

Funeral Planning Guide for Mourners

The death of a family member and loved one is always a difficult time. Please know that the Church of St. Mary's, Priests, Staff and Parish Family are holding you in our prayers. We are here to help you in anyway we can.

The following booklet has been prepared to help you in preparing to celebrate the Funeral Services. It is our hope that this will ease your mind about what needs to be done. It is meant as a helping guide. One of our parish priests will meet with your family to assist you in planning and making the necessary arrangements for the funeral in conjunction with the Funeral Home of your choice.

The Order of Christian Funerals is divided into three separate Rites and Rituals.

Vigil for the Deceased, or Wake Service

Funeral Liturgy

Rite of Committal

THE VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED (OR WAKE) The time immediately following death is often one of bewilderment and may involve shock or heartrending grief for the family and close friends. The ministry of the Church at this time is one of gently accompanying the mourners in their initial adjustment to the fact of death and to the sorrow this entails. The Vigil for the Deceased gives us the opportunity to express this sorrow and to find strength and consolation through faith in Christ and his resurrection to eternal life. The members of the Christian Community offer support to the mourners, especially by praying that the one they have lost may have eternal life.

Here at St. Mary's, the Vigil is held the night before the Funeral Liturgy. It may be held at the Funeral Home or at the Church. The family in conjunction with the Funeral Director and the Priest will determine the time and place for the vigil service. The Vigil Service is customarily held sometime during the visitation hours between 5:00pm and 8:00p.m.

The Parish Prayer Service prepared by the church will include an opening and closing hymn, the recitation of the psalms, scripture reading, a reflection by the priest, a time of remembrance, prayers of the faithful, the Lord's prayer and concluding prayers and blessing. **A Time of Remembrance** gives Family and Friends the opportunity to speak about how the deceased has touched their life. In sharing of our stories and memories, we can find consolation. Please consider sharing a story or memory during this time.

Many times in addition to the Prayer Service a Family Rosary or Parish Society Rosary is also recited during this time. [If the deceased is a member of the Daughters of Isabella, Knights of Columbus, or Catholic Aid Association the Rosary is led and recited by members of the organization.] The family in conjunction with the Funeral Director will determine the time for the recitation of the rosary.

THE FUNERAL LITURGY (OR MASS) When one of its members dies, the Church encourages the celebration of the Mass. In the proclamation of the Scriptures, the saving word of God through the power of the Spirit becomes living and active in the minds and hearts of the community. An Old Testament Reading, Psalm Response, New Testament Reading, and Gospel needs to be selected by the family. The Scripture Readings at the back of the book are the suggested readings appropriate for a funeral mass. Other readings may be selected if desired. The family is asked to select one or two readers to proclaim the Old Testament and New Testament Readings.

Having been strengthened at the table of God's word, the community calls to mind God's saving deeds and offers the Father in the Spirit the eucharistic sacrifice of Christ's Passover from death to life, a living sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, of reconciliation and atonement. Communion nourishes the community and expresses its unity. In communion, the participants have a foretaste of the heavenly banquet that awaits them and are reminded of Christ's own words: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood shall live for ever" (John 6:55). The family is asked to select three family members or friends from the parish to be Eucharistic ministers. The parish priest will be happy to help the family find Eucharistic Ministers if needed.

Confident in Jesus' presence among them in the living word, the living sacrifice, the living meal, those present in union with the whole Church offer prayers and petitions for the deceased, whom they entrust to God's merciful love. The parish priest will ask the family if there is any special prayer intentions they would like included in the funeral liturgy. The family will be asked to select one of the Readers or an additional reader to proclaim the Prayers of the Faithful that will be prepared by the parish.

The Funeral Mass is ordinarily celebrated in the parish church at 10:30.am. Another time may be selected if need be.

In the choice of music for the funeral Mass, An opening Hymn, responsorial psalm, Preparation of the Gifts Hymn, Communion song, Song of Farewell, Closing Hymn and Eucharistic acclamation will be sung. The family is encouraged to suggest appropriate hymns from the list found in the appendix. St. Mary's Resurrection Choir and Church Organist normally will be available to help celebrate the funeral liturgy.

RITE OF COMMITTAL will take place at the cemetery. The place of interment will need to be decided by the family with the assistance of the funeral director. St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery Plots can be purchased prior to one's death or at the time of preparing for the Funeral. The cost of burial plot is \$200.00. St. Mary's Cemetery Sexton, Bob Jones (320-235-6978) will also be happy to help you with the selection of a grave marker. Please speak to him concerning the cemetery policy regarding markers or grave stone.

