



Catholic Diocese of Peoria

April 2026

NEWS RELEASE

STATEMENT REGARDING OFFICIAL ROSTER OF EVENTS FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

From Bishop Louis Tylka, Diocese of Peoria

“I am filled with deep gratitude and great joy as we announce the schedule of events surrounding the long-awaited Mass of Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. This is a momentous occasion not only for our diocese, but for the Church in the United States and throughout the world.

The Beatification of Archbishop Sheen is a recognition of a life lived in heroic virtue—a life that brought countless souls closer to Jesus Christ through preaching, teaching, and witness. For many, he was a familiar voice on television and radio; for all of us, he remains a powerful example of what it means to live the Gospel with clarity, courage, and love. This celebration is not simply about honoring his legacy—it is an invitation for each of us to deepen our own relationship with Christ.

In the days leading up to the Beatification Mass, we will gather in prayer, reflection, and celebration through a series of special events in Peoria and St. Louis. These include a novena of Holy Hours, Masses, opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and Confession, catechetical moments, and gatherings that reflect the many dimensions of Archbishop Sheen’s life and ministry. Each of these events has been thoughtfully planned as part of a pilgrimage to help us enter more deeply into the spiritual richness of this occasion and to encounter the Lord in a meaningful way.

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The Beatification Mass itself will be the central moment of this sacred time, but it is surrounded by opportunities for formation, fellowship, and prayer that we hope will touch hearts and inspire renewed faith. The events that follow the Beatification Mass in Peoria, including Masses of Thanksgiving and presentations, will allow us to continue reflecting on the gift of Archbishop Sheen and how his witness calls us forward as missionary disciples. I want to emphasize that everyone is invited to take part in these historic celebrations. Because of the scale and interest in these events, registration will be required for most of them, and we will be sharing additional details very soon to help people plan accordingly. Updates will be provided at celebratesheen.com.

I am truly grateful for the many individuals and teams who have worked tirelessly to prepare for this moment, and I look forward with great anticipation to welcoming pilgrims from near and far. My hope is that through this Beatification, many will come to know more deeply the love of Jesus Christ, be renewed in their faith, and be inspired to live as joyful witnesses of the Gospel in their own lives.

This is a moment of grace for the Church. I invite all to join us in celebrating it.”

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About the Catholic Diocese of Peoria:

The Diocese of Peoria, led by Bishop Louis Tylka, serves Catholics of Central Illinois, across 26 counties, rooted in its mission to become a vibrant, mission-driven, and sustainable Church. The Diocese lives its mission, embracing the call to “Go Make Disciples.” Learn more at cdop.org.

About the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation:

The Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation is the official organization promoting the Cause for Canonization of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Established under the auspices of the Diocese of Peoria, the Foundation is dedicated to preserving and sharing Sheen’s life, writings, and teachings, and to fostering devotion to his example of faith. Learn more at celebratesheen.com.