

opusdei.org

Benedict XVI's visit to the United States: April 15-20

Here is the itinerary for the Pope's visit to Washington, D.C. and New York City. Also links for information about tickets for events.

01/17/2008

**Pope Benedict XVI's Itinerary,
April 15-20 Tuesday, April 15 •
Washington, D.C. 4:00 p.m. -
Arrival at Andrews Air Force Base**

Pope Benedict XVI arrives at Andrews Air Force Base. He is greeted by President George Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush. No public statements are anticipated.

Dignitaries

Cardinal Francis George, OMI,
president of the USCCB

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, vice
president of the USCCB

Msgr. David J. Malloy, STD, general
secretary of the USCCB

Archbishop Pietro Sambì, apostolic
nuncio for the U.S.

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl,
archbishop of Washington

Bishop Francisco Gonzalez, SF,
auxiliary bishop of Washington

Bishop Martin D. Holley, auxiliary
bishop of Washington

Bishop Leonard J. Olivier, SVD,
auxiliary bishop of Washington

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio,
archbishop of the Archdiocese for
the Military Services, USA

**Wednesday, April 16 • Washington,
D.C. Pope Benedict XVI's 81st
Birthday 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. -
Meeting with the President at the
White House**

President George Bush and Mrs.
Laura Bush welcome Pope Benedict
XVI to the White House. The
welcome will be on the South Lawn
of the White House before
approximately 5,000 people. This is
only the second time in history that a
pontiff has visited the White House.

10:30 a.m. - Arrival of Pope Benedict
XVI and South Lawn activities

11:15 a.m. - Pope Benedict XVI and President Bush meet for 45 minutes in private in the Oval Office

12:00 noon - Departure via popemobile - Parade route open to the general public. [Click here for details.](#) **5-7 p.m. - Vespers and Address to U.S. Bishops at the National Shrine**

5:15 p.m. - Parade to the Basilica - beginning at 3211 4th St. NE. At end of route, popemobile travels the circle in front of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

5:20 p.m. - Arrival - Welcome by Msgr. Walter Rossi, rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The crowd will form on the east side of the Shrine on the mall.

5:30 p.m. - Vespers in the Crypt (lower area of the Shrine) with the

bishops of the United States. Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office.

6:00 p.m. - Address to the bishops by Pope Benedict XVI.

7:00 p.m. - Program ends.

Thursday, April 17 • Washington, D.C. 10:00 a.m. - Mass at Nationals Park

The Pope will celebrate Mass at the new Nationals Park in Washington. This will be the first non-baseball event in the park, which opened March 31.

6:00 a.m. - Gates open; pre-Mass program begins

6:30 a.m. - Confessionals open

8:30 a.m. - The procession of clergy begins

9:30 a.m. - The Pope arrives at the stadium

9:35 a.m. - The Pope travels around the track inside the stadium in the popemobile

10:00 a.m. - Mass begins

12:00 noon - Mass ends; concession stands open

2:00 p.m. - All concession stands close

5:00 p.m. - Address to Catholic Educators at The Catholic University of America (CUA)

5:00 p.m. - Arrival and welcome via motorcade at east side of Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center. Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, Bishop William E. Lori, chairman of the CUA board of trustees, Father David O'Connell, CM, president of CUA will

welcome the Pope. Approximately, 4,000 CUA students, faculty and staff will greet the Holy Father outside.

5:15 p.m. - Pope Benedict XVI enters the hall. In the hall: 200 presidents of Catholic universities and colleges in the U.S., 195 directors or superintendents responsible for Catholic education (elementary and secondary schools) in each of the archdioceses or dioceses of the U.S., Board of trustees of CUA and selected administrators and representatives of CUA will greet Pope Benedict XVI. Father O'Connell will introduce 10 individuals to the Pope and then the Pope will give an address.

6:15 p.m. - Departure - The Pope will enter the popemobile on the east (lower) side of the Przbyla Center and move through the campus of the Catholic University of America.

6:30 p.m. - Interreligious Gathering at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center

The Pope will meet with representatives of other religions on the theme “Peace Our Hope.”

Construction on the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center began in 1997 on 12 acres adjacent to the Catholic University of America. Since its dedication in 2000, the Center has been the site of many interreligious discussions and events.

6:30 p.m. - The Pope will enter through the front door of the Center. Bishop Richard J. Sklba, chairman, USCCB Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs will welcome the Pope along with an audience of some 220 individuals representing five religions: Buddhism, Hindu, Islam, Jainism and Judaism. Pope Benedict XVI will give an address. The Holy Father will then

be presented with symbols of peace
by five young people:

Judaism: Menorah, presented by
David J. Michaels, director for
intercommunal affairs, Center for
Human Rights and Public Policy at
B'nai B'rith International.

Islam: Qur'an, presented by Saman
Hussain, coordinator, Unity Walk
2007.

Jainism: Metallic cube, presented by
Aditya Vora, a Jain young adult
studying at Haverford College in
Pennsylvania.

Buddhism: Bell, presented by Masako
Fukata, a youth leader of Rissho
Kosei-kai, a socially engaged
Buddhist organization
headquartered in Tokyo.

Hinduism: Sculpture of syllable Om
by Dr. Ravi Gupta, assistant professor

of religion, Centre College, Danville, Ky.

A greeting of interreligious leaders will be followed by a song: "Peace Prayer", attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi, sung by a schola cantorum.

Friday, April 18 • New York

8:30-10:00 a.m. - Movement to New York City

8:30 a.m. - Departure from Andrews Air Force Base.

9:45 a.m. - Arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport (Diocese of Brooklyn). Cardinal Edward M. Egan, archbishop of New York and Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio, bishop of Brooklyn will welcome Pope Benedict. Two school children will present flowers to the Pope: Kaitlin Karcher, eighth-grader at Our Lady of Grace School, Gravesend, Brooklyn and Christopher Jordan, fifth-grader

at Divine Mercy Catholic Academy,
Ozone Park, Queens.

Dignitaries

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Holy
See's permanent observer to the
United Nations

Bishop William F. Murphy, bishop of
Rockville Centre

Bishop Gregory John Mansour,
eparch of Saint Maron of Brooklyn
for Maronites

Bishop Manuel Batakian, eparch of
Our Lady of Nareg in New York for
Armenian Catholics

Bishop Thomas V. Daily, bishop
emeritus of Brooklyn

State and local government
representatives

10:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. - Address to the United Nations at the United Nations

During his scheduled three-hour visit to UN Headquarters, the Pope will also meet with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim and Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo of South Africa, which holds the rotating Security Council presidency this month. The visit will fall on the first anniversary of Mr. Ban's visit to the Vatican, when the Secretary-General then invited the Pope to come to the UN. It is the fourth papal visit to the UN, following those of Paul VI in 1965 and John Paul II in 1979 and 1995.

6:00 p.m. - Ecumenical Prayer Service - Saint Joseph Parish

Saint Joseph Parish, 404 E. 87th Street, Yorkville, was founded in 1873 to meet the needs of German

immigrants. The parish grew out of a community worshiping in the chapel of Saint Joseph's Orphanage, established on the Upper East Side.

6:00 p.m. Greeting by Cardinal Edward M. Egan and Msgr. John Sullivan, administrator of Saint Joseph Parish. Inside an audience of 250 Protestant and Orthodox leaders and 50 Catholics involved in ecumenical efforts.

**Saturday, April 19 • Third
Anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's
Pontificate 9-11:15 a.m. - Mass for
Clergy and Religious at Saint
Patrick's Cathedral**

Saint Patrick's Cathedral is the seat of the archbishop of New York, Cardinal Edward M. Egan. It is the largest decorated gothic-style Catholic cathedral in the United States and has been recognized throughout its history as a center of Catholic life in this country.

9:00 a.m. - Arrival and welcome at main entrance of Cathedral. The Pope will be welcomed by Cardinal Edward M. Egan and Msgr. Robert Ritchie, Cathedral rector.

Participating in the Mass will be 3,000 deacons, priests and religious men and women from throughout the United States. At least two representatives from each diocese in the country will be present.

1:15 p.m. - Motorcade with Popemobile along Fifth Avenue

The Pope will proceed up Fifth Avenue from St. Patrick's Cathedral to 72nd St.

NO TICKETS NEEDED for this event.

