



Parish Resources for Papal Transition

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Mass for the Holy Father on Any Day Before the Conclave

Care should be taken that these Masses be celebrated according to the norms of the liturgical calendar. These suggestions can be used on any day that Masses for the Dead are allowed.

Sacramentary Texts

Texts can be taken from Masses for the Dead, #1: *For a Pope*. Note that this section offers three forms: A, B and C.

Note that the *Order of Christian Funerals* also provides a prayer for the deceased Pope in paragraph 398, no. 14.

Any of the Prefaces for Christian Death (P77 – P81) may be used.

Note that the Pope's name, and the entire phrase referring to the Pope, is omitted from the Eucharistic Prayer.

Lectionary Texts

Readings and Psalms can be taken from the Lectionary, vol. IV, *Masses for the Dead*.

The Homily

Care should be taken that the homilies of these Masses highlight how the mystery of Jesus' victorious death and resurrection was present in the life of the Pope. His faithfulness to the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery and evangelization, as well as his constant care, concern and outreach for those who are poor, those who are sick and those who are oppressed, should be central topics.

Sample Intercessory Prayers

The following models can be used at all the Masses celebrated during this time of mourning after the Pope's death.

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 Pastor, may worship God forever in the liturgy of heaven, we pray to the Lord.



That the 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 boldly proclaimed the Gospel to all ends of the earth, that he may rejoice forever in heaven, we pray to the Lord.

Liturgy of the Hours

It should also be kept in mind that either Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer of the Office of the Dead (paragraphs 348 - 395 of the *Order of Christian Funerals*) may be appropriately celebrated for the deceased Pope using the prayers mentioned above. Following the reading, a brief homily may be given. After the concluding prayer and before the dismissal, the leader may speak in remembrance of the deceased Pope.



Mass at the Start of and During the Conclave

Care should be taken that these Masses be celebrated according to the norms of the liturgical calendar. These suggestions can be used on any day that Votive Masses are allowed.

Sacramentary Texts

Mass texts can be taken from Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, #4: *For the Election of a Pope*.

Note that the Pope's name, and the entire phrase referring to the Pope, is omitted from the Eucharistic Prayer.

Lectionary Texts

Readings and Psalms can be taken from the Lectionary, vol. IV, *Masses for Various Occasions*, #1: *For the Election of a Pope*, nos, 833-837.

The Homily

Care should be taken that the homilies during these Masses offer the opportunity to reflect on the Petrine ministry and its role within the Church. They might also highlight the Holy Spirit and the Church's constant dependence upon him especially during this time of conclave.

Sample Intercessory Prayers

The following models can be used at all the Masses celebrated during the time of the conclave.

For the College of Cardinals: That they may be open in heart and mind to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord:

For an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the conclave in Rome: That through intense prayer and genuine discernment, the Cardinals may listen to the Spirit's guidance, we pray to the Lord:

For the Catholic Church: That in faith and confidence we may be united as we await the Spirit's action in the election of a new Pope, we pray to the Lord:

The Liturgy of the Hours

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer may also be celebrated and on days when there is no obligatory memorial, feast or solemnity, the closing prayer may be taken from the Mass for the Election of a Pope or Bishop.

A Prayer Vigil for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit

On the night before the Conclave in Rome begins, parishes (or perhaps deaneries or vicariates) might celebrate a prayer vigil service, at which the Church would pray for the guidance of the Spirit during the conclave to elect the next Pope. A suggested Order of Service follows in this resource.



Mass Upon the Election of a New Pope

Care should be taken that these Masses be celebrated according to the norms of the liturgical calendar. These suggestions can be used on any day that Votive Masses are allowed.

Sacramentary Texts

Mass texts are to be taken from *Masses for Various Needs and Occasions*, #2: *For the Pope*.

Lectionary Texts

Readings and Psalms are taken from the Lectionary, vol. IV, *Common of Pastors*, #'s 719-724.

The Homily

The homily could offer the opportunity to reflect on the Petrine ministry and its role within the Church. It also affords the homilist an opportunity to instruct the faithful in the relationship between the local and the universal Church.

Liturgy of the Hours

Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer may also be celebrated and on days when there is no obligatory memorial, feasts or solemnities, the closing prayer may be taken from the Mass for the Pope.

