

ST. JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

PREPARATION TO CELEBRATE

THE FUNERAL LITURGY

**RETURN, MY SOUL,
TO YOUR REST,
FOR THE LORD HAS
BEEN GOOD TO YOU.
FOR MY SOUL HAS BEEN
FREED FROM DEATH,
MY EYES FROM TEARS,
MY FEET FROM STUMBLING
I SHALL WALK BEFORE
THE LORD IN THE
LAND OF THE LIVING.**

PSALM 116: 7 – 9



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*In our sorrow, may God's love
give us a peaceful heart.
May we be blessed and consoled
by our Lord, Jesus Christ,
who gently wipes every tear from our eyes.*

*We pray for this
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.



The St. John XXIII Catholic Community, comprised of the churches of St. Agnes & St. Matthias, wishes to extend our sincere sympathy to you and your family on the death of your loved one. Dealing with death and grief can be very painful no matter how prepared we are. It is hard to make decisions during this emotional time. We wish to assist you as best we can and to make this process as easy as possible.

As you begin to prepare your own funeral or plan for the funeral of a loved one, the information found in this packet will be helpful. As your Catholic faith has guided you through life, it will support and guide you as you now embrace death.

If you are pre-planning your own funeral and have specific wishes such as cremation, we encourage you to talk to your family in advance. Your wishes may be written down in the form of a legal document such as your will, living trust or in documents designed to help plan and prepare your funeral.

Through its funeral rites, the Church commends the dead to God's merciful love and asks for the forgiveness of their sins and reminds us that God is there for us in times of crisis. We celebrate the funeral Mass for both the dead and the living and comfort them in their grief. God has created each person for eternal life. Death is not the end.

The Process:

Please contact the funeral home of choice immediately upon the death of your loved one. They will assist you in making the necessary arrangements and will contact the church on your behalf. You may call the Parish Office directly if you prefer at 860-739-9722, ext. 223.

The funeral Mass is generally held at 11 a.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday mornings. The funeral Mass may not be celebrated on Sundays, Holy Days, or during the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday).

Once the church has been notified, you will meet with our Bereavement Committee representatives to plan the details of the Liturgy, hear your preferences for readings and music, and share details about your loved one's spiritual life. Family and friends may and should actively participate in the planning as it aids in the grieving process. The Bereavement Committee, in conjunction with the office staff, will arrange for the musicians on your behalf.

We encourage family members to take an active role in the Funeral Mass and its various ministries, such as pallbearers, readers, and during the presentation of the gifts. Generally family members place the pall and Christian symbol (crucifix or bible) on the casket during the Rite of Reception, before the entrance procession. The final wishes of the deceased are to be respected to the extent possible within the rubrics of the Mass.

If your loved one has been cremated and there is no casket, a covered table will be set up with a funeral cloth in the area immediately in front of the sanctuary. The table has enough room for the urn and usually a small vase or ring of flowers. A small (5x7) picture of your loved one may be displayed. Since the urn is the focus, large pictures and photo boards should be displayed at the funeral home or the luncheon following the burial. They are not permitted in church.

It is our hope that this booklet and its accompanying information will assist you with whatever questions you may have regarding a Funeral Liturgy at either St. Agnes or St. Matthias Church.

PREPARATION TO CELEBRATE THE FUNERAL LITURGY

A member of the Bereavement Committee will be contacting you to schedule a meeting with a Bereavement Committee representative to plan the Funeral Mass.

In order to prepare for this meeting, we ask that you review this booklet created specifically to help select the Scripture readings and the hymns you wish to be sung at the Liturgy. *Kindly note that no secular music of any kind may be sung or played during Mass.*

We invite you to choose two readings and a Responsorial Psalm. The first reading from the Old Testament should be selected from the **C readings 1 – 7 & 12 – 15** unless the funeral will occur during the 50 days after Easter when this reading will be selected from **C8 thru C11** only. The second reading from the New Testament should be selected from the **E readings 1 – 18**. The Responsorial Psalm should be selected from **D1 – D9**. *In choosing your readings from the funeral packet, you may elect to have one or two family members or guests participate by reading the first and second readings.* Please ask them in advance and if possible, let the Bereavement Committee know at the time of your meeting. Please let your lectors know that the readings will already be in place on the ambo (podium). These are the same bible readings that they received for practice. It is not necessary to bring these sheets to the podium. Our altar server will assist the reader to find his/her place in the binder.

