



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As the beautiful Season of Easter continues, we come today to the end of the Novendiales – the 9 Days of Mourning and Prayer for our Deceased Holy Father. The Conclave will begin on Wednesday and our prayer will turn toward the Cardinals who will gather to elect a new Pope. How does that work proceed? In short,

The cardinal electors process to the Sistine Chapel and take an oath of absolute secrecy before sealing the doors. The cardinals vote by secret ballot, processing one by one up to Michelangelo's fresco of the Last Judgment, saying a prayer and dropping the twice-folded ballot in a large chalice. Four rounds of balloting are taken every day until a candidate receives two-thirds of the vote. The result of each ballot are counted aloud and recorded by three cardinals designated as recorders. If no one receives the necessary two-thirds of the vote, the ballots are burned in a stove near the chapel with a mixture of chemicals to produce black smoke.

When a cardinal receives the necessary two-thirds vote, the dean of the College of Cardinals asks him if he accepts his election. If he accepts, he chooses a papal name and is dressed in papal vestments before processing out to the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica. The ballots of the final round are burned with chemicals producing white smoke to signal to the world the election of a new pope.

The senior cardinal deacon announces from the balcony of St. Peter's "Habemus Papam" ("We have a pope") before the new pope processes out and imparts his blessing on the city of Rome and the entire world.

While we know that the Holy Spirit is involved in this process, a good question to ponder is if the Holy Spirit is responsible for the election of the Pope? In 1997, Cardinal Ratzinger answered this very question. And I share it here with you:

I would not say that the Holy Spirit picks out the pope. . . I would say that the Spirit does not exactly take control of the affair, but rather like a good educator, as it were, leaves us much space, much freedom, without entirely abandoning us. Thus the Spirit's role should be understood in a much more elastic sense, not that he dictates the candidate for whom one must vote. Probably the only assurance he offers is that the thing cannot be totally ruined...There are too many contrary instances of popes the Holy Spirit obviously would not have picked!

In other words, we pray for the Cardinals and take great solace in Jesus words to Peter.

"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it! (Mt. 16, 18)

Peace, Fr. Rogers



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Final Day is Sunday, May 4, 2025

9:00 AM Mass

This Sunday, May 4, is the final day for the 9:00 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW). Many thanks to our parents/guardians for sharing your children with us each week so as to help them learn about Jesus and our Catholic faith. It has been a joy to see all the young children participate each week. A special word of thanks to our parishioners Joanna Sirusas, Lucy Zungailia, Jean O'Neil, and Cheri Harding for leading Children's Liturgy and helping our young people grow in faith. We also thank our high school student volunteer Cameron Tanner, & Level 7 PREP students for their assistance each week. We look forward to gathering together again in September.

Holy Hours for the Conclave

Beginning Sunday, May 4 through Wednesday, May 7, 2025, there will be several holy hours throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the Conclave. All are welcome to attend as many holy hours as desired. No registration required. For the schedule and more details, visit www.archphila.org/conclave.

In addition to our regular Adoration schedule on Monday

St. Patrick Parish will hold a special Holy Hour for the Conclave on

Monday, May 5, 2025

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Join us along with the universal Church in asking Jesus to give us a Supreme Shepherd after his own Heart. The hour will include Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Litany of the Good Shepherd and Benediction. All are welcome.