Sample Intercessory Prayers

The following models can be used at all the Masses celebrated during the time after the new Pope is elected.

For N., our Pope: May he be the visible center and foundation of our unity in faith and love, we pray to the Lord:

For N., our Pope: may his word and example inspire and guide the Church, we pray to the Lord:

For N., our Pope: may God grant him a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love as he leads the Church entrusted to his care, we pray to the Lord:

For our new Holy Father, N., that he may be strengthened as he embarks on his ministry of unity, love and peace, we pray to the Lord.

That our recently elected Holy Father, N. , working together with the bishops of the Church, may build up the Body of Christ in peace and in joy, we pray to the Lord.

That our newly elected Holy Father N., may be a champion of the poor, a reconciler of nations and a force for peace and unity in our world, we pray to the Lord.



The liturgical Environment to Celebrate the Life and Mark the Death of Pope

Suggestions for a parish memorial setting

The Catholic Church has a long-standing tradition of remembering in prayer and ritual expression those who, having lived among us in faith, are now dead. The Order of Christian Funerals, with its accompanying rites of vigils and commendation, celebrates the life of the faithful departed and the glory of the resurrection given to us through the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Creating a memorial for someone who has died is an appropriate way to remind all of us of our journey in faith. It can help us to remember and to give thanks for the blessings that God bestowed upon a person in his/her life, and engage us in prayer for all those who are now members of the Communion of Saints.

Such a memorial would be most fitting as one way to remember the life of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. It would invite parishioners to offer thanks for his many gifts to the Church and to the world, and provide a place for individual prayer and vigil.

A place of memorial could include:

- An appropriate space near the sanctuary, in a chapel, or near the entry of the church
- An image of the Pope set on an easel, draped with the papal colors of yellow and white
- The paschal candle
- Some plants, flower arrangement or wreath
- Some vigil candles (making sure that safety concerns are followed)
- At least one kneeler
- A book of condolences for people to sign

The use of mourning drapery

The use of mourning drapery or bunting is a commonly recognized sign that someone from a community, or someone with a significant relation to the community, has died. This drapery is usually placed above exterior doorways, most often above the main entrance of a church or public building. This practice seems to relate to the importance of the doorway as “threshold” – that architectural element that speaks of passage and transition. The action of going in and going out, of stepping through a doorway, echoes in a symbolic way the whole of our life’s journey. Many older buildings, both ecclesiastical and secular, had images of drapery carved in the stone lintels over the main doorways. For churches this main portal was often referred to as the *porta caeli* – “the gate of heaven.”

The traditional color for drapery used to mark the death of someone is black. This is the color of the drapery that parishes should use to mark the death of the Pope. The drapery can be left in place for nine days after the death of the Pope, the traditional time of mourning known as ‘*novemdiales*’



If a parish wishes to mark the election of a new Pope, the colors for bunting would be changed to the papal colors of yellow and white.

Parishes can purchase fabric for this purpose, or make arrangements to rent drapery from a fabric supply company.

Watra Church Goods
4201 South Archer Ave.
Chicago, IL 60632 (Tel. 1-800-247-2425 or 773-247-2431)

WGN Flag and Decorating
7984 S. South Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60617 (Tel. 773-768-8076) (Fax: 773-768-3138) (www.wgnflag.com)



Sample Prayer Service on the Death of Pope

Opening Hymn

(Please see suggestions listed in the topical index of most Catholic hymnals)

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

My brothers and sisters, we gather this day / evening in faith and in hope to pray for our departed Holy Father, Pope Francis. In life he was God's holy servant, and so also in his death, he is a witness to our hope in the Resurrection. May we be comforted in our loss in the faith which he served during his lifetime.

May our prayers for Pope Francis hasten his entrance into the heavenly kingdom, where all the angels and saints sing forever around the banquet table of the Lamb.

Let us Pray:

God our Father,
you reward all who believe in you.
May your servant, Francis our Pope, vicar of Peter,
and shepherd of your Church,
who faithfully administered the mysteries of your
forgiveness and love on earth,
rejoice with you for ever in heaven.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

(Readings and Psalms may be taken from the Lectionary, Masses for the Dead, vol. IV)

First Reading:

Psalm 23

Second Reading:

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel:

Homily or Reflection



Intercessions

Leader: With sure and certain hope, let us pray with confidence to God for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis, for the Church and the World, and for all who await the resurrection of the dead.