The responsorial psalm is sung by the Cantor and the Gospel is proclaimed by the Priest.

We also invite you to include family members in bringing the gifts (bread & wine) to the sanctuary (altar area) prior to the consecration – generally this involves two to four people.

If you wish, you may select four hymns: the Processional, the Offertory, the Communion, and the Recessional. Please review the hymn selections available on the last page. Unless you anticipate a very large group of mourners at the Liturgy, it is not necessary to select a Communion Meditation Hymn.

SELECTIONS:

First Reading from the Old Testament reading C # _____

Responsorial Psalm reading D # _____

Second Reading from the New Testament reading E # _____

Processional Hymn _____

Offertory Hymn _____

Communion Hymn _____

Recessional Hymn _____

Please bring this information with you when you meet with the Bereavement Committee Representatives.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

C1	2 Maccabees 12:43 – 46	<i>He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.</i>
C2	Job 19:1, 23 – 27a	<i>I know that my Vindicator lives.</i>
C3	Wisdom 3:1 – 9 (L - long) Wisdom 3:1 – 6, 9 (S - short)	<i>As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.</i>
C4	Wisdom 4:7 – 15	<i>An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.</i>
C5	Isaiah 25:6a, 7 – 9	<i>He will destroy death forever.</i>
C6	Lamentations 3:17 – 26	<i>It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.</i>
C7	Daniel 12:1 – 3	<i>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.</i>
C12	Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 8 (S - short) Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 15 (L - long)	<i>There is an appointed time for everything.</i>
C15	Isaiah 41:4 – 10	<i>Fear not, I am with you.</i>

EASTER SEASON READINGS

C8	Acts 10:34 – 43 (L - long) Acts 10:34 – 36, 42 – 43	<i>He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.</i>
C9	Revelation 14:13	<i>Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.</i>
C10	Revelation 20:11 – 21:1	<i>The dead were judged according to their deeds.</i>
C11	Revelation 21:1 – 5a, 6b – 7	<i>There shall be no more death.</i>

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

D1	Psalm 23	<i>R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</i>
D2	Psalm 25	<i>R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.</i>
D3	Psalm 27	<i>R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.</i>
D5	Psalm 63	<i>R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.</i>
D6	Psalm 103	<i>R. The Lord is kind and merciful.</i>
D7	Psalm 116	<i>R. I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.</i>
D8	Psalm 122	<i>R. I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.</i>
D9	Psalm 130	<i>R. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.</i>

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

E1	Romans 5:5 – 11	<i>Since we are now justified by his Blood we will be saved through him from the wrath.</i>
E2	Romans 5:17 – 21	<i>Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.</i>
E3	Romans 6:3 – 9 (L – long) Romans 6:3 – 4, 8 – 9 (S – short)	<i>We too might live in newness of life.</i>
E4	Romans 8:14 – 23	<i>We also groan within ourselves as we await for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.</i>
E5	Romans 8:31b – 35, 37 – 39	<i>What will separate us from the love of Christ?</i>
E6	Romans 14:7 – 9, 10c – 12	<i>Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.</i>
E7	1 Corinthians 15:20 – 28 (L – long) 1 Corinthians 15:20 – 23 (S – short)	<i>So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.</i>
E8	1 Corinthians 15:51 – 57	<i>Death is swallowed up in victory.</i>
E9	2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1	<i>What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.</i>
E10	2 Corinthians 5:1, 6 – 10	<i>We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.</i>
E11	Philippians 3:20 – 21	<i>He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.</i>
E12	1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18	<i>Thus we shall always be with the Lord.</i>
E13	2 Timothy 2:8 – 13	<i>If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.</i>
E14	1 John 3:1 – 2	<i>We shall see him as he is.</i>
E15	1 John 3:14 – 16	<i>We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.</i>
E16	2 Corinthians 4:8 – 18	<i>What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.</i>
E17	2 Timothy 4:6 – 8	<i>I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.</i>
E18	Romans 5:1 – 5	<i>We have been justified by our faith and hope does not disappoint.</i>

