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DIVINE WORSHIP

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

From: Fr. Zachary Boazman, Associate Director of the Secretariat for Divine Worship

Date: Monday, April 21, 2025

Re: Liturgical Resource on the Death of Pope Francis and for the Election of a New Pope

As we mourn the death of Pope Francis, the 266th Roman Pontiff and await the election of the 267th Pope of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, the following liturgical notes are provided for you as a resource:

At the Diocesan Level

Day of Death

As we mourn the death of Pope Francis, Archbishop Coakley will celebrate a Mass for the repose of his immortal soul at 11:30 am at the Catholic Pastoral Center on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. Because it is the Octave of Easter, the Mass will be of Tuesday in the Octave of Easter.

Mourning Period

An official nine-day mourning period, known as the "novemdiales," traditionally follows the death of a pope. The beginning date will be announced by the Vatican.

Funeral Day

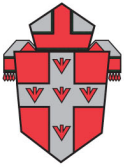
The funeral and burial are traditionally held between the fourth and sixth day after the death of a Pope. On Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 7 p.m., a special Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Coakley at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, praying for the repose of his immortal soul.

Conclave

Usually, fifteen days after the death of the Pope, the College of Cardinals begin conclave.

Day of the Election

On the day a new Supreme Pontiff is elected or on a later day, Archbishop Coakley or a priest delegated by him will celebrate a Mass in Thanksgiving, and the *Te Deum* will be sung at 11:30 a.m. at the Catholic Pastoral Center.



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At the Parish Level

Note: According to custom, black bunting could be affixed above the entrance to the church or chapel. A photo of the deceased Pontiff displayed on an easel would be appropriate as well.

Day of Death through the Funeral Day

Usually, from death until the nine days of mourning are complete, Parish Masses are appropriately celebrated for the Dead, IV. Various Prayers for the Dead, 1. For a Pope. Solemn funeral tolls are appropriate from Church bells during this time. White, violet, or black vestments may be used. **Note:** a Mass for the Dead may not be celebrated during the Octave of Easter.

Therefore, the days of the “novemdiales” when this Mass is permitted will be in the week beginning Monday, April 28. On other days, it is appropriate to remember the pope by praying the usual prayers for the day of the Octave of Easter.

After the Funeral until the Conclave begins

After the funeral day, until the conclave begins, A Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit is appropriately celebrated, using, for example, Preface II of the Holy Spirit: 'The action of the Spirit in the Church.' This Mass is celebrated in red vestments.

Conclave

Once the conclave begins, parishes might consider offering Mass for the Election of the Pope, according to the guidelines of the liturgical calendar. The Mass for the Election of a Pope (found in the section "Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions" in the Roman Missal) is appropriately celebrated during this time in white vestments.

Sample Petitions for the Universal Prayer or Prayer of the Faithful:

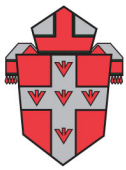
— That the Holy Spirit will inspire and strengthen the Cardinal-electors as they choose a new Holy Father to lead us, we pray to the Lord.

— That the College of Cardinals in its electoral process may be a worthy vehicle of God's grace guiding the Church, we pray to the Lord.

— That the Holy Spirit will work strongly in the next Pope chosen by the College of Cardinals, we pray to the Lord.

Day of the Election

If it is the day of the election of the Pope, then the Mass for the Pope (especially on the anniversary of the election) is appropriate. The Mass text is found in the section, 'Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions' in the Roman Missal.



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Note: According to custom, gold and white bunting could be affixed above the entrance to the church or chapel. Flowers could be placed near the Vatican flag, which might be displayed somewhere prominently in the narthex or gathering space. Festive bell peals are appropriate from church bells.

Sample Petitions for the Universal Prayer or Prayer of the Faithful:

- 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 Eucharistic Prayer during Sede Vacante

Note: The name of the deceased Holy Father is not mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer during Sede Vacante. Rather, the following formulas are used:

Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon)

Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite and govern her throughout the whole world, together with N. our Bishop, and all those who, holding to the truth, hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Eucharistic Prayer II

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N. our Bishop and all the clergy.

Eucharistic Prayer III

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with N. our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

More Information

A more complete guide may be found at www.fdlc.org/PopeFrancis.

In Christ,

Fr. Zachary Boazman
Associate Director
Secretariat for Divine Worship