



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

January 5, 2023

At funeral, Pope Francis remembers Benedict's 'wisdom, tenderness, devotion'



Pope Benedict XVI “spread and testified to” the Gospel his entire life, Pope Francis told tens of thousands of people gathered Jan. 5 for his predecessor’s funeral Mass.

“Like the women at the tomb, we too have come with the fragrance of gratitude and the balm of hope, in order to show him once more the love that is undying. We want to do this with the same wisdom, tenderness and

devotion that he bestowed upon us over the years,” Pope Francis said in his homily.

The Mass in St. Peter’s Square was the first time in more than 200 years that a pope celebrated the funeral of his predecessor. Pope Pius VII had celebrated the funeral of Pius VI in 1802 when his remains were returned to Rome after he died in exile in France in 1799.

Pope Benedict, who had retired in 2013, had requested his funeral be simple; the only heads of state invited to lead delegations were those of Italy and his native Germany.

However, many dignitaries – including Queen Sofia of Spain and King Philippe of Belgium – and presidents and government ministers representing more than a dozen nations were in attendance, as were most of the ambassadors to the Holy See.

[Read More from Catholic News Service](#)

The Saints' Spot: Pope Benedict XVI laid to rest today where two canonized popes were buried



In what looks like a continuation of pontifical legacy, Pope Benedict XVI was buried in the crypt where his Polish predecessor, St. John Paul II, was first buried. St. John XXIII also was buried there prior to his beatification.

A triple coffin – the first one made of cypress, the second of zinc and the third one of oak – was put into the grotto Jan. 5 following the funeral Mass with Pope Francis presiding.

The place of burial is unique for many who knew the fond relationship of St. John Paul II and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future pope who was the Vatican's chief doctrinal official under the Polish pontiff.

“It is a sign of friendship that goes way beyond their earthly life,” Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, told OSV News. The cardinal was master of papal ceremonies under both St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict.

[Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Scroll in Benedict's casket briefly summarizes his life and ministry



Pope Benedict XVI was a renowned theologian, a “recognized authority,” who left “a rich legacy of studies and research on the fundamental truths of the faith,” said the official summary of his life and papacy.

The 1,000-word text, known as a “rogito,” was rolled up, slipped into a metal cylinder and placed with his body in a cypress casket late Jan. 4 after an estimated 195,000 people had passed by his body in St. Peter’s Square to pay their respects.

The text, released in Latin and Italian shortly before the pope’s funeral Mass Jan. 5, highlighted his work as a theologian, his ecumenical outreach, his relations with the Jewish community and his efforts to deal with the clerical sexual abuse scandal.

The short biography about his birth, childhood and education also noted that “the time of his youth was not easy. His family’s faith and his upbringing prepared him for the difficult experience of the problems associated with the Nazi regime, knowing the climate of strong hostility toward the Catholic Church in Germany.”

Mourners see Pope Benedict's funeral as celebration of life and legacy



Just before 7 a.m. Jan. 5, the dome of St. Peter's Basilica was so shrouded with fog that it was scarcely visible. Yet the sounds of German folk music permeated the dense air as some 500 traditionally dressed Bavarians descended upon the Vatican to attend the funeral of their beloved countryman, Pope Benedict XVI.

Although they traveled some 10 hours to pay their final respects to the late pope, the mood in St. Peter's Square in the hours leading up to the historic funeral was much more festive than somber. Several Bavarian pilgrims told Catholic News Service it was an opportunity to celebrate the life of the first German pope since 1057, and to showcase their pride in the region he came from.

Manuel Kustermann, dressed in lederhosen, toted a large bass drum bearing the insignia of his hometown as he marched into the square.

“It’s crazy to see all these people here dressed up like this, because usually we just see all of this at home,” he said. “I think we can add our little part to this ceremony by playing some music from Bavaria, the kind of music Benedict grew up with.”

Pilgrims from all over the globe who gathered in the square were eager to recount their memories of the late pope and share how he affected their lives and their faith.

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Bishop Bambera celebrates Memorial Mass for Pope Benedict at Cathedral of Saint Peter



More than 100 people attended a Memorial Mass for the eternal repose of Pope Benedict XVI on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was the principal celebrant and homilist for the 12:10 p.m. liturgy.

Bishop Bambera quoted from several of Benedict's encyclicals during his homily, pointing out the fact that he was a gifted theologian and defender of Catholic doctrine.

"We should hardly be surprised that the Pope's last audible words reported by his longtime personal secretary, Archbishop Ganswein, just hours before his passing, were words that reflect this life giving encounter with Jesus, 'Lord, I love you,'" Bishop Bambera said. "Words that affirm beyond a doubt the very Word of God proclaimed in our first scripture reading from the Old Testament Book of Job, 'For me, I know that my Vindicator lives ... and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.'"

The bishop continued, "In so many respects, it is only now, following Pope Benedict's resignation almost ten years ago – following the time he spent in solitude and prayer as a result of that historic moment in the life of the Church – and following his death, that we are able to appreciate the depth of his faith, his humility, the courage rooted in his words and actions and the gift he has been to our Church."

[Read Bishop Bambera's Full Homily from the Memorial Mass for Pope Benedict XVI](#)

Mass for Life to be celebrated at Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Jan. 19



Monsignor Arthur Kaschenbach, Diocesan priest for more than 70 years, passes away



Monsignor Arthur J. Kaschenbach, Pastor Emeritus of St. Mary of the Mount, Mt. Pocono, died on Jan. 3, 2023.

Kaschenbach was ordained to the priesthood on May 19, 1951 by the Most Rev. William Joseph Hafey, D.D., late Bishop of Scranton, and served the Diocese of Scranton faithfully for more than 70 years.

Monsignor Kaschenbach was named a prelate of honor by Pope Saint John Paul II on November 2, 1978 and given the title Monsignor.

A viewing will take place Friday, January 6, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity Parish, 212 PA-390, Cresco, PA. A Vesper Service will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. A viewing will also take place at Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco, Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., prior to the funeral.

A Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, on Saturday, January 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco, Pa. Interment will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, Wilkes Barre.

[Read Monsignor Kaschenbach's Obituary](#)

Coming Next Week!
Rectory, Set, Cook! turns up the heat



After raising more than \$170,000 for Catholic Social Services anti-hunger initiatives and parishes last year, Rectory, Set, Cook! is coming back.

More than 30 collared cooks will be in the kitchen this year - some with more success than others - as we "turn up the heat" on the second year of this "fun"draiser.

What will your pastor be making? Which priest will win bragging rights this year? We can't give you any spoilers just yet!

Get excited...all of the new Rectory, Set, Cook videos will be available for viewing starting Tuesday, Jan. 10 on the Diocese of Scranton website!

Registration opens for ISLI (International Student Leadership Institute)



The International Student Leadership Institute (ISLI) is a peer-facilitated faith-based leadership retreat designed by Fr. Thomas Chambers C.S.C. at the University of Notre Dame. The organization began when a group of Notre Dame students met with a group of young, potential leaders from a Midwestern high school in order to enhance and expand their leadership aptitude.

The ISLI retreat is designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in both the leadership and membership roles of task oriented groups. During the retreat, participants take part in small group tasks that allow the student to do the following:

- Make decisions
- Observe the growth of the group
- Examine leadership styles
- Practice leadership behavior
- Brainstorm about group dynamics and leadership
- Learn about positive communication
- Develop self-motivational skills and learn problem solving
- Action planning techniques

ISLI 2023 will be held Feb. 17 - 19 at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton. The retreat is open to students in 9th-12th grade.

[Click Here For More Information or to Register for ISLI 2023](#)

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