FIRST READING
OLD TESTAMENT
OUTSIDE EASTER TIME



C1

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

*He acted in an excellent and noble way
as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.*

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel,
took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.
In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.
But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.
Thus he made atonement for the dead
that they might be freed from this sin.

The word of the Lord.

C2

Job 19:1, 23 – 27a

I know that my Vindicator lives.

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:
Oh, would that my words were written down!
Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead
they were cut in the rock forever!
But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;
Whom I myself shall see:
my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him;
And from my flesh I shall see God;
my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.

C3 - L

Long version: Wisdom 3:1 – 9
As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

C3 - S

Short version: Wisdom 3:1 – 6, 9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if in the eyes of men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them,
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

C4

Wisdom 4:7 – 15

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die early,
shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not
with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported –
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.
Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The word of the Lord.

C5

Isaiah 25:6a, 7 – 9

He will destroy death forever.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord God will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.
On that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the Lord for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The word of the Lord.

C6

Lamentations 3:17 – 26

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.
Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

C7

Daniel 12:1 – 3

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and heard this word of the Lord:
At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.

The word of the Lord.

C12 – S

Short version: Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 8
There is an appointed time for everything.

A reading from the Book of the Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time to war, and a time of peace.

The word of the Lord.

C12 – L

Long version: Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 15

A reading from the Book of the Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time to war, and a time of peace.
What advantage has the worker from his toil?
I have considered the task which God has appointed
for men to be busied about.
He has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timelessness into their hearts,
without men's ever discovering,

from beginning to end,
the work which God has done.
I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life.
For every man, moreover,
to eat and drink and enjoy the fruit of all his labor is a gift of God.
I recognized that whatever God does will endure forever;
there is no adding to it, or taking from it.
Thus has God done that he may be revered.
What now is has already been;
what is to be, already is;
and God restores what would otherwise be displaced.

The word of the Lord.

C15

Isaiah 41:4 – 10
Fear not, I am with you.

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

I, the LORD, am the first,
and with the last I will also be.
The coastlands see, and fear; the ends of the earth tremble:
these things are near, they come to pass.
But you, Israel,
my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen,
offspring of Abraham my friend –
You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth
and summoned from its far-off places,
You whom I have called my servant,
whom I have chosen and will not cast off –
Fear not, I am with you;
be not dismayed;
I am your God.
I will strengthen you, and help you,
and uphold you with my right hand of justice.

The word of the Lord.



FIRST READING

NEW TESTAMENT DURING EASTER TIME



(During the Easter season (the 50 days following Easter) one of the following four readings is used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament.)

C8 – L

Long version: Acts of the Apostles 10:34 - 43

*He is the one appointed by God
as judge of the living and the dead.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly
is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,
what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the Devil,
for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,
not to all the people, but to us,
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people
and testify that he is the one appointed by God
as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness,
that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

C8 – S

Short version: Acts of the Apostles 10:34 – 36, 42 – 43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

C9

Revelation 14:13

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," said the Spirit,

"let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The word of the Lord.

C10

Revelation 20:11 – 21:1

The dead were judged according to their deeds.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead;

then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.

(This pool of fire is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life
was thrown into the pool of fire.
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

The word of the Lord.

C11

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b – 7
There shall be no more death.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.
I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away."
The One who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new.
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of life-giving water.
The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God,
And he will be my son."

The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM



D1

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

D2

Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Remember that your compassion, O Lord,
and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Relieve the troubles of my heart;
and bring me out of my distress.
Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Preserve my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
because I wait for you, O Lord.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

D3

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.

