

**MT. ST. MICHAEL**  
**Tuesday Evening Doctrine Classes – 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**CATHOLIC DOCTRINE ON THE PAPACY**

All audio recordings of classes & study sheets will be posted at the following link. You may listen online or download to your own computer.

<https://tinyurl.com/Papacyclasses>

**March 12, 2019**

**PAPAL TITLES & INSIGNIA, PAPAL CORONATION**

**A. Titles**

1. Bishop of Rome
2. Vicar of Jesus Christ
3. Successor of the Prince of the Apostles
4. Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church
5. Patriarch of the West
6. Primate of Italy
7. Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province
8. Sovereign of the Vatican City State
9. Servant of the servants of God.

**B. Insignia and marks of honor**

1. Tiara
2. Cross (instead of bent pastoral staff, as ordinary bishops use)
3. Pallium
4. Kissing the foot



Pope Benedict XV consecrating Eugenio Pacelli as Archbishop on May 13, 1917.



Coronation of Pius XII as Pope on March 12, 1939



(adapted from Wikipedia article “Papal Coronations”)

When a conclave elects a new pope, he assumes all of the rights and authority of the papacy immediately upon his acceptance of election; however, popes traditionally numbered their regnal years from the date of their coronation. If a newly elected pope is not a bishop, he is consecrated at once. In accordance with tradition, the right of consecration belongs to the Dean of the College of Cardinals, in his absence to the Subdean, and in the absence of both of these, to the senior Cardinal Bishop. If the new pope is already a bishop, as is normally the case, his election is announced immediately to the people gathered in Saint Peter's Square and he gives them his blessing.

### Coronation Mass

The coronation took place on the first Sunday or Holy Day following the election. It began with a solemn Papal Mass. During the chanting of Terce, he sat on a throne and all of the cardinals made what was called their “first obeisance” to him, approaching one by one and kissing his hand. Then the archbishops and bishops approached and kissed his feet.

Following this, at least from the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the newly elected pope was carried in state through St. Peter's Basilica on the *sedia gestatoria*, under a white canopy, with the papal *flabella* (ceremonial fans) to either side. Instead of the papal tiara, he wore a jewelled mitre (the episcopal *mitra pretiosa*). Three times, the procession was stopped, and a bundle of flax lashed to a gilded staff was burnt before the newly elected pontiff, while a master of ceremonies said: “Holy Father, thus passes the glory of the world” as a symbolic reminder to set aside materialism and vanity. Once at the high altar, he would begin to celebrate Solemn High Mass with full papal ceremonial.

After the Confiteor, the pope was seated on the *sedia gestatoria*, which was resting on the ground, and the three senior cardinal bishops approached him wearing mitres. Each in turn placed his hands above him and said the prayer, *Super electum Pontificem* (over the elected pope). Then, the senior cardinal deacon placed the pallium on his shoulders saying:

“Accept the pallium, representing the plenitude of the Pontifical office, to the honor of Almighty God, and the most glorious Virgin Mary, his Mother, and the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and the Holy Roman Church.”

After the investiture with the pallium, the pope incensed the high altar and then went to the Throne, placed on the choir side, between the Altar of the Confession and the Altar of the Chair, and there, during the singing of the Kyrie, he received again the obeisance of the cardinals, archbishops and bishops. Then the Mass continued. After the *Gloria in excelsis* and the *Pax vobis*, the pope said the Collect for the day and then secretly a prayer for himself. After the pope had returned again to his seat the Papal *Laudes* were chanted.

As with all Papal High Masses, the Epistle and the Gospel were read in both Greek and Latin and the pope communicated at his throne.

After the Mass, the new pope was crowned with the papal tiara. This frequently took place on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, overlooking the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square. The pope was seated on a throne with the *flabella* to either side of him. After the Dean of the College of Cardinals recited a few prayers, including the Lord's Prayer and a collect, the senior cardinal deacon, the protodeacon, removed the pope's mitre and placed the tiara on his head with the words:

“Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns, and know that you are the Father of princes and kings, the Ruler of the world, the Vicar of our Savior Jesus Christ on earth, to Whom is honor and glory, world without end.”

Following his coronation, the pope imparted the solemn papal blessing *Urbi et Orbi*.

The last act of the inauguration of a new pope is still the formal taking possession (*possessio*) of his *cathedra* as Bishop of Rome in the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran... The pope is enthroned in the same manner as other bishops. He is solemnly conducted to the episcopal throne, and takes possession by seating himself on it. He receives the kiss of peace and listens to the reading of a passage of Holy Scripture, whereupon he pronounces an address that used to be called the *sermo inthronisticus*. In ancient times, the letters that the pope sent to the patriarchs in token of being in communion with them in the same faith were called *litterae inthronisticae* or *syllabai enthronistikai*.