



Diocese of Erie  
ROMAN CATHOLIC



# The Nine Days of Prayer: Understanding the Novemdiales



When a pope passes away, the Catholic Church takes nine special days to pray, remember and honor his life. This time is called Novemdiales (pronounced "no-vehm-dee-AH-less"), which means "nine days" in Latin. It is a time for Catholics all over the world to pray for the pope's soul, thank God for his leadership and ask for guidance as the Catholic Church prepares to choose a new pope.

## Why do we pray for NINE days?

Nine is an important number in the Bible. Jesus' disciples and Mary prayed together for nine days before the Holy Spirit came to them at Pentecost. In the Catholic Church, we often pray for nine days in a row when we ask for special blessings or remember someone who has passed away.

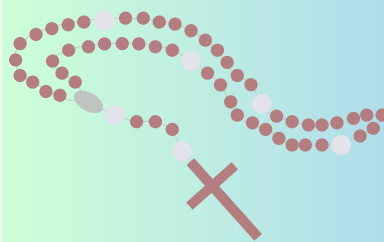


## What happens during the nine days?

*Every day during the Novemdiales, Catholics join together to:*

### Celebrate special Masses

Priests and bishops say special prayers for the pope at churches around the world, especially at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.



**Pray the Rosary**  
People ask Mary to help the soul of the pope and guide the Church.



### Spend Time in Prayer

Families, schools and parishes take time to thank God for the pope's life and ask for a new pope who will be a good leader.

### Do Acts of Kindness

The pope taught us to love and help others, so people honor him by doing good deeds in his memory.



# What happens at the Vatican?



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The College of Cardinals, a group of Catholic Church leaders from all over the world, gathers in Rome during the Novemdiales. They pray together and take care of important church matters. After the nine days, they begin the process of choosing a new pope, called the conclave.

## How can we participate?

**The Novemdiales is a time to come together as one Church family, remembering and praying for the pope, and preparing for the future with faith and hope!**

Pray for the pope every day

Go to Mass with family, friends or classmates

Read about the pope's life and learn from his example

Do something kind for someone in need, just like the pope always encouraged us to do!

## A Special Prayer for the Novemdiales:

Loving God, thank you for giving us Pope Francis, who helped lead the Church and taught us to follow Jesus. Please welcome him into your heavenly home and guide the Church as we prepare for a new pope. Help us to be kind, loving and faithful, just as he showed us. Amen.