4:30 p.m. - Blessing of Youth with Disabilities at Saint Joseph Seminary

4:30 p.m. - The Pope arrives via motorcade at the front of main

seminary building. Cardinal Edward M. Egan and Bishop Gerald T. Walsh, rector of the seminary welcome the Pope. The Pope will enter the seminary and proceed forward to the chapel sanctuary. In the audience approximately 50 young people with disabilities and their caregivers.

Program

Greeting and presentation

The Pope blesses those present

The Archdiocesan Deaf Choir performs

The Pope departs out the front door of the Seminary to enter the popemobile

Popemobile route: Popemobile will travel the circle in front of the seminary and proceed west to the “Lower Chidwick” and circle the field

5-6:30 p.m. - Rally with Seminarians and Young People at Saint Joseph Seminary

Approximately 25,000 young Catholics from throughout the United States, including 5,000 seminarians will be in attendance at Saint Joseph Seminary, 201 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers.

12:00 noon - Concert begins. Concert activity ceases when the Pope arrives at seminary for the meeting with youth with disabilities. That meeting inside the chapel will be shown on screens to the rally crowd.

5:00 p.m. - Arrival, welcome, and rally

The Pope arrives via popemobile at the rally stage

Cardinal Edward M. Egan makes opening remarks Three youth speak

10 youth present gifts of dark bread, light bread, rice, unleavened bread and maize, representing the five continents

Eight youth present birthday gifts to the Pope. They include the following: a spiritual bouquet; the book “Empire State Catholics: A History of the Catholic Community in New York State”; and images of six individuals who were born in or served in New York and have been declared saints, blessed or venerable by the Catholic Church: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Saint John Neumann, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Venerable Pierre Toussaint and Padre Felix Varela

Address: Pope Benedict XVI

Cardinal Edward M. Egan presents 15 young people to the Pope for a personal greeting

The Pope blesses the crowd and departs to the popemobile, which takes him back to the motorcade in front of the seminary

6:30 p.m. - Rally concludes

Sunday, April 20 • New York 9:30 a.m. - Visit to Ground Zero - Site of the Former World Trade Center

The Pope will visit the site of the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center, offer a blessing and greet representatives of the Port Authority, New York fire and police workers, those who survived the attacks, and family members who lost loved ones in the attack.

9:30 a.m. - The Pope arrives via motorcade. A welcome by Cardinal Edward M. Egan.

Program

The motorcade travels down the ramp. The Pope and Cardinal Edward M. Egan leave the limousine and walk the remaining route alone

The Pope kneels before a pool of water and candle, offering a silent prayer

The Pope lights the candle, offers a prayer and blesses the ground and the guests with holy water

Guests approach the Pope individually for a brief exchange

2:30 p.m. - Mass at Yankee Stadium

9:00 a.m. - Gates open

12:00 noon - The pre-Mass concert begins

2:15 p.m. - The Pope arrives

2:20 p.m. - The Pope travels around the track inside the stadium in the popemobile

2:30 p.m. - Mass begins

5:00 p.m. - Mass ends

8-8:30 p.m. - Departure from John F. Kennedy International Airport

Approximately 3,250 guests will bid farewell to the Pope in Hangar 19 of JFK airport.

8:00 p.m. - The Pope arrives via motorcade. Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio, bishop of Brooklyn, gives a welcome.

Dignitaries

Cardinal Edward M. Egan,
archbishop of New York

Bishop William F. Murphy, bishop of
Rockville Centre

Bishop Pietro Sambì, apostolic
nuncio to the U.S.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Holy See's permanent observer to the United Nations

Representative of the president of the United States

Representatives of state and local governments

Program

Address by President Bush's representative

Farewell by Pope Benedict XVI

Presentation by Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio and schoolchildren

8:30 p.m. - Departure via Shepherd One

For ticket information on events, please visit the Web sites of the Archdiocese of Washington and the Archdiocese of New York.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

pdf | document generated
automatically from [https://opusdei.org/
en-us/article/benedict-xvis-visit-to-the-
united-states-april-15-20/](https://opusdei.org/en-us/article/benedict-xvis-visit-to-the-united-states-april-15-20/) (12/10/2025)