Your presence, O Lord, I seek.
Hide not your face from me.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

D5

Psalm 63

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory,
For your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

You are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

D6

Psalm 103

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger, and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
For he knows how we are formed.
he remembers that we are dust.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Man's days are like those of grass;
like a flower of the field he blooms;
The wind sweeps over him and he is gone,
and his place knows him no more.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity
to eternity toward those who fear him,
And his justice toward children's children
among those who keep his covenant
and remember to fulfill his precepts.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

D7

Psalm 116

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

Gracious is the Lord and just;
yes, our God is merciful.

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

The Lord keeps the little ones;
I was brought low, and he saved me.

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";
I said in my alarm,
"No man is dependable."

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

Precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.
O Lord, I am your servant,
you have loosed my bonds.

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

D8

Psalm 122

I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me,
"We will go up to the house of the Lord."
And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
According to the decree for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
In it are set up judgment seats,
seats for the house of David.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

Because of my relatives and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you!"
Because of the house of the Lord, our God,
I will pray for your good.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

D9

Psalm 130

Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication.

Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

If you, O Lord, mark iniquities,
Lord, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

I trust in the Lord;
my soul trusts in his word.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than the sentinels wait for the dawn.

Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

More than the sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the Lord,
For with the Lord is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption.

Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

And he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities.

Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.



SECOND READING

NEW TESTAMENT



E1

Romans 5:5 – 11

*Since we are now justified by his Blood
we will be saved through him from the wrath.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.

Not only that,
but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

E2

Romans 5:17 – 21

Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of the one,
death came to reign through that one,
how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace
and of the gift of justification
come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression
condemnation came upon all,
so, through one righteous act,
acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man
the many were made sinners,
so through the obedience of the one
the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase
but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that,
as sin reigned in death,
grace also might reign through justification for eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

E3 - L

Long version: Romans 6:3 – 9
We too might live in newness of life.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

E3 - S

Short version: Romans 6:3 – 4, 8 – 9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

E4

Romans 8:14 – 23

*We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption,
the redemption of our bodies.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, "Abba, Father!"
The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.
I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.
For creation awaits with eager expectation
the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself
would be set free from slavery to corruption
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.
We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;
and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

E5

Romans 8:31b – 35, 37 – 39

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?
He did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for us all,
will he not also give us everything else along with him?
Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
It is God who acquits us.
Who will condemn?
It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,
who also is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.
What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?
No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly
through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor present things, nor future things,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

E6

Romans 14:7 – 9, 10c – 12
Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:
No one lives for oneself,
and no one dies for oneself.
For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
Why then do you judge your brother?
Or you, why do you look down on your brother?
For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;
for it is written:
*As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.*
So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

E7 – L

Long version: 1 Corinthians 15:20 – 28
So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
then comes the end,
when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father.
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
for "he subjected everything under his feet."
But when it says that everything has been subjected,
it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.
When everything is subjected to him,
then the Son himself will also be subjected
to the one who subjected everything to him,
so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

E7 – S

Short version: 1 Corinthians 15:20 – 23

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

E8

1 Corinthians 15:51 – 57

Death is swallowed up in victory.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Behold, I tell you a mystery.
We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.
For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility,
and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.
And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:

*Death is swallowed up in Victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?
The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The word of the Lord.

E9

2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1

What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.
Everything indeed is for you,
so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.
Therefore, we are not discouraged;
rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.
For this momentary light affliction
is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen;
for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.
For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands,
eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.

E10

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6 – 10

We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands,
eternal in heaven.
We are always courageous,

although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.
Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.
Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

E11

Philippians 3:20 – 21

He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:
Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified Body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

E12

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.
For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

E13

2 Timothy 2:8 – 13

If we have died with him we shall also live with him.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David:
such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering,
even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen,
so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,
together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him
we shall also live with him;

if we persevere
we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him
he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful
he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

E14

1 John 3:1 – 2

We shall see him as he is.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

see what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;

What we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

E15

1 John 3:14 – 16

*We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love our brothers.*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love our brothers.

Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.

The way we came to know love
was that he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord.

