



Worship Office

Archdiocese of Newark

Death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

We pray, O Lord, that your servant Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who served by your will on earth as the visible foundation of your Church's unity, may be happily admitted to your blessed flock.

—Various Prayers for the Dead, For a Pope



His Holiness

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

1927-2022

Born Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger – April 16, 1927

Ordained Priest – June 29, 1951

Ordained Bishop – Archbishop of München und Freising – May 28, 1977

Created Cardinal-Priest of Santa Maria Consolatrice al Tiburtino – June 27, 1977

Appointed Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith – November 25, 1981

Created Cardinal-Bishop of Velletri-Segni – April 5, 1993

Confirmed Dean of the College of Cardinals November 30, 2002

Elected Pope Benedict XVI – April 19, 2005

Inaugurated Petrine Ministry – April 24, 2005

Resigned Papacy – February 28, 2013

Entered Eternal Life – December 31, 2022

Tolling of the Church Bells

With news of the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 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 following the "Angelus" during the period of mourning.

The church bells should be tolled on the day of the pope's funeral, Thursday, January 5, 2023.

Mass

There should be offered in every church, oratory and chapel of the Archdiocese a Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI at a time when people can gather in large numbers when permitted (R² & R³) in accordance with the norms of the liturgical year and calendar (cf. *Archdiocesan Ordo*).

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 [Emeritus] Benedict XVI,
who exercised the ministry of Peter in God's church,
that even in death he may continue to inspire
our eager and ready response to Christ.**

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

Papal Flag

The Papal Flag may be flown at half-staff during 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.

Bunting of Church Entrances

Bunting may be used for draping of church entrances during the period of mourning.

Portrait of the Holy Father

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

Penitential Act

For use at any Mass during the period of mourning

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

**Brothers and sisters,
let us remember at this Mass, in a special way
Pope [Emeritus] Benedict XVI,
who was called to his eternal reward,
and the good he accomplished
leading the Church on earth.**

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

A brief pause for silence follows.

Deacon or presider:

**Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy.

**Lord Jesus, you feed us with your Body and Blood:
Lord, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy.

Presider:

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

Universal Prayer

For use at memorial Masses for the deceased pope

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

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

Deacon or lector:

**For Pope [Emeritus] Benedict XVI,
who exercised the ministry of Peter in God's church,
that even in death he may continue to inspire
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 fidelity and a greater love for the Church,
that Mary, our Mother, Mother of your Church
always be our model in faith and charity.**

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

**For those who walked by the light of Christ,
especially Pope [Emeritus] Benedict XVI,
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.

Presider:

**To destroy the shroud of death, Lord God,
and to wipe away our tears,
you promised a joyful feast on your holy mountain,
and sent your Son, the Word made flesh,
to guide us to that glory.**

Hear the prayers of your people.

Bring Pope [Emeritus] Benedict XVI

and all the faithful departed

to share the victory of the risen Christ,

who lives and reigns with you

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Selected Quotes of Pope Benedict XVI

“God does not hide behind clouds of impenetrable mystery... he has shown himself, he talks to us and is with us; he lives with us and guides us in our lives.”

—*Homily, Sistine Chapel, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 8 2006*

“Love is the only force capable of changing the heart of the human person and of all humanity, by making fruitful the relations between men and women, between rich and poor, between cultures and civilizations. This is shown to us in the lives of the saints.”

—*Message of the Holy Father, 22nd World Youth Day, January 27, 2007*

“God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end, each one of us and humanity in its entirety.”

—*Encyclical Letter, Spe Salvi, November 30, 2007*

“We cannot keep to ourselves the words of eternal life given to us in our encounter with Jesus Christ: they are meant for everyone, for every man and woman... It is our responsibility to pass on what, by God’s grace, we ourselves have received.”

—*Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Verbum Domini, September 30, 2010*

“Faith is not a mere intellectual assent of the human person to specific truths about God; it is an act with which I entrust myself freely to a God who is Father and who loves me”

—*General Audience, St. Peter’s Square, October 24, 2012*