

A NOVENA
UPON THE DEATH OF A POPE

THE LORD SAID UNTO MY LORD :



SIT THOU ON MY RIGHT HAND UNTIL
I MAKE THINE ENEMIES THY FOOTSTOOL

ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER

“After the death of the Roman Pontiff, the Cardinals will celebrate the funeral rites for the repose of his soul for nine consecutive days...”

- Pope John Paul II

Apostolic Constitution, *Universi Dominici Gregis*, 27

The entire Church mourns the death of our Holy Father, Francis. In cathedrals, basilicas, parish churches, shrines, and chapels the Holy Eucharist will be offered for the repose of his soul. Communities and individuals will ask God to bestow his infinite mercy on the man who served the Church as Bishop of Rome.

This novena has been prepared to help pray for the Holy Father during the next nine days. The daily Novena consists of a short reading from scripture or some other ecclesiastical text and some brief prayers, including orations drawn from the *Roman Missal* and the *Order of Christian Funerals*.

First Day
“You are Peter...”

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

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

NOW when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do men say that the Son of man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” *Matthew. 16:13-19*

Pause for silent prayer for our Holy Father.

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

✠ Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

✠ And let light perpetual shine upon him.

O GOD our Father, who dost reward all who believe in thee; grant we beseech thee, that thy servant Pope Francis, vicar of Peter and shepherd of thy Church, having faithfully administered the mysteries of thy forgiveness and love on earth, may rejoice with thee for ever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Second Day
“Feed my Sheep...”

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

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

JESUS said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” *John: 21:15-17*

Pause for silent prayer for our Holy Father.

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

✠ Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

✠ And let light perpetual shine upon him.

WE beseech thee, O heavenly Father and eternal Shepherd, hear the prayers of thy suppliant people on behalf of thy servant Pope Francis who didst govern thy Church with love; in thy mercy bring him with the flock entrusted to his care to the reward which thou hast promised unto thy faithful servants; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Third Day
There is but One Church in Peter

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

A reading from a sermon by Saint Augustine

AS you are aware, Jesus chose his disciples before his Passion and called them Apostles; and among these almost everywhere Peter alone deserved to represent the entire Church. And because of that role which he alone had, he merited to hear the words: *To you I shall give the keys of the Kingdom of heaven.* For it was not one man who received the keys, but the entire Church considered as one... Rightly then did the Lord after his Resurrection entrust Peter with the feeding of his sheep. Yet he was not the only disciple to merit the feeding of the Lord's sheep; but Christ in speaking only to one suggests the unity of all; and so he speaks to Peter, because Peter is first among the Apostles.

Sermo 295, nos. 2, 4

Pause for silent prayer for our Holy Father.

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

✠ Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

✠ And let light perpetual shine upon him.

O GOD our heavenly Father; may thy servant Pope Francis rejoice in the fellowship of the successors of Peter, whose office he did sometime share in this life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Fourth Day
Authentic Teacher of the Faith

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

A Reading from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (no. 2034):

THE Roman Pontiff and the bishops are “authentic teachers, that is, teachers endowed with the authority of Christ, who preach the faith to the people entrusted to them, the faith to be believed and put into practice” (*Lumen Gentium*, 25). The *ordinary* and universal *Magisterium* of the Pope and the bishops in communion with him teach the faithful the truth to believe, the charity to practice, the beatitude to hope for.

Pause for silent prayer for our Holy Father.

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

✠ Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

✠ And let light perpetual shine upon him.

ALmighty and gracious Father, who in thy wise and loving care, didst make thy servant, Francis, the pontiff and teacher of all thy Church; we humbly pray thee, that as he did the work of Christ on earth, may thy Son welcome him to eternal glory; even the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Fifth Day
“Strengthen Your Brothers...”

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

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke.

JESUS said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren." And he said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." He said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you three times deny that you know me."

Luke: 22:31-34

Pause for silent prayer for our Holy Father.

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

✠ Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

✠ And let light perpetual shine upon him.

GRANT, O Lord, we beseech thee; that as thou didst give Pope Francis, thy servant and priest, the privilege of an holy ministry in this world, may he rejoice for ever in the glory of thy kingdom; where thou livest and reignest for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Sixth Day
The Petrine Ministry of Mercy

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

A Reading from the Encyclical Letter *Ut Unum Sint* (no. 92) by Pope 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.

Pause for silent prayer for our Holy Father.

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

✠ Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

✠ And let light perpetual shine upon him.

ALmighty God, who madest thy servant, Pope Francis, the guide of thy family; grant we humbly pray thee, that he might enjoy the reward of all his earthly labour, and share the eternal joy of his Lord; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Seventh Day
Peter: The First of the Apostles

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

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew.

THEN Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Matthew: 10:1-4

Pause for silent prayer for our Holy Father.

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

✠ Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

✠ And let light perpetual shine upon him.

O GOD, from whom the just receive an unfailing reward; grant, we beseech thee, that thy servant Pope Francis, whom thou didst make vicar of Peter and shepherd of thy Church, as he was a faithful steward here on earth of the mysteries of thy forgiveness and grace, so may he rejoice for ever in the vision of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Eighth Day *Union of Pope and Bishops*

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

A Reading from the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium* (no. 23), as promulgated by the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council:

THIS collegial union [of bishops] is apparent also in the mutual relations of the individual bishops with particular churches and with the universal Church. The Roman Pontiff, as the Successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both bishops and of the faithful. The individual bishops, however, are the visible principle and foundation of unity in their particular churches, fashioned after the model of the universal Church, in and from which churches comes into being the one and only Catholic Church. For this reason the individual bishops represent each his own church, but all of them together and with the Pope represent the entire Church in the bond of peace, love and unity.

Pause for silent prayer for our Holy Father.

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

✠ Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

✠ And let light perpetual shine upon him.

ALmighty and merciful God, eternal Shepherd of thy people: Grant, we beseech thee, that thy servant, Pope Francis, to whom thou didst entrust the care of thy holy Church, may enter the joy of his eternal Master, and there to receive the rich reward of his labours; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ninth Day
Successor to the Apostle Peter

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

A reading from the *Letter to the Corinthians* of Pope Clement I (A.D. 80; 42:4-5; 44:1-3):

THROUGH countryside and city [the apostles] preached, and they appointed their earliest converts, testing them by the Spirit, to be the bishops and deacons of future believers. Nor was this a novelty, for bishops and deacons had been written about a long time earlier. . . . Our apostles knew through our Lord Jesus Christ that there would be strife for the office of bishop. For this reason, therefore, having received perfect foreknowledge, they appointed those who have already been mentioned and afterwards added the further provision that, if they should die, other approved men should succeed to their ministry.

Pause for silent prayer for our Holy Father.

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

✠ Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord.

✠ And let light perpetual shine upon him.

HEAR, O LORD, the prayers we offer unto thee for Francis, thy servant and priest; that having faithfully fulfilled his ministry in thy Name, he might rejoice for ever in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