E16

2 Corinthians 4:8 – 18

What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not abandoned;
struck down, but not destroyed;
always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.
For we who live are constantly being given up to death
for the sake of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.
So death is at work in us, but life in you.
Since, then, we have the same spirit of faith,
according to what is written,
I believed, therefore I spoke,
we too believe and therefore speak,
knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence.
Everything indeed is for you,
so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.
Therefore, we are not discouraged;
rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.
For this momentary light affliction
is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen;
for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

The Word of the Lord.

E17

2 Timothy 4:6 – 8

*I have competed well; I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.*

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have competed well;

I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Word of the Lord.

E18

Romans 5:1 – 5

*We have been justified by our faith
and hope does not disappoint.*

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Not only that,

but we even boast of our afflictions,

knowing that affliction produces endurance;

and endurance, proven character;

and proven character, hope.

And hope does not disappoint,

because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

The Word of the Lord.



SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR FUNERALS

Music plays an important role in the funeral liturgy by uniting those present in heart and mind and by expressing those thoughts and emotions that can be difficult to express at this time. The following songs are suggested since they express the paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death and triumph over death and each baptized person's share in this mystery.

PROCESSIONAL HYMNS

Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Christ, Be Our Light
Eye Has Not Seen
Glory & Praise to Our God
Here I am, Lord
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
In Christ There is No East or West
Keep in Mind
Lord, Receive Your Servant
Love Divine, All Love Excelling
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
The Strife is O'er
To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
You Are Mine

OFFERTORY HYMNS

Be Not Afraid
Eye Has Not Seen
Here I am, Lord
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
We Are the Light of the World
You Are Mine

COMMUNION HYMNS

Blest Are They
Gift of Finest Wheat
God of Love
Here I am, Lord
I Am the Bread of Life
I Received the Living God
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Lord, When you Came to the Seashore
One Bread, One Body
Take and Eat
Taste & See
The King of Love
We Are the Light of the World
We Remember
Whatsoever You Do
You Are Near

COMMUNION MEDITATION

(select only if you anticipate a large funeral)

Blest Are They
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
On Eagle's Wings
Prayer of St. Francis
We Are the Light of the World
You Are Near
Ave Maria
Panis Angelicus
Pie Jesu

RECESSIONAL HYMNS

Amazing Grace
Christ, Be Our Light
Eternal Father, Strong to Save (Navy Hymn)
Eye Has Not Seen
For All the Saints
Glory & Praise to Our God
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
I Call You to My Father's House
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
In Christ There is No East or West
Lord of All Hopefulness
Lord of the Dance
Lord, Receive Your Servant
Love Divine, All Love Excelling
Now Thank We All Our God
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
On Eagle's Wings
Sing with All the Saints in Glory
The Strife is O'er
To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King
We Walk by Faith
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

These songs all appear in the We Celebrate hymnal used at St. Agnes.

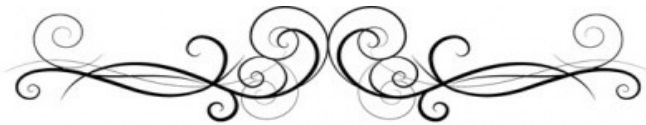
A few selections may be unavailable at St. Matthias which uses the Breaking Bread hymnal.



YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUNERAL MASS FOR A LOVED ONE. WHAT IS MY ROLE AND ITS EXPECTATIONS?

We encourage family members to take an active role in the Funeral Mass for the deceased. There are several places for you to get involved.

- Pallbearers carry (or escort) the casket into and out of the main doors of the church.
- Family members may place the pall and Christian symbol (crucifix or bible) on the casket during the Rite of Reception, before the entrance procession.
- Lector (Reader) of the two Scripture readings from the Old and New Testaments
- Bearers of the Offering of Bread & Wine
- Deliver the Words of Remembrance (Eulogy)



WE REQUEST THAT YOU DISTRIBUTE THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES TO EACH OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS YOU HAVE ASKED TO PLAY A ROLE IN YOUR LOVED ONE'S FUNERAL. PLEASE ENSURE THAT BOTH READERS AS WELL AS THE INDIVIDUAL CHOSEN TO DELIVER THE EULOGY RECEIVES A COPY. THANK YOU.

LECTOR (READER) GUIDELINES

- Readers should be modestly and appropriately dressed to fulfill this role during Mass. Revealing or immodest clothing is out of place in the church, as is overly casual dress.
- Readers will be called forward by the celebrant according to their task not by their individual name, i.e. "*The reader of the First Reading is invited to come forward at this time.*" If you have chosen two different individuals to read, please ensure that they know the order in which they will proclaim the Word of the Lord.
- Copies of the readings you have selected will be in place on the ambo. (*The ambo is the large marble structure from which the readings are proclaimed.*) Please do not bring your paper copy from which you have practiced or your cell phone to the ambo with you.
- When approaching the sanctuary (*the stepped up area where the Altar and Tabernacle are located*), a bow of reverence should be made toward the altar before moving to the ambo.
- **NO personal introduction or extemporaneous comments of any kind are to be made from the ambo.** Please read/say only what is on the reading sheet in the binder; for example, "*A Reading from the Book of Job.*" Then begin the reading and end with "*The Word of the Lord*".
- Most important of all these guidelines is to **SPEAK UP** and **SLOW DOWN**. The readings have been chosen specifically by the family as meaningful for their loved one. Reading too softly or too quickly will have little or no chance of being understood by those present.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE (EULOGY)

If you are delivering the Words of Remembrance, we ask that the following guidelines be observed.

- Only one person is to speak at the funeral Mass itself. If more wish to speak they can do so at the funeral home or at the luncheon following burial.
- The remarks in Church are made at the ambo after communion. (*The ambo is the large marble structure from which the readings are proclaimed.*)
- The individual delivering the eulogy will be invited by the celebrant to the sanctuary with the following words, "*The individual delivering the Words of Remembrance is invited to come forward at this time.*"
- Reflections are to be no longer than 3 to 5 minutes (about 2 pages double spaced or 1 page single spaced). An attempt should be made by the speaker to focus on how your loved one lived their faith. You may choose to tell how they were involved in the church, in their community helping others, or some remarks about their role in the family. If more needs to be said, this can be done at the funeral home or at the luncheon following burial.
- It would be appreciated if you would email or fax a copy of your remarks to the parish as soon as prepared, no later than the night before the funeral (office.stjohn23@gmail.com; fax: 860-691-2187). This will help to assure that the celebrant's homily will not contain the same things you have in your remarks and if your presentation becomes too emotionally difficult for you to complete, someone can step in.
- There is no need to give a full obituary of the deceased. This has likely been printed in the newspaper or may be included in a program if you have made one.
- Please remember that your remarks should reflect the fact that they are being delivered in a church, so material of a sexual nature or relating to matters that might be considered even slightly inappropriate are to be avoided altogether.
- Father's *homily* will speak to the readings you have chosen and the spiritual life of your loved one. It is *not a eulogy*. It is the responsibility of the family member delivering the Words of Remembrance to see that the anecdote or bit of information that you want conveyed to those in attendance is included in your address. It is never the responsibility of the priest to convey this information in his homily.



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do we celebrate the funeral rites?

During the funeral rite we pray for the deceased, entrusting them to God's mercy and care. We celebrate the funeral Mass for both the dead and the living and comfort them in their grief.

How many parts make up the funeral rites?

There are three main parts:

- the Vigil Service – Ritual prayers usually held during or just before the visitation at the Funeral Home
- the Funeral Liturgy (with or without Mass) – always celebrated in the church
- the Rite of Committal – (or Final Farewell) at the cemetery or graveside.

Besides these, other rites are provided, e.g., prayers just after death, prayers at the beginning of a visitation and prayers for transferring the body to the church.

Why have a viewing?

It provides a sense of closure and allows family member who were not present at the time of death to express their last goodbyes. It also allows friends and extended family an opportunity to express their support and condolences. Viewings (or wake services) are held at the funeral home. They are not held in our church.

Does the body of the deceased have to be present at the Mass?

During "The Mass of Christian Burial," the technical name for a funeral Mass, either the body or cremated remains must be present for the Mass. A *Memorial Mass* for the deceased may be celebrated at any time where there is *no* presence of the body or cremains.

Is there an average length of time between death, cremation and the funeral Mass?

The answer depends on various factors, just as in the case of funerals with the body. The place of death, the location of the crematory, scheduling a time for cremation, the church schedule, and other circumstances will all impact the timing.

THE FUNERAL MASS / LITURGY

What are the symbols used during the Funeral Mass and what do they represent?

- The *Easter Candle* reminds the faithful of Christ's undying presence among them and his victory over sin and death. The candle is placed near the casket to indicate that the death of a Christian is one's own Passover.
- *Holy Water* reminds the assembly of the saving waters of baptism.
- *Incense* is used as a sign to honor the body of the deceased, of the community's prayers for the deceased rising to the throne of God, and as a sign of farewell.
- The *Pall* is a reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased and a sign of Christian dignity. The use of the pall signifies that all are equal in God's eyes.
- A *Bible* placed on the casket is a sign that Christians live by the word of God and that fidelity to the Word leads to eternal life.
- A *Cross* placed on the casket is a reminder that we are marked by the cross in baptism and through Jesus' suffering, our loved one is brought to his resurrection.

My loved one has always read from the Jerusalem Bible. Can we choose readings from that version?

Unfortunately, no. The only bible version permitted to be used in Catholic liturgy is the New American Bible. All readings contained in this funeral packet are taken from that Bible version.

Are eulogies permitted during Mass?

Normally individual tributes (*eulogies*) are reserved for the wake service at the funeral home and the informal gathering following the funeral. The *homily* takes its theme from the readings and speaks of the Catholic belief in the Resurrection. During the homily, Father will preach on the gospel chosen and make specific references to the deceased. *Words of Remembrance* (no more than 4 minutes long) may be read by one friend/family member from the ambo before the final blessing. These should be a brief word of thanksgiving for the life of the deceased. It is best prepared, written down, and sent to the church office in advance. Words of Remembrance are optional.

Can a flag be substituted for the funeral pall over the casket during the Liturgy? What about flowers on the casket?

No, the casket should be covered with the white pall as a reminder of baptism. Flowers are not permitted to remain on the casket during the funeral Liturgy. Only Christian symbols may rest on or be placed near the casket during the liturgy. Any national flags or flags of associations to which the deceased belonged are removed from the casket at the entrance of the church and may be replaced when the casket is removed from the church.

We wish to create a funeral program? Does the Church provide that service or can they help us with that?

Some families choose to create a funeral program showing the order of the Mass, the reading and musical choices and sometimes a poem or prayer on the back. We do not provide that service, however if you are interested, we can provide examples to assist you or a family member.

Our dad loved "Danny Boy". Can it be played during his funeral Mass?

Music is an integral part of the funeral Mass. It has the power to console and uplift. Although you may be partial to a secular song which brings comfort in its own right, all liturgical music selections are taken from our hymnal. No secular music of any kind may be sung or played before, during or after Mass. We suggest those songs for the funeral home or the reception following burial.

REGARDING CREMATION

Is cremation permitted by the Catholic Church?

The Church has permitted cremation since 1963. The Church prefers that the body be present for the Liturgy and cremated following Mass; however, it is possible to celebrate the Funeral Liturgy in the presence of the cremated remains. All of the usual rites celebrated with a casket are also celebrated in the presence of the cremains. The cremated remains are treated with the same dignity and respect as the body.

What kind of container is appropriate?

Worthy containers such as classic funeral urns are appropriate. Keeping the ashes in pieces of jewelry or other objects are unacceptable practices. The body of the deceased is then to be buried (interment) or entombed in a mausoleum. These practices demonstrate Christian faith in awaiting the resurrection.

Your loved one has been cremated before the Funeral Mass. How does a Mass with cremains differ from a funeral Mass with casket?

