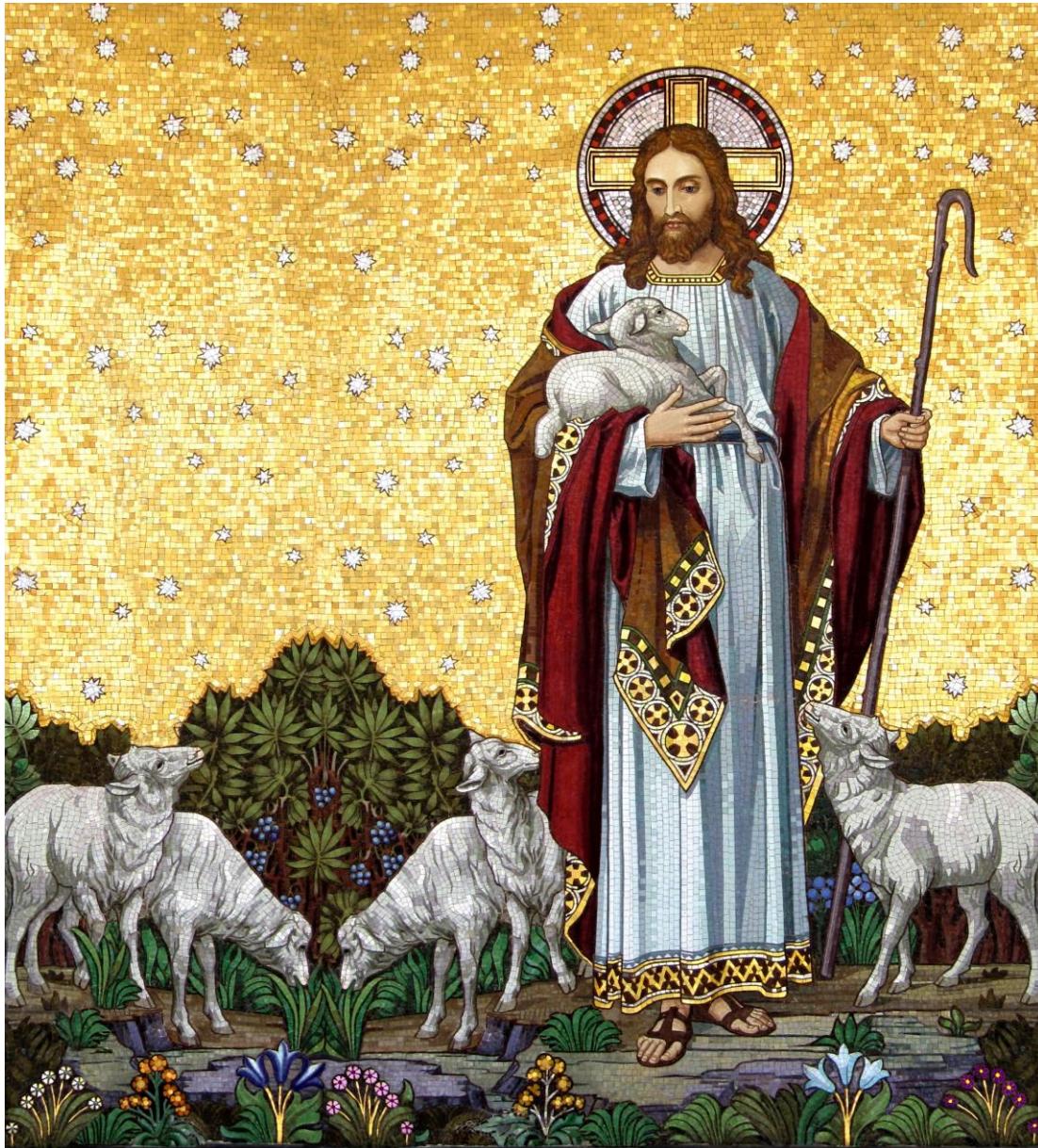


**ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL**

ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

# The Order of Christian Funerals

## *Guidelines and Procedures*



## *Scripture Readings and Music Selections*

Parish Office: 25 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. | St. Cloud, MN 56301  
**(320) 251-1840 | [www.stmarystcloud.org](http://www.stmarystcloud.org)**

# Funeral Procedures and Guidelines for St. Mary's Cathedral

## Introduction



*"In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity. Christ "achieved his task of redeeming humanity and giving perfect glory to God, principally in the paschal mystery of his blessed passion, resurrection from the dead, and glorious ascension."*

*"The Church through its funeral rites commends the dead to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of sins. At the funeral rites, especially at the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice, the Christian community affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in one great communion of saints. Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and intercession."*

~ Order of Christian Funerals, Introduction

## When a Death Occurs

### Initial Contact with the Parish

If you are being assisted by the service of a funeral director, the funeral director will contact the parish on your behalf to schedule the funeral: wake, Mass and burial. If you are not involving a funeral director, you will need to be in direct contact with the parish for scheduling and planning. The parish offices are open from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm Monday through Friday (closed Saturday and Sunday.) When the parish office is closed, please follow phone prompts to leave a message for the liturgist to begin the funeral planning process.

