



## Liturgy and Prayer Guidelines upon Death of a Pope

In light of the death of Pope Francis, here are guidelines to assist priests and pastoral leaders in liturgical and pastoral life in the days ahead.

- Masses for the dead upon a receipt of news of a death are not allowed during the Easter octave. The proper way to observe the death of Pope Francis this week is to offer the proper octave day Mass and remember him in the prayers of the faithful and in the Eucharistic prayer.
- After the Easter octave, it is expected that all priests will offer a Mass for the repose of the soul of the pope with their communities as soon as practical following the announcement of death. The Mass to be offered is taken from the Roman Missal, *Masses for the Dead – 1. For The Pope*. Any of the three options provided may be used. Such Masses are permitted on any day **except** Sundays, feasts, and solemnities. Consult the *Ordo* for details. Please note that in the latest edition of the *Lectionary*, the options for the readings for this Mass are contained at numbers 1011-1016.
- From the time of the death of the Pope, the remembrance of the Holy Father in the Eucharistic Prayer is omitted (e.g., in Eucharistic Prayer II: “Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Paul, our bishop”).
- In parochial schools, upon notice of the Holy Father’s passing, classes should be encouraged to recite together an Our Father, a Hail Mary, a Glory Be and the Eternal Rest Prayer for the repose of the soul of the Pope.
- It is customary for churches to display black bunting or fabric around the exterior doors of the church from the time that the death is announced until the funeral Mass is celebrated in Rome. (This would also be a good time to check on supplies of white and yellow bunting to make sure it is a on hand at the time of election of a new pontiff.)
- It is fitting to place image of the pope in the sanctuary during the customary days of mourning. The picture of the deceased Pontiff might be placed on an easel with an arrangement of flowers and a large votive candle, or perhaps the Paschal Candle, could be placed near it.
- It is also commendable to toll the church’s bell (perhaps once for each year of the Holy Father’s life) as soon as word is received, in connection with the Mass for the Dead mentioned above, and/or at the time of the funeral Mass in Rome.
- An Archdiocesan Mass for the pope will be celebrated by the Archbishop at the Cathedral. When it is scheduled, pastors are encouraged to attend and as well as invite their communities.

