

April 21, 2025

**In Memoriam: Pope Francis
1936-2025**

With sorrow and deep hope in the Risen Christ, we share that Pope Francis has died at the age of 88. Our Jesuit Parish Family joins Catholics around the world in mourning his passing and praying for the repose of his soul.

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Pope Francis was the first Jesuit pope, the first from the Southern Hemisphere, and the first from the Americas. Elected in 2013, he led the Church with humility, courage, and joy—calling us always to go to the margins, to listen to the poor, and to walk with mercy and tenderness.

Even in mourning, the Easter season reminds us that death is not the end. We place our trust in the Risen Christ, who is our life and resurrection. As Pope Francis once wrote in *The Joy of the Gospel*:

“Christ’s resurrection is not an event of the past... it means that Christ is alive and present in our hearts. We can stop hiding behind our fears... and let the joy of faith be revived.” (Evangelii Gaudium, 3)

At his own request, Pope Francis will be buried in a simple wooden coffin at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome—the first pope in over a century to be buried outside the Vatican. This final act of simplicity mirrors a life poured out in loving service to Christ and to the world.

Archbishop Robert Casey invites us to place our hope in the Lord, remembering Pope Francis’s call for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope:

“Hope that Pope Francis will receive the reward of a life poured out in selfless service... Hope that Christ, who comforts us in our mourning, will send the Holy Spirit to be our Helper... Hope that this same Spirit will inspire and unite us as the Church to stand firm in faith.”

We will gather for a **Mass of Remembrance tonight (Monday, April 21) at 8 p.m.** at Bellarmine Chapel with the Xavier University community. The chapel will remain open throughout the day and evening for **silent prayer and reflection.**

May Pope Francis rest in peace and rise in the joy of the Risen Lord.

In Christ,
The Cincinnati Jesuit Parish Family