



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM *in* **ALABAMA**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

**Bishop Steven J. Raica requests prayers for the
health and well-being of Pope Francis**

(February 22, 2025 - Feast of the Chair of St. Peter) Over the past week we offered prayers for the health and well-being of Pope Francis who is recovering from bi-lateral pneumonia and a complex of other medical issues at the Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital in Rome.

In a report given today, it was noted more soberly that he has entered a critical phase of his treatment which has required more aggressive interventions.

I urge all parishes and institutions to include a petition in the Universal Prayer for the health and well-being of Pope Francis, our Holy Father. In addition, Masses for the Pope may be celebrated during the week so that our prayers may surround him with divine assistance and protection. Above all, we pray that God watch over him during this very critical moment and guide those attending to his care with wisdom. May God bless him with strength during this vulnerable moment. Through the professional skills of doctors, nurses, and devoted medical personnel may he recover sufficiently in order to return to his ministry.

May the powerful prayers of our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, St. Peter, and St. Francis of Assisi join ours in praying for our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

+ *Steven J. Raica*

Most Reverend Steven J. Raica
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama