



Worship Office

Archdiocese of Newark

With the passing of Pope Francis on April 21, 2025, the following resources are provided below.



Death of Pope Francis

*O God, faithful rewarder of souls,
grant that your departed servant Pope Francis,
whom you made successor of Peter,
and shepherd of your Church,
may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven
the mysteries of your grace and compassion,
which he faithfully ministered on earth.*

—Roman Missal



His Holiness
POPE FRANCIS
1936-2025

December 17, 1936
Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio
December 13, 1969
Ordained Priest of the Society of Jesus
June 27, 1992
Ordained Titular Bishop of Auca and Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires
June 3, 1997
Appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos Aires
February 28, 1998
Succeeded Archbishop of Buenos Aires
February 21, 2001
Created Cardinal-Priest of San Roberto Bellarmino
March 13, 2013
Elected Pope Francis
March 19, 2013
Inaugurated Petrine Ministry of the Bishop of Rome
April 21, 2025
Entered Eternal Life

NON-LITURGICAL OBSERVANCES

TOLLING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

Upon receiving the news of the death of the Pope, the church bells may be tolled. Some traditions suggest the bells be tolled once for each year of life and/or for each year of the Pope's pastoral ministry.

The church bells may be tolled daily following the *Angelus* (or *Regina Coeli*) during the period of mourning.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, the church bells should be tolled twelve times (once for each year of his pontificate) at noon on the day of the Pope's funeral.

FLAGS

By Presidential Proclamation, the flag of the United State may now be flown at half-staff until sunset on the day of interment. The Vatican Flag should also be flown at half-staff.

BUNTING OF CHURCHES

Bunting may be used during the period of mourning.

PORTRAIT OF THE HOLY FATHER

A portrait of the Holy Father may be displayed in an appropriate place in the church together with a votive candle during the period of mourning.

LITURGICAL OBSERVANCES

MASS

Every church, oratory and chapel of the Archdiocese should offer a Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis at a time when people can gather in large numbers. A Memorial Mass may be celebrated when permitted (R² & R³). When Memorial Masses are not permitted, as in the Octave of Easter, the texts for the Mass of the day are to be used.

An introduction may be given at Masses following the news of the death of the Pope. A sample text is attached.

An intercession for the deceased pope should be included in the Universal Prayer of all Masses during the period of mourning in these or similar words:

**For Pope Francis,
who presided over your Church in charity,
that he may be welcomed into eternal glory
with all your Saints.**

A sample Universal Prayer for a Mass ("Memorial Mass") for the deceased Pope is attached.

The name of the Pope is no longer mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer until the election of a new Pope. The naming of the deceased Pope may be done during the intercession for the dead in the Eucharistic Prayers. It may be fitting to include the Pope's name from his death through the period of mourning.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer from the Office for the Dead may be celebrated for the deceased pope in accordance with the norms of the liturgical year and calendar.

PENITENTIAL ACT

For use at any Mass during the period of mourning

After the Sign of the Cross and Greeting, the Celebrant introduces Mass in these or similar words:

**My brothers and sisters,
on April 21, our Holy Father, Pope Francis,
passed into eternal life.
He served for 12 years
as leader of the Catholic Church,
as a global witness for those most in need,
and as a voice of warning for the future of our planet.
We keep him in our prayers this day
as the Lord opens the Scripture for us and breaks the bread.**

**Let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.**

A brief pause for silence follows.

Deacon or Celebrant:

**Lord, you are the defense of the poor:
Lord, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, you are the refuge of the weak:
Christ, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy.

**Lord, you are the hope of sinners:
Lord, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.**
Amen.

*Other invocations (see. *Roman Missal*, Appendix VI) may be used.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

For use at memorial Masses for the deceased Pope

The Celebrant introduces the Universal Prayer in these or similar words:

**God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead;
with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and deceased.**

Deacon or lector:

**For Pope Francis,
who exercised the ministry of Peter in God's Church,
that he may continue to inspire, even in death,
our eager and ready response to Christ.**

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

**For the Church, built on the faith of Saint Peter,
that it may be a light to the nations
and the Sacrament of their salvation.**

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

**For the people of the world,
that they may be delivered from seeing one another as enemies,
finding instead common ground
and sharing together the feast of life.**

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

**For a deeper devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary,
that we may place our lives in her care as did Pope Francis.**

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

**For those intentions most dear to Pope Francis:
for the poor and the oppressed,
for the immigrant and the refugee,
for peace among all nations,
for the care of creation.**

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

**For those who walked by the light of Christ,
especially Pope Francis,
that joyfully entering heaven,
they may behold God face to face.**

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

**We now add our own intentions in silence. (*Pause*)
For those intentions which we speak only in our hearts.**

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant:

**Lord God,
giver of peace and healer of souls,
hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ,
and the voices of your people,
whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb.
Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ,
and grant them a place in the kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Selected Quotes of Pope Francis

“The Church will have to initiate everyone—priests, religious and laity—into this ‘art of accompaniment’ which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3:5). The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life.”

—*Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium, November 24, 2013*

“The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.”

—*Encyclical Letter, Laudato si’, May 24, 2015*

“Knowing that Jesus still walks our streets, that he is part of the lives of his people, that he is involved with us in one vast history of salvation, fills us with hope.”

—*Homily of the Holy Father, Madison Square Garden, New York, September 25, 2015*

“[Christ] is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope.”

—*Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Christus vivit, March 25, 2019*

“Every human being has the right to live with dignity and to develop integrally; this fundamental right cannot be denied by any country. People have this right even if they are unproductive, or were born with or developed limitations. This does not detract from their great dignity as human persons, a dignity based not on circumstances but on the intrinsic worth of their being. Unless this basic principle is upheld, there will be no future either for fraternity or for the survival of humanity.”

—*Encyclical Letter, Fratelli Tutti, October 3, 2020*

“Jesus gives us the greatest sacrament. His is a humble gesture of giving, a gesture of sharing. At the culmination of his life, he does not distribute an abundance of bread to feed the multitudes, but breaks himself apart at the Passover supper with the disciples. In this way Jesus shows us that the aim of life lies in self-giving, that the greatest thing is to serve. And today once more we find the greatness of God in a piece of Bread, in a fragility that overflows with love, that overflows with sharing.”

—*Angelus, St. Peter’s Square, June 6, 2021*

“To love like Jesus: that is what makes us shine, makes us do works of love. Friends, I am telling you the truth: whenever you do works of love, you become light. But the moment you stop loving others and become self-centered, you extinguish your light.”

—*Homily of the Holy Father, 37th World Youth Day, August 6, 2023*

“A healthy ecology is also the result of interaction between human beings and the environment, as occurs in the indigenous cultures and has occurred for centuries in different regions of the earth.”

—*Apostolic Exhortation, Laudate Deum, October 4, 2023*

“Christ showed the depth of his love for us not by lengthy explanations but by concrete actions. By examining his interactions with others, we can come to realize how he treats each one of us, even though at times this may be difficult to see.”

—*Encyclical Letter, Dilexit nos, October 24, 2024*

Additional documents, information and resources on Pope Francis can be found at:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en.html>

<https://www.usccb.org/popes/pope-francis>

<https://www.usccb.org/pope-francis-resources-memorial>

<https://fdlc.org/2025/04/resources-on-the-death-of-pope-francis/>