



April 21, 2025

Dear Monsignor/Father/Deacon,

With the news of the death of Pope Francis, what follows is some guidance to assist you in leading your people in prayer for the late Pontiff. This guidance may be adjusted upon further directives from the Vatican and USCCB.

1. Encourage the faithful to pray for the deceased Pontiff. The custom of praying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be is encouraged. The deceased Pope may be prayed for in the recitation of the Rosary.
2. Before April 28, Mass for Pope Francis may be celebrated using the prayers and readings assigned for the proper Octave day. Following the Octave of Easter, not before April 28, parishes may offer Masses for the deceased Pope using the prayers from the Roman Missal "Masses for the Dead, Various Prayers for the Dead, #1, For a Pope." Care should be taken that such a Mass be celebrated according to the norms of the liturgical calendar. In the United States, the vestment colors violet, white, or black may be used in Masses and Offices for the Dead (see GIRM, no. 346e).
3. When praying the Eucharistic Prayer, the name of the Pope is omitted (see page 2).
4. A sample set of intentions for the Universal Prayer is included. An intention for the deceased Pontiff may be included in the Universal Prayer at any upcoming Mass (see page 3).
5. In the church sanctuary or other appropriate place, a fitting picture of the deceased Pope might be discreetly displayed, accompanied by a bouquet of flowers and a votive candle, or even the Paschal Candle.
6. Black bunting may be hung around the main exterior doors of the church building at any time and may remain in place until the end of the days of mourning.
7. Church bells may be tolled at the hour of the Funeral Mass in Rome, and at other appropriate times.

Eucharistic Prayer

During the vacancy of the Holy See, the name of the Pope is omitted at its usual place in the Eucharistic Prayer. The name of the Diocesan Bishop is to be said as usual:

- Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon): “throughout the whole world, together with N. our Bishop”
- Eucharistic Prayer II: “and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N. our Bishop”
- Eucharistic Prayer III: “your pilgrim Church on earth, with N. our Bishop”
- Eucharistic Prayer IV: “all for whom we offer this sacrifice: especially N. our Bishop”
- Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation I: “in communion of mind and heart, together with N. our Bishop”
- Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II: “and may he keep us in communion with N. our Bishop”
- Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs I: “between the faithful and the pastors of your people, together with N. our Bishop”
- Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs II: “confirm us in unity, so that, together with N. our Bishop”
- Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs III: “and confirm us in the bond of communion, together with N. our Bishop”
- Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs IV: “to perfect faith and charity, together with N. our Bishop”

Universal Prayer ~ Mass for the Death Of A Pope

Presider: Trusting in God who raised Jesus from the dead and gives new life to our mortal bodies, let us pray for the Church in our time of need and for Pope Francis.

Reader: For Pope Francis: called to the heavenly kingdom by the Lord: may he rejoice forever at the heavenly banquet, we pray to the Lord...

For the Church in our time of sorrow:
may we trust in God's divine providence
and continue the good work of Pope Francis here on earth,
we pray to the Lord...

For our world, as we grieve the loss of Pope Francis:
may we follow his example and work for peace among all nations,
we pray to the Lord...

For those who die unjustly by violence, war, and famine each day:
may they know God's mercy and be gathered into the eternal
banquet of peace, we pray to the Lord...

For all who mourn the loss of a loved one:
may they be strengthened by their sure hope in the resurrection,
we pray to the Lord...

For all who have died, may they be at peace in the radiance of God's
light, we pray to the Lord...

Presider: O God, from whom the just receive an unfailing reward,
grant that your servant Francis,
whom you made vicar of Peter and shepherd of your Church,
may rejoice forever in the vision of your glory,
for he was a faithful steward here on earth
of the mysteries of your forgiveness and grace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May Pope Francis receive the reward of his labors
and may all the faithful departed rest in peace,



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