



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

May 1, 2025

**Parishes holding Masses in
remembrance of Pope
Francis**



Over the last week, many parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton have been holding special Masses for the Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis.

On Monday, April 28, faithful from Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Carbondale gathered at Saint Rose of Lima Church to hold a special memorial Mass.

On Tuesday, April 29, faithful from Christ the King Parish in Archbald gathered at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church participated in a similiar Eucharistic liturgy.

Many of the faithful who attended both events remembered Pope Francis as a man deeply rooted in the Gospel and devoted to a vision of the church as a "field hospital" - a place of mercy, healing, and accompaniment.

At both Masses, Pope Francis' consistent message of hope, mercy and being a witness to Christ's Incarnation were underscored.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Carbondale](#)

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis at Christ the King Parish in Archbald](#)

**As Conclave begins next week,
Bishop Bambera to hold special
Mass for the Election of a New Pope**



While we continue to pray for the Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis during these 9 Days of Mourning known as the "Novendiales," we must also look toward the future.

On May 7, the Conclave will begin and the College of Cardinals will begin the process of electing a new Pope.

As the Conclave begins, Bishop Bambera invites the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton to join him on Wednesday, May 7, for a special Mass at 12:10 p.m. at the *Cathedral of Saint Peter* in Scranton to pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire and strengthen the Cardinal-electors as they choose a new Holy Father to lead us.

All are invited to attend.

Resources available for 'Novena in Memory of Pope Francis'

Pray

The Petrine Ministry of Mercy

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

A reading from the Encyclical *Ut unum sint* by Pope Saint John Paul II

As the heir to the mission of Peter in the Church, which has been made fruitful by the blood of the Princes of the Apostles, the Bishop of Rome exercises a ministry originating in the manifold mercy of God... The authority proper to this ministry is completely at the service of God's merciful plan and it must always be seen in this perspective. Its power is explained from this perspective. Associating himself with Peter's threefold profession of love, which corresponds to the earlier threefold denial, his Successor knows that he must be a sign of mercy. His is a ministry of mercy, born of an act of Christ's own mercy... The

Church of God is called by Christ to manifest to a world ensnared by its sins and evil designs that, despite everything, God in his mercy can convert hearts to unity and enable them to enter into communion with him. (nos. 92-93)

Pause for silent prayer.

Pray one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord — And let perpetual light shine upon him.



Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that the soul of your departed servant Pope Francis,
to whom you committed the care of your family,
may, with the manifold fruit of his labors,
enter into the eternal gladness of his Lord.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.



With sorrow and gratitude, the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton unite with the worldwide Church to remember the life and teachings of Pope Francis.

For the nine days following the passing of a pope, the Catholic Church observes a solemn period of mourning known as *Novendiales* (Latin for "nine days"). We are currently on DAY 6 of the *Novendiales*.

This sacred tradition dates back centuries and serves as a time for the faithful to grieve, offer prayers for the repose of the Holy Father's soul and reflect on his leadership and teachings.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has put together resources for a Novena in Memory of Pope Francis that can be used in the coming days. In the coming days - all are welcome to use the graphics and share them on websites and social media.

[Click Here for Daily Resources for the Novena in Memory of Pope Francis](#)

How the Conclave Works: It is guided by a rule book and a prayer book



The conclave to elect a new pope, scheduled to begin May 7, is governed by two texts: a rule book and a prayer book.

The rule book is the apostolic constitution, “Universi Dominici Gregis” (“Shepherd of the Lord’s Whole Flock”), which was issued

by St. John Paul II in 1996 and amended by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007 and again in 2013.

The prayer book is the “Ordo Rituum Conclavis” (“Rites of the Conclave”), which was approved by St. John Paul II in 1998, but not released until after his death in 2005. If Pope Francis made any adjustments to the rites, they had not been announced as of April 30.

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

Cardinals approve electors for Conclave, formally ask for prayers



The College of Cardinals confirmed that 135 members are eligible to participate in the conclave, the Vatican announced, and they

asked the faithful to accompany them in prayer as they prepare to elect the next pope.

After their seventh general congregation meeting April 30, the College of Cardinals released a statement confirming that the conclave that begins May 7 will exceed the limit of 120 cardinal electors established by St. Paul VI and upheld by later popes.

Pope Francis, “in the exercise of his supreme power, dispensed of this legislative provision,” the statement said. Therefore, all 135 cardinals who are under the age of 80 and have not renounced the right to enter the conclave will have full voting rights.

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Conclave Prayer Campaign for Cardinals seeks to put 'faith into action'



Ahead of the May 7 start of the papal conclave, the Pontifical Missions Societies USA is inviting faithful to pray – not only for the assembly as a whole, but for a specific cardinal elector who will help to choose the next successor of St. Peter, following Pope Francis' death April 21 at the age of 88.

“As Catholics, we believe in the transformative power of prayer, and now is the moment to put that faith into action,” said Msgr. Roger Landry, the societies' national director, in an April 28 statement announcing the launch of the campaign, which will continue until the election of the new pope.

Participants can enroll by visiting the societies' website at pontificalmissions.org and entering their email address to learn which cardinal they've been assigned to pray for.

On the submission confirmation page, an image of a given cardinal appears, with his name, birthday and birthplace displayed, along with the short prayer: “Heavenly Father, guide the cardinals in wisdom and love as they may lead your Church. May your will be their compass. Amen.”

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

**Where - and when - to watch for
white smoke**



The conclave is set to begin May 7, but the public only knows its end by iconic white smoke billowing out of the Sistine Chapel's chimney.

Black smoke means the cardinals have not yet reached the two-thirds majority vote necessary to elect a new pope. The cardinals burn the ballots in a stove, adding chemicals to the fire to color the smoke.

The best place to watch for the smoke is in St. Peter's Square itself, but the Vatican will also livestream the smoke on its YouTube channel, Vatican Media Live.

For smoke watchers, the best time to view the smoke on May 7, the conclave's first day, is just after 7 p.m. (1 p.m. EDT). On the following days, look for it around 10:30 a.m. (4:30 a.m. EDT) and noon, and again at 5:30 p.m. and just after 7 p.m., according to Catholic News Service.

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Bishop Bambera announces clergy appointments



On Monday, April 28, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced several clergy appointments.

To view the latest clergy appointment announcement from April 28, please click on the link below.

[Click Here to View Bishop Bambera's Clergy Appointments from April 28, 2025](#)

Study: Personal encouragement, Eucharistic Adoration key to 2025 priestly vocations



Personal encouragement to consider whether Jesus Christ is calling them to priesthood, along with regular Eucharistic adoration, continue to be key factors for young men seeking to become priests, according to a new report.

“Encourage a young man to consider the priesthood or to attend Eucharistic adoration; he could be your future pastor,” said Bishop Earl A. Boyea of Lansing, Michigan.

The bishop, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, shared his thoughts in an April 24 statement announcing the release of the 2025 “Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood.”

Since 2006, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, or CARA, has overseen the report that is provided to the USCCB.

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

People with disabilities 'have a sense of the global Church,' rejoice with caregivers during Rome Jubilee



In a mix of joy, excitement and sadness, families, associations and individuals from all over the world celebrated the Jubilee of People with Disabilities with Mass April 28 in Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Joy reverberated inside the basilica. Sadness was felt too, because instead of meeting the pope in person, the people with disabilities who flocked to Rome had to say goodbye to the pontiff who reached out to those often excluded from society.

Giusi, from Sicily, mother of Sofia and Andrea Joel, a boy with autism, and wife of Maurizio, told OSV News they booked the trip months ago and that it was a "very special moment intertwined with the papal funeral."

There was “a lot of emotion, a lot of joy, a lot of sadness, too, because we lost our pontiff, but we have hope and faith for the new one to lead the faithful,” said Giusi, who only gave her first name.

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