

Dear Pastors and Parish Leaders,

As we mourn the death of Pope Francis, there are ways that parishes should come together and pray. These notes are intended to help your parish in marking the death of Pope Francis as well as during the upcoming conclave and after the election of a new pope. In addition to these notes, please find a document from the USCCB to aid in preparing for these times of prayer.

Upon News of the Pope's Death

1. The nine days following the death of the Pope are referred to as the *Novendiales*, or nine days of mourning leading up to the Pope's Funeral. Attached there is a Novena for these nine days from the USCCB.
2. Black or Indigo bunting (fabric) may be hung at the entrance to the Church until the Pope's funeral.
3. A portrait of the Pope should be placed near the edge of or just outside the sanctuary. It is appropriate to light a candle, even the paschal candle, near the portrait and to have flowers near the portrait.
4. A Mass for the Deceased Pope may be celebrated in every parish church.
 - a. Mass for the Dead, "For a Pope" is used.
 - b. Readings are taken from nos. 1011-1016 of the Lectionary, "Masses for the Dead."
 - c. This Mass would normally not be said on a Solemnity, but given the timing of the Pope's death, Archbishop Thompson has given permission for Masses for the Dead to be celebrated during the Octave of Easter.
5. At all parish masses, it is appropriate to pray for the Pope in the general intercessions. For your use:
 - a. That Pope Francis, called to the heavenly kingdom by the Lord, may rejoice forever at the heavenly banquet, we pray to the Lord.
 - b. That Pope Francis, who served the Church as Supreme Pontiff, may rejoice with the saints in the heavenly Jerusalem, we pray to the Lord.
 - c. That the tireless efforts of Pope Francis, now called to the Lord, may bear fruit in unity, peace and love among all men and women, we pray to the Lord.
 - d. For Pope Francis, who boldly proclaimed the Gospel to all ends of the earth, that he may rejoice forever in heaven, we pray to the Lord.
6. The intercession for the Pope is omitted from the Eucharistic prayer until the election of a new Pope.

7. It is appropriate to pray the Office of the Dead from the Liturgy of the Hours in individual recitation or as a community.

8. Parish and school communities are encouraged to gather and pray the Rosary for the repose of the soul of the Holy Father.

During the Conclave

1. After the conclave has begun, a special Mass may be offered in each parish.
 - a. Masses for Various Needs and Occasions #4- “For the Election of a Pope”
 - b. Proper Readings can be found in Volume 4 of the Lectionary nos. 833-837, “For the Election of a Pope.”
 - c. This Mass should not be on a Sunday or Solemnity
 - d. If this were to occur during Lent, the Office of Worship will follow up with news about permission to celebrate such a mass outside of Ordinary Time.
2. It is appropriate to pray for the conclave in the general intercessions.

After the Election of a new Pope

1. Gold bunting may be hung at the entrance of the church to celebrate the election of the new Pope.
2. The Pope should again be prayed for in the Eucharistic Prayer
3. It is appropriate to pray for the new Pope in the General Intercessions.
4. Upon the Election of a new Pope, a Mass may be celebrated in every parish.
 - a. Masses for Various Needs and Occasions #2 – “For the Pope”
 - b. The Readings are taken from the Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724.
 - c. This Mass should not be on a Sunday or Solemnity