



# **SHEPHERD OF CHRIST: A MEMORIAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR POPE FRANCIS WITH CHILDREN**

**FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK**



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ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEW YORK**

*Faith-Based. Future-Focused.*

*May 1, 2025*

## *Welcome and Introduction*

**Leader:** Good *[morning/afternoon]*, children.

Today, we gather to remember Pope Francis, who showed us how to love and serve God and others with kindness and compassion. Even though Pope Francis has passed away, we can still follow his example of love and peace. Let's begin by praying together, asking God to help us continue his work of spreading God's love.

### *Opening Prayer*

**Leader:** Let us pray

Dear God, we thank You for the life of Pope Francis, who was a great servant of the Church and a shining example of love and humility. Help us to follow his example of caring for others, especially the poor and those in need. We pray for him today as he rests with You, and we ask You to help us live in peace, kindness, and faith, just as he taught us. In Jesus' name,

**All Reply:** Amen

## ***OPENING SONG/HYMN***

**1.** I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin.  
My hand will save

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the  
night. I will go, Lord, if you  
lead me. I will hold your  
people in my heart.**

**2.** I, who made the stars of  
night. I will make their  
darkness bright. Who will  
bear my light to them? Whom  
shall I send?

## ***HERE I AM, LORD***

*Daniel L. Schutte*

**3.** I, the Lord of snow and rain.  
I have borne my people's  
pain. I have wept for love of  
them. They turn away.

**4.** I will break their hearts of  
stone. Give them hearts for  
love alone. I will speak my  
words to them. Whom shall I  
send?

**5.** I, the Lord of wind and  
flame. I will tend the poor  
and lame. I will set a feast for  
them. My hand will

## *Reflection and Story about Pope Francis*

### **Leader:**

Pope Francis was a great Pope who loved Jesus and loved people. He worked hard to make the world a better place, especially for those who were suffering. One thing Pope Francis often told us was that we should be kind and compassionate toward others, just as Jesus was kind and compassionate to us. He also reminded us to care for the poor and the sick and to live out our faith every day through small acts of kindness.

*(Leader may insert a short story about Pope Francis)*

### **Story:**

When Pope Francis was in Argentina, he helped the poor people on the streets by visiting them and bringing them food. He said, 'When we help others, we are helping Jesus.' Even when he became Pope, he continued to visit people in need and show love to all, no matter who they were or where they came from.

## *Moment of Silence*

### **Leader:**

Now, let's take a moment of silence to pray for Pope Francis. Let's thank God for his life and ask God to give him eternal rest. We also ask God to help us live like Pope Francis by being kind, loving, and serving others.

*(All join in 30-60 seconds of quiet prayer.)*

## *Prayer Intentions*

**All Reply: Lord, Here Our Prayer**

*(All students are encouraged to offer short prayers aloud or silently)*

1. We pray for Pope Francis, that he rests in peace with God.
2. We pray for my family, that we always love one another.
3. We pray for the poor and sick, that they feel God's love."
4. We pray for our Church, that it continues to help others, just like Pope Francis did.
5. We pray for all our intentions within our hearts.

**Leader:**

Let us pray for these intentions, and for everyone who is sad today, that they feel God's peace.

## *The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil. Amen.

## *Closing Prayer*

### **Leader:**

Let's close our prayer service with a special prayer of gratitude for Pope Francis' life and work, and ask God to help us live like he did.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank You for giving us Pope Francis, who taught us so much about loving others. We ask that You help us follow his example of kindness, compassion, and service. May we be a light of love in the world, just as he was. We pray for Pope Francis, that he is resting in Your loving arms.

In Jesus' name we pray.

**All Reply: Amen.**

## *CLOSING SONG/HYMN*

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## *THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE*

In my brother's heart, I'm gonna let it shine, In my brother's heart, I'm gonna let it shine In my brother's heart, I'm gonna let it shine Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

In my sister's soul, I'm gonna let it shine, In my sister's soul, I'm gonna let it shine, In my sister's soul, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine.

All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## *Closing Remarks*

**Leader:**

Thank you for being here today to remember Pope Francis and to pray together. May we always carry his message of love and service in our hearts. God bless you all, and may we go forth with the light of Jesus in our lives, just as Pope Francis did.

*Service text provided by the Superintendent of Schools Office, Archdiocese of New York*