



December 31, 2022

Re: Death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Dear Father, Parish & Archdiocesan Staff,

Earlier today, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI died following a long life of humble service to God. We mourn his passing and give thanks for the devoted pastoral ministry he offered as theologian, priest, bishop and supreme pontiff, but most of all for the witness of his holy life as a disciple of Jesus. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.

Attached you will find a copy of a brief public statement that has been released and posted online. I would ask that all parishes join together in offering prayers for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and initiate the following:

- 1) A special prayer of the faithful at all Masses until the funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI – a suggested intention is as follows:

*For the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and in thanksgiving for a life of faithful and humble service. We pray to the Lord.*

- 2) For parishes with papal flags (on flagpoles outdoors or indoors where applicable), please lower the papal flag to half staff until the completion of the funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.
- 3) Parishes are asked to offer a Mass for the late pontiff between now and the funeral Mass of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Attached you will find Prayers for the Dead that may be included as part of your liturgical celebrations.

Thank you for your co-operation as we join together in communal prayer for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

Sincerely in Christ,

**+ Thomas Card. Collins**

Thomas Collins  
Archbishop of Toronto