



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO  
OFFICE OF WORSHIP

**Celebrating the Life and Birth to Eternal Life of  
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI  
April 16, 1927 — December 31, 2022**

**Prayer**

All parishes, schools and ministries of the Diocese of Buffalo are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. An appropriate choice of prayer, especially for school-age children would be the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Recitation of the Rosary for the repose of his soul is also encouraged.

**Masses**

Bishop Fisher will celebrate a Mass for Pope Benedict at the Cathedral. All priests are encouraged to do the same in each vicariate/ family of parishes to allow for the attendance of as many of the faithful as possible. These Masses should still be celebrated according to the norms of the liturgical calendar.

Note that the first section of “Various Prayers for the Dead” in the *Roman Missal* includes three Mass formularies for a Pope (forms A, B, and C). As with all Masses for the Dead, the prayers of the various formularies are interchangeable. The celebrant may or may not wish to insert the word “Emeritus” when naming Benedict XVI.

*GIRM 381 states: A Mass for the Dead, on receiving the news of a death, for the final burial, or the first anniversary, may be celebrated even on days within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord, on days when an Obligatory Memorial occurs, and on weekdays other than Ash Wednesday or the weekdays of Holy Week. Other Masses for the Dead or “daily” Masses, may be celebrated on weekdays in Ordinary Time on which Optional Memorials occur or when the Office is of the weekday, provided such Masses are actually applied for the dead.*

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). However, it is customary for red vestments to be worn at a Mass for the Dead offered for a Pope since we are mourning the death of the successor of the Apostle Peter.

Special petitions may be offered in the Universal Prayer at Masses celebrated for the repose of the Pope Emeritus. The following are provided as examples:

- That Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI, called to the heavenly kingdom by the Lord, may rejoice forever at the banquet table of heaven, we pray to the Lord.
- That Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI, who served the Church as Supreme Pontiff for eight years, may worship God for ever in the liturgy of heaven, we pray to the Lord.
- That the tireless efforts of Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI, now called to the Lord, may bear fruit in unity, peace and love among all men and women, we pray to the Lord.
- For Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI, who preached that God is love and that we are saved in hope, that he may know God’s love forever in heaven, we pray to the Lord.

In the Eucharistic Prayer, any of the Prefaces for the Dead (I-V) may be used. The formula for mentioning the name of the current Pope in the Eucharistic Prayer is to be followed as usual (i.e., “Francis our Pope and Michael our Bishop”). The naming of the deceased Pope Emeritus is best done during the intercession for the dead, as provided in Eucharistic Prayers I-III: “your servant Benedict, our Pope (Emeritus).”

### **Other Ways of Expressing Mourning**

Churches may display a portrait of the late Holy Father with black bunting and church bells may be tolled.

It is the custom that the nine days following the funeral of a Pope are observed as days of mourning in Rome and throughout the Church. These days may be observed in different ways.

Pastors and parish administrators are encouraged to drape the main doors of the churches in the Diocese of Buffalo with black and white bunting during this period of mourning.

In addition to Masses, the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic exposition/adoration and other devotional prayer may be celebrated.

Communities and individuals can pray the Office of the Dead in the Liturgy of the Hours for the intention of the Holy Father. In a public celebration of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer, a bishop, priest, or deacon could give a brief reflection following the reading and responsory. A reflection on the life of the former Pope might best be given after the concluding prayer and before the dismissal.

Lectures on the teachings/legacy of the late Pontiff as well as activities for the relief of the poor offered for the intention of his soul, or other such initiatives may be planned over the next coming weeks by parish groups and ministries.