A covered table will be set up with a funeral cloth in the area immediately in front of the sanctuary. The table has enough room for the urn and usually a small vase or ring of flowers. A small (5x7) picture of your loved one may be displayed. Since the urn is the focus, large pictures and photo boards should be displayed at the funeral home or the luncheon following the burial. They are not permitted in church.

We have cremated our loved one. Can we keep the ashes at home on the mantel?

When cremation of the body has been chosen, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, i.e. in a cemetery or in an area set aside for this purpose. A common practice is the entombment of the cremated remains in a "columbarium" – an arrangement of niches, either in a mausoleum, a room or wall into which an urn or other worthy vessel is placed for permanent memorial.

The USCCB Committee on Divine Worship Newsletter states: "The reservation of the ashes of the departed in a sacred place ensures that they are not excluded from the prayers and remembrance of their family or the Christian community. It prevents the faithful departed from being forgotten or their remains from being shown a lack of respect and prevents any superstitious practices. For these reasons, *the conservation of the ashes in a domestic residence is not permitted.*"

Our loved one was an outdoorsman. Can we scatter the ashes in the mountains or at sea?

The practice of scattering the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, is not the reverent disposition that the Church requires, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry and other objects, nor may they be divided or separated. (Order of Christian Funerals)

OTHER QUESTIONS

Many of our friends and relatives are not Catholic. Should I still have a Mass for our loved one?

Yes, especially if the deceased was a baptized Catholic. It is common today that guests gathered for funerals are of varied faiths or do not identify with any faith or religion. We celebrate the funeral Mass not only for the dead but also for the living and provide comfort in their grief.

May Catholics who have been divorced and remarried outside the Church have a Funeral Mass?

Yes, they too are entrusted to God's love and these actions do not exclude them from a Catholic Funeral Mass.

What rites can be used for miscarried or stillborn children?

"Funeral Rites may be celebrated for children whose parents intended them to be Baptized but who died before Baptism. In these celebrations the Christian community entrusts the child to God's all-embracing love." (Order of Christian Funeral #237)

What rites can be used for a suicide victim?

Even suicide victims are entrusted to God's love and mercy and therefore entitled to a Funeral Mass.

May a person donate organs?

The donation of organs has become commonplace and is allowed. The donation of the entire body for scientific study is also permitted. In these instances, the proper disposition of the body is to be done according to accepted practices.

Why is a grave the preferred site for the Rite of Committal?

The grave (tomb) is preferred because the prayers from the ritual express the finality of placing the body or remains in the ground or tomb.

What is a graveside service?

A graveside service is a funeral service held at the gravesite at a cemetery. A graveside service can follow a traditional funeral or can be a stand-alone event. It's a type of service that can be held for either burial or interment of cremated remains.

Must a Catholic be buried in a Catholic Cemetery?

Normally, a Catholic is buried in a Catholic cemetery; however, your loved one may be buried in another cemetery and a non-Catholic may be buried in a Catholic cemetery with Catholic family members.

DONATIONS

Instead of flowers, can we have donations sent to the church in Dad's name?

Families often designate an organization or charity meaningful to their loved one for memorial donations. You may wish to encourage friends and family to make donations to our churches. These gifts are received in the name of your loved one and the immediate family is notified. These gifts may be used for the general needs of the church or may be designated for a specific purpose. Please let the funeral director know of your intention so that the obituary may reflect your wishes.

How should bequests to parishes be made?

If donors want our parish to benefit from their generosity, they should word their wills so that the bequest is clearly directed to the church itself, either St. Agnes or St. Matthias Catholic Church.

AFTER THE FUNERAL

My loved one is now passed. The funeral is over and everyone has gone home. Where can I go for support?

Our parish provides a Bereavement Support Group which meets for 6 week sessions several times per year. If you are interested in this program, please call the parish office for the next meeting time.

November 2nd is the Feast of All Souls. On that day, we remember as a church family those who have left us during the past year. We invite you to join us as we remember your loved one during that Mass. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us.

Blessed are they who mourn, they shall be consoled. Matthew 5:3

