



## **ST. ELIZABETH PARISH MOURNS THE PASSING OF POPE FRANCIS**

### **WE WILL MISS YOU, HOLY FATHER! FAREWELL!**

We will miss Pope Francis not only as the Universal Shepherd and Vicar of Christ but as a moral guide, a symbol of humility, and a man who dared to bring kindness and courage into conversations where both were much needed.

From the very beginning of his papacy in 2013, Pope Francis stood out. He stepped onto the balcony not with grandeur, but with a quiet, humble presence. He bowed before the people and asked for their blessing. That moment set the tone for a papacy that would be defined by simplicity, sincerity, and a deep connection to ordinary people.

We will miss the way Pope Francis prioritized mercy over judgment. He reminded us that the Church should be a place of welcome, not exclusion. Whether he was speaking to prisoners, comforting refugees, or embracing children with disabilities, his actions spoke louder than words. He modeled a Church that listens, heals, and walks with the broken.

We will miss his brave voice on global issues—his call for peace, economic justice, and environmental care. In *Laudato Si'*, he challenged us to care for our common home and linked climate change to the suffering of the poor. His words echoed far beyond religious circles, inspiring action and dialogue across the world.

As a Jesuit, he lived a life of deep prayer and bold service. As a pope, he led not with fear or power, but with love. He was never afraid to ask hard questions, face criticism, or open doors that had been closed.

We will miss you, Pope Francis, because you made faith feel deeply human—intimate, joyful, compassionate, and filled with hope.