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Prayer for intercession of Pope John Paul II: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/prayer-for-the-intercession-of-pope-john-paul-ii-9124>

I was fortunate to see Pope John Paul II in Chicago in 1979 as a HS Junior at a Polish Language Mass at 5 Holy Martyrs Parish parking lot in October of that year. In 1980 I studied Polish Language and Literature in Krakow.

My wife Barbara is from Kraków, we married in 2001 and went to Rome in 2004 staying at a Polish pilgrimage home. (Anyone going to Rome should opt for a Monastery or Pilgrimage Home as the price is super affordable and Mass is generally offered each morning). In 2004 we had the opportunity to have a private audience with JPII as the place we were staying coordinated Polish Pilgrims to the Vatican. It was by chance that post new years in 2005, we were included in a private audience through the Polish Pilgrims Home in Trastevere Rome to be in the Clementine Hall in the Vatican to meet, speak with and kiss the ring of JPII. It was then Barbara and I committed to naming any son we had “John Paul” in his honor.

For those considering traveling to Rome I’d suggest making contact with the US Bishops Conference office to Pilgrims To Rome to gain access to events at St Peter’s. Recently we went back to Rome and went to Vespers on New Years Eve, Mass on New Years Day and were in a general audience with Pope Francis. That same January, Pope Benedict died and we were able to see him laying in state at St Peter’s....so technically we have seen the last 3 popes at the Vatican. We plan on going to Rome in 2026 December to be at general audience with Pope Leo.

Not the best photo, but we saw Benedict laying in state during that trip



Vatican photos



Last time in Rome, when John Paul was in 8th grade, we went to the Church of the Gesu in Rome to pray at the tomb of St Ignatius Loyola to intercede for John Paul to be accepted to his high school St Ignatius.

He is now a HS junior and we are praying for his discernment to Colleges and Universities. He is very capable currently running a 4.44 GPA with 4 AP classes. He is fluent in Spanish (he will receive an official certification from the state of Illinois for Spanish bilingual capability) and Polish and is working on his Eagle Scout project.
Keep John Paul in your prayers!



Tomb of St. Ignatius



The procession goes from the Mass at the church and they launch the Virgin De Carmen into a boat on the Mediterranean at the end of the procession



The parish priest accompanies the rowers on the boat at the end of the procession, followed by fireworks