Lector: For the world, that there may be peace and unity among all people, we pray to the Lord.

For the Catholic Church: That during this time of loss, we may draw hope from our unity in the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord.

For the poor and the oppressed, that by our lives of compassion they may have hope, we pray to the Lord.

For Francis: That along with all the faithful departed, he may worship God forever in the Heavenly Liturgy, we pray to the Lord.

For each of us gathered here, that we may be blessed and encouraged as we seek to live good and holy lives, we pray to the Lord.

Leader: God our Father, in your wise and loving care, you made your servant Francis, our Pope, a sign of the unity of your Church. In your mercy welcome him to the reward and glory you have promised your faithful servants. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Savior taught us:

Our Father...

Closing Prayer

Leader: Merciful God,
hear the prayers of your people
for your servant, Francis,
who governed the Church with love.
In your loving mercy bring him, with all the flock
entrusted to his care,
into the joy of your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn



Sample Prayer Vigil For Night Before Start of Conclave

Order of Service

Note: This service is meant to be a vigil in which the Church begs for the Spirit to guide the Cardinals in conclave.

Opening

Song: *Choose a hymn or song from the enclosed musical resource or any other appropriate gathering song.*

Leader: Blessed be the Lord,
People: both now and forever!

Introduction and Opening Prayer

Leader: Brothers and Sisters,
This evening, we gather as members of Christ's Body the Church.
We gather as a people who await the movement and action of the Spirit.
We gather as people confident in the Lord's guidance of and care for his Church.
Tonight, let us spend time in prayer, reflection and petition. Let us call upon God in faith, to send the Holy Spirit upon the Cardinals in Rome, who will assemble tomorrow to elect the new Pope, the Vicar of Christ on earth.

Let us pray . . .
O God, protector and ruler of your Church:
You are our eternal shepherd and guide.

In your mercy, grant your Church a shepherd
Who will walk in your ways
And whose watchful care will bring us your blessing.

Give a spirit of wisdom
To those you have entrusted with authority in your Church.
Send your Spirit upon the Cardinals in Rome who are to elect
a new Pope.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

All: Amen.

Readings and Reflection

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-3 (The Lord God has anointed me and has sent me to bring Good News to the poor.)

Silence



Second Reading: 1 Sm 16:1, 6-13 (Come, anoint the young shepherd; he is the one who will be king)

Sung Response: Psalm 89

Response: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord"

Third Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 (Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?)

Silence

Fourth Reading: Romans 12:3-13 (Our gifts differ according to the grace given to us.)

Sung Response: Psalm 16

Response: "Your are my inheritance, O Lord."

Fifth Reading: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 (In the work of service we help in building up the body of Christ)

Singing of the Alleluia (or other seasonal acclamation, e.g., if it is the Lenten Season))

Proclamation of the Gospel

Matthew 16: 13-19 (You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.)

Reflection

Singing of the *Veni Sancte Spiritus*

Intercessions

(Those listed below are given as a model - other appropriate intercessions can be used)

Leader: Together, let us offer our prayers for the Church and her leaders:

For the College of Cardinals: That they may be open in heart and mind to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord:

For an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the conclave in Rome: That through intense prayer and genuine discernment, the Cardinals may listen to the Spirit's guidance, we pray to the Lord:

For the Catholic Church: That in faith and confidence we may be united as we await the Spirit's action in the election of a new Pope, we pray to the Lord:

For Christian unity, that full communion among all churches will be realized, we pray to the Lord:

For peace from on high and for our salvation, we pray to the Lord:



For the welfare of all peoples and the unity of the human family, we pray to the Lord:

For this holy assembly, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, we pray to the Lord:

For the clergy, for all servants of the Church, and for all the faithful, we pray to the Lord:

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, we pray to the Lord:

For the faithful who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, we pray to the Lord:

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Gathering our prayers into one, we pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father...

Sign of Peace

Leader: We have gathered this night as brothers and sisters in Christ.
Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Blessing

Presider: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

Presider: May almighty God bless you,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(If the leader is a lay minister, he or she uses the following formula)

Leader, making the sign of the cross says:
May almighty God bless us,
Protect us from all evil
And bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Closing Song: