



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF WORSHIP

**Celebrating the Life and Birth to Eternal Life of
Pope Francis
December 17, 1936 — April 21, 2025**

Prayer

All parishes, schools and ministries of the Diocese of Buffalo are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. 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 at the Cathedral **Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 7 pm**. Priests, deacons and the faithful are invited to attend. 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. The orations and readings should continue to follow the Octave of Easter, with the intention of the Mass being for the Pope and mention made of his name in the memento. (e.g. Eucharistic Prayer III, "Remember your servant, Pope Francis, whom you have called from this world to yourself...")

Pope Francis' name is omitted from its usual place in the Eucharistic prayer; the name of the diocesan Bishop remains:

- In Eucharistic Prayer I and II, delete the words, "your servant N. our Pope"
- In Eucharistic Prayer III, delete the words, "N, our Pope and"
- In Eucharistic Prayer IV, delete the words "your servant N. our Pope"
- In EP for Masses for Various Needs and occasions, "...Strengthen the bond of unity between the pastors of your people, together with Michael, our Bishop, and the whole Order of Bishops..."

Masses for the Dead

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.

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.

These would be most appropriate following the Octave of Easter.

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. The following are provided as examples:

- That Pope Francis, called to the heavenly kingdom by the Lord, may rejoice forever at the banquet table of heaven, we pray to the Lord.
- That Pope Francis, who served the Church as Supreme Pontiff for twelve years, may worship God for ever in the liturgy of heaven, we pray to the Lord.
- 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.
- For Pope Francis, 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.

Other Ways of Expressing Mourning

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.

The Novena for Pope Francis, in English and Spanish may be found at <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/what-we-do/office-of-worship/>

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. (Yellow and white will be used when a new Pope is named.)

In the church sanctuary, a fitting picture of the deceased Pontiff might be discreetly placed on an easel. A bouquet of flowers and a large votive candle may be placed near it. The Paschal Candle may be used instead.

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

Memorial cards might be printed with the deceased Pope's picture and a brief biography on the back. One of the prayers for a deceased pope from the *Roman Missal* be placed on the card.

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.