418425?pwd=294qHvHj8nfQduzOb4DncRHZdJ7N5y.1>
Meeting ID: 872 8441 8425 | Passcode: 985052
Please be sure to attend this important session which will go over talking points.
2. **Bus pick-up location has changed.** Because of snow and a garage issue, the departure location for those confirmed on the buses has changed to **St. Malachy Church, 1429 N. 11th St, Philadelphia, PA 19122**. Most cars will fit in the parish parking lot *next to the convent at the corner of 11th Street and Master Street*; see attached diagram. Street parking is also available for free. (Warning: do not park in the lot next to the church as that belongs to the apartments and your car will be towed; it is also worth noting that St. Malachy school is at a different location.) Please car pool to the extent possible.

3. **Schedule**

5:30 am	Bus boarding at St. Malachy Church
5:45 am	Busses depart
9:30 am	Arrival in Washington, D.C. at the Longworth House Office Building, 15 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC 20515 <i>(for those traveling on their own, you will need to find parking)</i>
10:00 am	First appointments – different schedules for everyone to be reviewed at the Zoom session
lunch	On your own.
By 2:15 pm	Go on your own to St. Peter's Church (hall, lower level), 313 2nd Street SE, Washington, DC 20003. Bathrooms available. <i>(This is about a 10 min walk from the Longworth Building.)</i>
2:30 pm	Busses depart St. Peter Church
3:15 pm	Arrival at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC 20017
3:30 pm	Mass in the crypt church (lower church)
4:30 pm	Board busses
4:45 pm	Busses depart
	Simple dinner stops on route
9:00 pm	Arrival at St. Malachy Church, Philadelphia

If you get lost on March 5th, please call Kathia Arango at (954)439-8692.
Let us continue to pray through the intercession of St. Katherine Drexel.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Christopher Cooke

Most Rev. Christopher Cooke
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia