**Diocese of Venice Statement: Death of Pope Francis**

**Monday, April 21, 2025**

Today, the Catholic Church throughout the world mourns the death of Pope Francis who passed away at 7:35 a.m. Rome time. Pope Francis served as Bishop of Rome from March 13, 2013, until his death. He was 88 years old.

A letter regarding the passing of Pope Francis from the Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida, was issued this morning, and can be found [**here**](https://dioceseofvenice.org/wp-content/uploads/Pope-Francis.pdf).

**The Diocese of Venice in Florida will observe the traditional *Novemdiales* –** nine days of mourning – with daily Masses and prayers offered at Parishes throughout the Diocese for the repose of the Pope’s soul. Additionally during this time, all Diocesan Catholic Schools will incorporate age-appropriate discussions about this momentous occasion in the life of the Church and include moments of silence and special prayers for the Pope.

**Parish bells throughout the Diocese of Venice will toll at noon on Tuesday, April 22, 2025,** upon official announcement of the Pope’s death. A traditional funeral toll calls for the bell to be rung once for each year of the Pope’s life: 88 times.

A **Mass for Pope Francis** will be celebrated in the Diocese of Venice by Bishop Dewane on **Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.** at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1301 Center Road, Venice, Florida. All are welcome.

Regarding the Election of a New Pope, this will not be addressed until the close of the *Novemdiales.* After the nine-day mourning period for the Pope, prayers for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the Conclave and special Masses will be offered.

As a Catholic community united in Christ, we are profoundly saddened by the loss of Pope Francis. Together we pray:

*“Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.”*

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