## The Three Parts of a Catholic Funeral

In these three sequential rites the Church offers to those who are mourning a way to prepare themselves spiritually and emotionally to say their goodbyes. More and more Catholics are eliminating one or more of these three rites. Except in extraordinary circumstances this should not be the case. The burial of the body or cremains should take place in a reasonable time after death has occurred. The prayer of the Church is seen as a timely way to say farewell and to offer prayers for the immortal soul of the deceased. To delay the Rites of Christian Burial simply for convenience or to coincide with an important date in the life of the deceased is inappropriate.

### Part I: The Vigil for the Deceased (Parish Prayers)

At the Vigil for The Deceased (sometimes called Parish Prayers), the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ's presence. The Vigil is a prayer service, usually held the evening before the funeral. The Vigil typically takes place towards the beginning or the end of visitation at the funeral home. The Vigil for the Deceased and visitation may also be held in the church. The Vigil includes scripture readings, psalms, prayer for both the deceased and the grieving family, as well as time for sharing memories or eulogies.

## **Part II: The Funeral Mass**

The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of a funeral. The Eucharist is at the center of the Catholic Christian faith – the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. While following the directives of the Church's liturgical guidelines, in planning the Mass, the choice of music and biblical readings, should reflect church teaching, the family's wishes, while emphasizing the community aspect of faith which remains unbroken in death.

The Funeral Mass is customarily celebrated on the day of burial. However, for pastoral reasons the Mass may be celebrated at some other time before the burial. In any event, there should be only one Funeral Mass.

Since the proper setting for Mass is a sacred place, except under particular circumstances, Mass is not to be celebrated in a funeral home or similar facility. The body of the deceased is present in church for the Funeral Mass.

## **Part III: The Rite of Committal (Burial/Interment)**

In the Catholic faith tradition, there is great respect for the body. Catholics believe that the body is "the temple of the Lord" and that at the End of Days, there will be a resurrection of the body. This service at the cemetery is the last farewell, in which the Christian community honors one of its members before the body is buried or entombed. With priest and mourners accompanying the body to the cemetery, the rite is celebrated at the grave or tomb or in a cemetery committal chapel.

For those involved in civic organizations and those with additional affiliations, patriotic or fraternal services may also be conducted following the burial rite.

## **Memorial Masses**

The Memorial Mass is the option used when the remains of the deceased person will not be present during the liturgy. This occurs for a variety extraordinary pastoral reasons and where there are problems scheduling a Mass of Christian Burial. For example, if the person dies immediately before the Triduum (Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday). Another example is during the time of pandemic.

## **Location and Form of the Funeral Rites**

### **Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Cathedral**

The standard funeral liturgy for a deceased Catholic, who was in good standing with the Church, is a Mass, with the body present. The following options are all forms of Catholic Funeral. In making a decision of where a funeral should take place and which rites to use, the following can serve as general guidelines:

- For active parishioners, the homebound, former active parishioners of St. Mary's, who are now residents of nursing homes or who have moved away from the parish for such reasons as retirement or to be with family, a Mass of Christian Burial held at St. Mary's Cathedral is encouraged.
- For active Catholics, who were part of the St. Mary's community, but have now established roots within other parishes, a Mass of Christian Burial at their current parish is most fitting.

- While rare, under particular circumstances, a Catholic funeral may be celebrated (even a Mass) for a person who is not a Catholic, as long as this would not offend the sensibilities of those who attend. This case may arise when the living spouse is Catholic, and the spouse who died practiced no religion.
- For Catholics who have fallen away from the practice of their faith, a Funeral Mass led by a St. Mary's priest, or a Funeral Liturgy led by a deacon at the Funeral Home is permitted.
- A Mass can always be celebrated for a child who has died, even without baptism. Appropriate prayers are used if the child was not baptized.

If you are unfamiliar with a Mass of Christian Burial, please review the entire document, but especially the Eulogy Section on page 6.

If a family is unsure what would be most appropriate for them, please call the parish office.

## **Guidelines and Procedures for Masses of Christian Burial**

### **Time for the Funeral Liturgy**

In general, funerals are scheduled Monday-Saturday in the upper church at 10:00 am or 10:30 am with reviewal beginning one hour prior. Exceptions to this are at the discretion of the rector. Funerals are not scheduled on Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, Ash Wednesday, All Souls Day (Nov. 2) and during the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday).

### **Funerals with a Funeral Director**

The standard procedure for planning a funeral at St. Mary's Cathedral is that a funeral director (funeral home or mortuary) work with parish staff to set up the details of the vigil service and visitation, funeral Mass or liturgy, luncheon and interment. Funeral directors are very helpful to the parish in that they arrange for the times of the events, assist in setting up for the visitation if it is held at the Cathedral, and help the family coordinate the luncheon and the interment. They also provide valuable assistance with programs, easels and tables for pictures and memory displays, and guest books. Normally the procedure is that, after news of death, the funeral home is contacted first. The funeral home will then contact St. Mary's to determine possible times and dates for a funeral Mass/Liturgy. The family will meet with the funeral director and confirm the date/time. Family members should then contact the parish office to arrange for a meeting with the liturgist. This is to choose scripture readings, hymns, and other details of the funeral liturgy.

### **Funerals without a Funeral Director**

If the family of the deceased is not using a funeral home/director with the funeral arrangements, a family member must contact the parish office to select a date for the funeral as well as to schedule a meeting to plan the funeral liturgy.

The parish is not equipped with guest books, easels, or to help move the guests, and manage timing of a visitation.

## **Funeral Fees**

Because we do incur expenses associated with funerals, we have established the following fees. Fees associated with the funeral liturgies are typically invoiced through the funeral home. This is preferred method as it allows you to be concerned with other matters during a time of grief.

There is an additional fee for a funeral with no funeral director. If no funeral home is involved it is the responsibility of the family to pay the parish directly. This fee is due before the funeral Mass/Liturgy.

<b>Fee Schedule</b>	<b>Parishioner</b>	<b>Non-parishioner</b>	<b>No Funeral Home</b>
<b>Church Offering</b> <small>*Deduct \$50 if luncheon is at another location.</small>	\$225*	\$300*	additional \$200
<b>Priest</b> (Celebrant)	\$100	\$100	\$100
<b>Accompanist</b> (Piano/Organ)	\$125	\$125	\$125
<b>Cantor</b> (Song Leader)	\$75	\$75	\$75
<b>Instrumentalist</b> (Optional)	starting at \$75	starting at \$75	starting at \$75
<b>Vigil Service Leader</b> <small>(Deacon or Lay Presider)</small>	\$25	\$25	\$25

In case of financial hardship, some fees may be waived or reduced at the discretion of the rector.

## **Reviewals/Visitations**

Reviewals/visitations prior to the Mass/Liturgy take place near the baptismal font. Set-up (flowers, easels, etc.) may take place any time after 8:00 am.

## **Memorials**

Flowers (vase/basket arrangements and plants only) may be left for use in the church at the discretion of the family as a temporary memorial to the deceased. We ask that any wreaths, easel sprays, etc. be removed from the church following the funeral. During the Season of Lent, no flowers are to be left at the church.

Monetary memorials may be directed to St. Mary's Cathedral. There are many projects for the family to consider with a wide range of value. If a family would like to pursue this option, please speak with our office manager.

## **Guest Priest/Deacon**

If the family of the deceased requests a guest clergy, the presider from St. Mary's is to be informed. Unless the guest presider is a family member of the deceased person, the funeral liturgy will be presided over by Cathedral priest or deacon. The guest priest/deacon will always be welcome to concelebrate (or assist in the case of a deacon) as long as he is in good standing (a status confirmed by speaking with the chancery of the (Arch)diocese). At the discretion of the presider, the guest priest/deacon may be permitted to give the homily, final commendation and lead the service at the cemetery. Normally, a guest priest or deacon will not preside at a funeral liturgy. All guest presiders or deacons are expected to follow the church's official rites and the liturgical norms of St. Mary's Cathedral.

## **Eulogies**

The Vigil Service (Parish Prayers) and wake, held at the funeral home, are part of the funeral rites. Holding the Vigil Service and wake at the Cathedral is also an option, depending on the Cathedral's calendar. The Vigil Service, by its very nature, is meant to address the need of the grieving family to remember the life that was lived and to mourn the loss that they have suffered. The Vigil Service is the appropriate time to share stories and eulogies about the deceased. It is also the time to incorporate favorite music, whether sacred or secular, to read poetry, and accommodate other wishes and desires the family has to help them grieve their loss and celebrate their loved one's life in a more personalized manner that is not necessarily appropriate for the more formal, Catholic Funeral Rites.

If the family opts out of having a Vigil Service the night before the funeral, these ways of remembering their loved one and celebrating his or her life should be done at the funeral luncheon.

Eulogies are not permitted within the Funeral Mass itself according to the revised Order of Christian Funerals for the United States, which says, "A brief homily based on the readings should always be given at the funeral liturgy, but never any kind of eulogy." [OCF # 141] The General Instruction of the Roman Missal promulgated in 2000, reaffirms this prohibition of eulogies at funeral Masses saying, "At the Funeral Mass there should, as a rule, be a short homily, but never a eulogy of any kind."

## **Cremation**

Cremation is permitted with the understanding that the cremated remains will be handled with reverence and will be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. Whenever possible, cremation should take place after the funeral Mass/Liturgy with burial taking place as soon as possible afterwards. Novelty shaped urns and floral wreaths surrounding the urn should be avoided. Ashes may not be spread, divided among relatives, or made into jewelry.

(Note: this is a brief summary of cremation. There is more detailed information beginning on page 20.)

## **Burial**

There are three diocesan cemeteries in the Diocese of Saint Cloud: Assumption, St. Cloud; Calvary, St. Cloud; Sacred Heart, Sauk Rapids. Families may make arrangements for burial through the funeral director they are working with or, if they are not working with a funeral home, by speaking with the Diocesan Cemeteries Office by calling (320) 251-5511.

## **Luncheon or Reception**

Families choosing to have a luncheon after a funeral are welcome to do so at St. Mary's Cathedral. Luncheons are held in the Mary Center or Lower Church gathering area. Our luncheon coordinator will discuss menu options, serve the meal, and clean up afterwards. The cost of the meal is determined by the menu, preparation time and number of plates served. The funeral home may include this cost with their services. If you are not working with a funeral home, you may be asked to submit a deposit and you will be invoiced afterwards for any remaining meal costs.

Families choosing not to have a funeral luncheon may still opt to have dessert, coffee, and juice.

Please note that on Fridays of Lent we will not serve any meat in observance of the Church's laws regarding abstinence from meat on the Fridays of Lent (Code of Canon Law, 1251).

## Planning the Funeral Mass or Liturgy

### Planning Meeting

The planning of a funeral, whether pre-planning or after the passing of a loved one, brings an important, and sometimes complicated emotional experience of remembering, celebrating, mourning, praying for the soul of the deceased, and giving of a life over to our God. Funeral liturgies are a beautiful way to ritualize, in ways that are meaningful and spiritual, our belief that one's life has meaning and purpose on this earth and in the eternal one. It is the hope of this faith community that you find this guide helpful in assisting in this act of love. The liturgist will meet and assist you with the planning of the Mass or Liturgy.

### Scripture Readings

In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the Word of God. The readings proclaim to the assembly the Paschal Mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourage the witness of Christian life. Above all, the readings tell of God's designs for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called his own. In the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word at the funeral Mass, the Biblical readings may not be replaced by nonbiblical readings. (Readings begin on p. 8)

### Liturgical Ministers

You will need to have several people to help take part in the liturgical ministries. These may be family and friends. Parish liturgy staff will meet and rehearse with those who have a part in the liturgy so that they are comfortable with their roles. They will place the pall over the casket, proclaim the scripture readings, read the universal prayers, bring forward the gifts of bread and wine.

### Liturgical Music

The following list of sacred hymns (beginning on p. 16) is designed to guide families preparing for a Catholic Funeral Mass. Only sacred music approved for use in the church by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops will be available for use during the solemn sacrifice of the Mass. From the moment we gather in the church until departing, we must be mindful of the solemn Rites and Liturgy that are taking place. As such, all music and readings should be selected to enhance the solemnity and dignity of the occasion.

While many secular songs may have special meaning to a loved one, family, or friends, they are rarely if ever appropriate for liturgical use in the Catholic Church and should therefore be reserved for gatherings before or after the Funeral Mass or Liturgy. Pieces containing secular texts will not be considered. Recorded music is not permitted in the church. Other hymns from the parish hymnal may be used upon request and approval.

The psalm and other sung Mass parts are determined by the scripture readings and liturgical season. The liturgist will choose these selections.

## Guest Musicians

It is our policy that music is provided by the musicians of St. Mary's Cathedral. This ensures a beautiful, high-quality liturgy as our musicians work together frequently and know the specific demands of our space. If a family or friend of the deceased wishes to offer the gift of music for the funeral Mass, he or she may be welcome to participate in addition to Cathedral musicians. Guest musicians may provide music at the prelude, the Preparation of the Gifts, or after communion. All repertoire is subject to approval.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### First Reading

Choose one of the following readings from the Old Testament. A synopsis is provided in red italics. The reading itself follows.

#### Option 1: II Maccabees 12:43-46

*It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.*  
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.

#### Option 2: Job 19:1, 23-27a

*I know that my Redeemer lives.*

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.

#### Option 3 (long form): Wisdom 3:1-9

**Option 3 (short form): Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 [omit brackets]**

*As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. They are at peace in the hand of God.*

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 God shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with God in love: because grace and mercy are with God's holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

#### Option 4 (long form): Wisdom 4:7-15

**Option 4 (short form): Wisdom 4:7-9 [omit brackets]**

*The just one, though they die early, shall be at rest.*

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 in 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.]

#### **Option #5: Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

*On this mountain God will destroy death forever.*

On this mountain, the lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. A feast of rich food and choice wines: juicy rich food and pure choice wines. 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!"

#### **Option #6: Lamentations 3:17-26**

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

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 I will 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.

#### **Option #7: Daniel 12:1-3**

*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake...those who lead the many to justice shall be like stars forever.*

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.

#### **Option#8 - Proverbs 31 10-29 (select verses)**

*A worthy wife/the valiant woman.*

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household. She enjoys the success of her dealings. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all."

#### **Option #9: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11**

*There is a time for everything under the heavens.*

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 of war, and a time of peace. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

#### **Option #10: Ezekiel 34: 11-16**

*I will pasture my sheep, giving them rest.*

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the foreign lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel in the land's ravines and all its inhabited places. In good pastures will I pasture them, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground. There they shall lie down on good grazing ground, and in rich pastures shall they be pastured on the mountains of Israel. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.

*Do right, love goodness, and walk humbly with your God.*

With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow before God most high? Shall I come before him with offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriad streams of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my crime, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.

#### **Option #12 (Easter Season): Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7**

*God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning.*

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 away 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."

#### **Option #11: Micah 6:6-8**

## Second Reading

Choose one of the following readings from the New Testament. A synopsis is provided in red italics. The reading itself follows.

### Option #1: Romans 5:5-11

*Hope does not disappoint, for God's love has been poured on us. Reconciled to God will be saved through Jesus' death.*

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.

### Option #2: Romans 5:17-21

*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 person Jesus Christ.*

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.

### Option #3 (long form): Romans 6:3-9

**Option #3 (short form): Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 [omit brackets]**

*We were baptized into death, so that we shall also live with Christ. Let us walk in newness of life.*

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.

### Option #4: Romans 8:14-23

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

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 first fruits of the redemption of our bodies.

#### **Option #5: Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39**

*What will separate us from the love of Christ?*

*Nothing can take us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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.

#### **Option #6: Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12**

*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

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.

#### **Option #7 (long form):**

**I Corinthians 15:20-28**

#### **Option #7 (short form):**

**I Corinthians 15:20-23**

*All people will be brought to life in Christ. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits 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 first fruits; 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.]

#### **Option #8: I Corinthians 15:51-57**

*Death is swallowed up in victory.*

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 incorruption, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruption 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.

### **Option #9: II Corinthians 4:14-5:1**

*We have an eternal home in heaven.*

Brothers and sisters: 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. 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.

### **Option #10: II Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

*We have an everlasting home in heaven.*

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.

### **Option #11: Philippians 3:20-21**

*Citizens in heaven Jesus will transfigure our bodies to his glorious body.*

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.

### **Option #12: I Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*Do not grieve those fallen asleep. We shall stay with the Lord forever.*

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.

### **Option #13: II Timothy 2:8-13**

*If we have died with him, we shall live with him.*

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.

### **Option #14: I John 3:1-2**

*We shall see God as he really is.*

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.

### **Option #15: I John 3:14-16**

*We have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters.*

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.

### **Option #16: I Corinthians 12: 13-8**

*If I speak with tongue but have not love.*

Brothers and Sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

### **Option #17: Ephesians 3: 14-21**

*Don't lose heart over afflictions. The love of Christ surpasses knowledge.*

So I ask you not to lose heart over my afflictions for you; this is your glory. For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be

strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Option #18: II Timothy 4: 6-8**

*I am being poured out like a libation. I competed well, finished the race, I kept faith.*

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.

### **Option #19: 1 Peter 1: 3-9**

*Without seeing him you love him; yet you believe.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of (your) faith, the salvation of your souls.

## Universal Prayers

Choose one of the following options.

### Option #1

For N. who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she now be admitted to the company of the saints. Let us pray to the Lord.

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. Let us pray to the Lord.

For the family and friends of our brother/sister N., that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, especially our relatives and friends, that they may see God face to face. Let us pray to the Lord.

### Option #2

For N., may he/she be held securely in God's loving embrace now and for all eternity. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all of us, N.'s family and friends: may we be comforted in our grief and strengthened by our faith in Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

For those who suffer pain in mind or body: may they never feel alone. Let us pray to the Lord.

For institutions/caregivers: For the care givers at N. [institution name] and all who have looked after N. physically and spiritually: may they be blessed for their kindness and compassion. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who have completed this earthly pilgrimage and entered eternal life: may they see Christ face to face in glory. Let us pray to the Lord.

### Option #3

That the bishops and priests of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel, may be given the strength to express in action the word they proclaim. Let us pray to the Lord.

That those in public office may promote justice and peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God. Let us pray to the Lord.

That God may deliver the soul of his servant N. from the powers of darkness and call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints. Let us pray to the Lord.

That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed, especially those of our family and friends who have departed this life. Let us pray to the Lord.

### Option #4

In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. Let us pray to the Lord.

Our brother/sister N. was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Let us pray to the Lord.

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. Let us pray to the Lord.

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister N. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. Let us pray to the Lord.

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. Let us pray to the Lord.

### **Option #5**

For the Holy Catholic Church, for N. our pope, N. our bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they would be faithful and merciful shepherds. Let us pray to the Lord.

For the leaders of the world, that they would put the kingdom of God before earthly desires, and fill the world with the love of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are sick, suffering, or in any kind of danger, that they would experience the healing power of Christ's love. Let us pray to the Lord.

For N, our departed brother (sister) in Christ, that perpetual light would shine upon him (her). Let us pray to the Lord.

In thanksgiving for N, and the many ways in which he (she) touched the lives of everyone around him (her), memories and experiences which we now recall silently with gratitude [6 second pause]. Let us pray to the Lord.

In thanksgiving for the new life which we all have in Jesus Christ, as we all joyfully await the heavenly hope he promised for us. Let us pray to the Lord.

### **Option #6 (for a deceased child)**

For N., child of God [and heir to the kingdom], that he/she be held securely in God's loving embrace now and for all eternity. Let us pray to the Lord.

For N.'s family, especially his/her mother and father, [his/her brother(s) and sister(s)], that they feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief Let us pray to the Lord.

For N.s friends, those who played with him/her and those who cared for him/her, that they be consoled in their loss and strengthened in their love for one another. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all parents who grieve over the death of their children, that they be comforted in the knowledge that their children dwell with God. Let us pray to the Lord.

For children who have died of hunger and disease, that these little ones be seated close to the Lord at his heavenly table. Let us pray to the Lord.

For the whole Church, that we prepare worthily for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name to pass from this world to the next. Let us pray to the Lord.

## **Music Selections**

Families may choose one selection from each category.

### **Opening Song**

- All Creatures of Our God and King
- Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
- Amazing Grace
- Be Not Afraid
- Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

- Dwellers in the Holy City
- For All the Saints
- For the Beauty of the Earth
- God We Praise You
- Here I Am Lord

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holy God We Praise Thy Name<br><input type="checkbox"/> How Can I Keep from Singing<br><input type="checkbox"/> How Great Thou Art<br><input type="checkbox"/> I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say<br><input type="checkbox"/> I Know That My Redeemer Lives<br><input type="checkbox"/> I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem, My Happy Home<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lord of All Hopefulness<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lift High the Cross | <input type="checkbox"/> O God beyond All Praising<br><input type="checkbox"/> O God, Our Help in Ages Past<br><input type="checkbox"/> O God, You Search Me<br><input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings (Psalm 91)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Praise, My Souls the King of Heaven<br><input type="checkbox"/> Praise to the Lord, the Almighty<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sing with All the Saints in Glory<br><input type="checkbox"/> The King of Love My Shepherd Is<br><input type="checkbox"/> The Strife Is O'er |
|--|--|

**Preparation of the Gifts and the Altar** (Due to its brevity, instrumental music is best.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Instrumental Selection (musician's choice)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Instrumental Selection:<br><br><hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Amazing Grace<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ave Maria (solo/instrumental)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid<br><input type="checkbox"/> Eye Has Not Seen<br><input type="checkbox"/> For the Beauty of the Earth<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hail Mary: Gentle Woman<br><input type="checkbox"/> How Can I Keep from Singing<br><input type="checkbox"/> How Great Thou Art | <input type="checkbox"/> I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say<br><input type="checkbox"/> I Know That My Redeemer Lives<br><input type="checkbox"/> I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem, My Happy Home<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lord of All Hopefulness<br><input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings (Psalm 91)<br><input type="checkbox"/> The King of Love My Shepherd Is<br><input type="checkbox"/> The Strife Is O'er<br><input type="checkbox"/> The King of Love My Shepherd Is<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ubi Caritas<br><input type="checkbox"/> Where Charity and Love Prevail |
|---|---|

**Communion Procession**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!<br><input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid<br><input type="checkbox"/> Eye Has Not Seen<br><input type="checkbox"/> For the Beauty of the Earth<br><input type="checkbox"/> Here I Am Lord<br><input type="checkbox"/> I Am the Bread of Life<br><input type="checkbox"/> I Receive the Living God<br><input type="checkbox"/> Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence<br><input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings (Psalm 91)<br><input type="checkbox"/> One Bread, One Body<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 122: Let Us Go Rejoicing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 16: My Portion and My Cup | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 19: Lord, You Have the Words<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 25: To You, O Lord<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 27: The Lord Is My Light and My<br><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 63: My Soul is Thirsting<br><input type="checkbox"/> Take and Eat<br><input type="checkbox"/> Taste and See (Psalm 34)<br><input type="checkbox"/> The King of Love My Shepherd Is<br><input type="checkbox"/> You Satisfy the Hungry<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ubi Caritas |
|--|---|

**Procession to the Place of Committal** (Recessional/Closing Hymn)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Creatures of Our God and King<br><input type="checkbox"/> Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!<br><input type="checkbox"/> Amazing Grace | <input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid<br><input type="checkbox"/> Dwellers in the Holy City<br><input type="checkbox"/> For All the Saints |
|---|---|

- God, We Praise You
- Good Shepherd, You Know Us
- Here I Am Lord
- Holy God We Praise Thy Name
- How Can I Keep from Singing
- How Great Thou Art
- I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
- Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
- Jerusalem, My Happy Home
- Jesus Remember Me

- Lord of All Hopefulness
- My Shepherd, You Supply My Need
- O God beyond All Praising
- O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- O God, You Search Me
- On Eagle's Wings (Psalm 91)
- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- Rejoice, the Lord Is King!
- Sing with All the Saints in Glory
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- The Strife Is O'er
- We Walk by Faith

## Seasonal Selections

### Advent

- Creator of the Stars of Night
- Lo, How a Rose
- O Come, Divine Messiah
- O Come, O Come Emmanuel
- O Sanctissima
- On Jordan's Bank
- Soon and Very Soon
- The King Shall Come

### Christmas

- Angels We Have Heard on High
- Good Christian Friends Rejoice
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- Joy to the World
- Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
- Silent Night
- O Sanctissima
- O Come, All Ye Faithful
- O Little Town of Bethlehem

- What Child is This?

### Lent

- Forty Days and Forty Nights
- Hosea (Come back to me)
- Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days
- Life High the Cross

### Easter

- At the Lamb's High Feast
- Christ the Lord is Risen Today
- Festival Canticle: Worthy is Christ
- Jesus Christ is Risen Today
- O Sons and Daughters

### Patriotic/Nation

- America the Beautiful
- O Lord You Died that All Might Live

# The Church and Cremation

## QUESTIONS CONCERNING CREMATION AND THE FUNERAL LITURGY

### As a Catholic may I be cremated?

**YES.** In May 1963, the Vatican's Holy Office (now the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith) lifted the prohibition forbidding Catholics to choose cremation. This permission was incorporated into the revised *Code of Canon Law* of 1983 (Canon #1176), as well as into the *Order of Christian Funerals*. It then became standard practice to celebrate the funeral liturgies with the body and then take the body to the crematorium. Most recently the bishops of the United States and the Holy See have authorized the celebration of a Catholic funeral liturgy with the cremated remains when the body is cremated before the funeral.

### Do I need to ask permission to be cremated?

**NO**, but it is a good idea to discuss your reasons with your pastor or other parish minister.

## CREMATION

### When should cremation take place?

The Church prefers that cremation take place *after* the full funeral liturgy with the body. However, in the American culture, cremation often takes place immediately or soon after death.

*"Sometimes, however, it is not possible for the body to be present for the Funeral Mass. When extraordinary circumstances make the cremation of a body the only feasible choice, pastoral sensitivity must be exercised by all who minister to the family of the deceased."* (*Order of Christian Funerals*, Appendix II)

### Is it necessary to purchase a casket?

**NO**, it is not necessary to purchase a casket for cremation. The only thing required is a simple container in which the body can be transported and placed in the cremation chamber.

If you choose to have the body present for Mass, with cremation to follow, rental is an option. Many funeral directors offer regular caskets for rent, as well as the special cremation or shell caskets which you may purchase.

## CAREFUL HANDLING AND PROPER INTERMENT OF CREMATED REMAINS

### What is the proper container for cremated remains?

Appropriate, worthy containers (not necessarily expensive) such as a classic urn are proper for the cremated remains. At the present time the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy has determined only what is **not** a proper container. Although jewelry, dishes, statuary and space capsules are now being offered, they are **unacceptable** in Catholic funeral practices. It is also unacceptable to have your cremated remains made into jewelry, dishes, and the like.

## **Must cremated remains be buried/ entombed?**

**YES.** Respectful final disposition of cremated remains involves interment or entombment. Burial options include a *family grave* in a cemetery marked with a traditional memorial stone or an *urn garden*, a special section in a cemetery with small, pre-dug graves for urns.

## **May I scatter the ashes?**

**NO.** "The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires." (*Order of Christian Funerals*, Appendix II)

## **May anything be added to cremated remains such as the cremated remains of other persons, pets, or other objects?**

The principle of respect for the cremated remains of a deceased Christian embraces the deeper belief in the individuality of each baptized person before God. Throughout history, the mingling of remains has never been an accepted practice, except in extraordinary circumstances.

## **THE FUNERAL RITUALS**

### **What funeral rites are celebrated when a person is cremated?**

All the usual rites which are celebrated with a body present may also be celebrated in the presence of cremated remains. The United States' bishops have written new prayers and have printed them as an appendix to the *Order of Christian Funerals*.

The following rituals may be celebrated:

- Prayers after Death
- Gathering in the Presence of the Body
- Vigil for the Deceased
- Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass
- Rite of Committal

During the liturgies, the cremated remains are treated with the same dignity and respect as the body.

### **Prayers after Death**

This ritual is used immediately after death. The presence of the minister, the readings, and the prayers can be of great comfort to the family. (*Order of Christian Funerals*, #101-108)

### **Gathering in the Presence of the Body**

This ritual can also be of great comfort to family members and friends. It allows for a time of simple prayer and shared silence. (*Order of Christian Funerals* #109-118)

### **Vigil for the Deceased**

If cremation has already taken place, friends and family may still gather to pray. While it has been a tradition to pray the rosary in some regions, the Vigil for the Deceased is

a Liturgy of the Word service, which includes prayer for the deceased and recognition of his/her Christian life. (*Order of Christian Funerals* #54-97)

## **Funeral Mass**

### **Should I schedule a funeral Mass before or after cremation?**

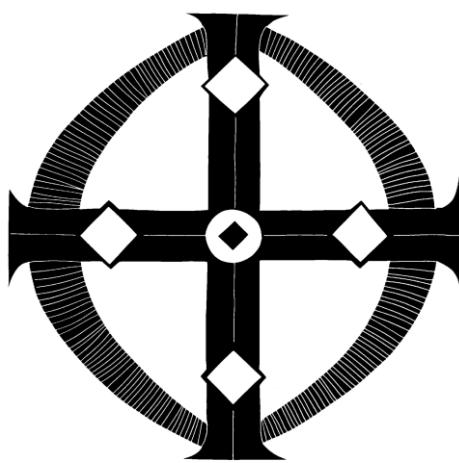
The church prefers cremation after the Funeral Mass. However, if it is not possible for the body to be present at the Funeral Mass, an indult has been granted by the Holy See which provides for the celebration of the Mass with the cremated remains in church. New prayers have been written for these circumstances (*Order of Christian Funerals*, Appendix II #432-438).

### **What happens at the Funeral Mass with cremated remains?**

A journey which began at baptism comes to conclusion as we enter into eternal life. Significant attention should be given to the primary symbols of the Catholic funeral liturgy, as stated in the *Order of Christian Funerals* and its commentaries. The paschal candle and sprinkling with holy water are primary symbols of baptism and should be used during the funeral Mass. However, the pall is not used. **Photos and other mementos may be used at the vigil, but are not appropriate for the Mass.** During the Mass, the cremated remains should be treated with the same dignity and respect as the body. They are to be sealed in a "worthy vessel." They may be carried in procession and/or placed on a table where the coffin normally would be with the Easter candle nearby.

## **Rite of Committal**

The body is always laid to rest with solemnity and dignity. So too, the *Order of Christian Funerals* provides for the interment of cremated remains (*Order of Christian Funerals*, #438).



## **PERSONAL NOTES:**

# PLANNING FORM:

This form is meant mostly for pre-planning. Parish staff will assist with planning the Liturgy. You may wish to provide copies for relatives, parish, and funeral home.

## General Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time Vigil Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time Funeral Liturgy: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Burial/Commendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon Location/Information: \_\_\_\_\_

## Funeral Mass or Liturgy

Placing the Funeral Pall on top of the casket by: \_\_\_\_\_

Opening Song (*from page 16*): \_\_\_\_\_

First Reading: (*Old Testament p. 8-10*): \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of the book, chapter number, and verse number)

(Example: I Corinthians 12: 13-8)

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading: (*New Testament p. 10-14*): \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Universal Prayers (*from p. 14-16*): \_\_\_\_\_

(Option number)

Read by deacon, family, friend, or priest:

Presentation of Gifts (maybe congregational or instrumental - *from p. 16*)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Usually two people present the gifts. Bread and wine are the only elements involved.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Song (*from p. 17*): \_\_\_\_\_

Closing Song (*from p. 17*): \_\_\_\_\_



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## SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

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25 EIGHTH AVENUE SOUTH

SAINT CLOUD, MINNESOTA 56301

Updated: 01/18/2024