FUNERAL LUNCHEON The Church of St. Mary's is pleased to provide a luncheon following the Rite of Committal in the church hall. St. Mary's Parish Society's Funeral Committee will prepare and serve a luncheon. This luncheon normally consists of a Hotdish, Salads, bread, cake, coffee and milk. It is helpful to the Funeral Committee if the family can suggest or estimate the number of people that may be attending the luncheon.

Funeral Stipends: The Catholic Church teaches that one of the corporal works of mercy is to bury the dead. Here at St. Mary's we are very happy to assist you and your family in carrying out the church's teaching. We are happy to provide the funeral services for any member of St. Mary's Parish family as part of our ongoing parish ministry. Should you like to make a donation to the Church for these services it would be greatly appreciated. Typical Funeral stipends range between \$50.00 and \$300.00 These are simply suggested donations. The funeral director will ask you if you would like to make a donation to the church with some suggestions.

St. Mary's Parish has also asked the Funeral Home to have a memorial envelope for our Parish Foundation Fund available at the Funeral Home for family, friends, and parishioners to make a contribution to this fund in memory of the deceased should they so choose. In addition, Memorial Mass Envelopes are also made available for mass intentions to be offered for the deceased. These and other memorial envelopes are given to the family for distribution. We are truly grateful for these memorials and other memorials donated to The Church of St. Mary's. We would be happy to discuss any special memorials with you.

Music Suggestions for the Mass of Christian Burial Church of St. Mary, Willmar, MN

A worship aid will be prepared for the funeral liturgy having all of the music selections in it that you have chosen. The hymnals that the parish uses are the Music Issue from Oregon Catholic Press and the GIA Gather hymnal. These are available to you to look over the text for these pieces. If a funeral occurs during Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter you may choose seasonal hymns not listed here. This is by no means a complete list of selections. If you have a hymn that you or the deceased would like please ask if this music is available. The person who is meeting with you can provide assistance in your music selections.

Prelude Music:

The Resurrection Choir and accompanist will select appropriate prelude music. There is also the possibility of singing or playing a suggestion from any of the other headings below.

Entrance Hymn:

The entrance hymn should be an expression of belief in eternal life and the resurrection of the dead as well as prayer of intercession for the deceased.

Lord of all Hopefulness	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Gather Us In	Alleluia, Sing to Jesus (except during Lent)
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	Glory and Praise to Our God
The Strife is O'er	God of Day and God of Darkness
For All the Saints (except during Lent)	Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Amazing Grace	Crown Him With Many Crowns
Here I Am, Lord	For the Beauty of the Earth
To Jesus Christ Our Sov'reign King	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
Shall We Gather at the River	The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Responsorial Psalm

The responsorial psalm enables the community to respond in faith to the first reading. Through the psalm the community expresses its grief and praise and acknowledges its creator and Redeemer as the sure source of trust and hope in times of trial.

Psalm 23: Shepherd Me O God-Marty Haugen	Psalm 25: To You O Lord-Owen Alstott
Psalm 25: To You O Lord-Marty Haugen	Psalm 62: In God Alone-David Haas
Psalm 27: The Lord is My Light and My Salvation-Marty Haugen	
Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful-Marty Haugen	

Preparation of the Gifts

As the gifts are brought forward a musical selection is often sung or played. This is a place for a choir selection or a congregational hymn. The choir has many options that are appropriate to be sung during this time. You are also welcome to choose from the list below.

Hosea	Blest Are They	You Are Mine
Shelter Me O God	Prayer of St. Francis	We Remember
Eye Has Not Seen	You are Near	We Have Been Told

Communion Procession Hymns

I am the Bread of Life	Taste and See	Eat this Bread
Gift of Finest Wheat	Seed, Scattered and Sown	Now We Remain
I Will Raise You Up		

Song of Farewell

Song of Farewell-Old Hundredth- Come to His/Her Aid
God Be With You, Till we meet Again-Ralph Vaughn Williams
The Hand of God Shall Hold You-Marty Haugen

Sending Forth

City of God	How Great Thou Art	Lead Me, Lord
I Know that My Redeemer Lives	Canticle of the Sun	All Creatures of Our God and King

FUNERAL PREPARATION SHEET

FULL NAME OF THE DECEASED: _____

NICKNAME OF THE DECEASED: _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ **DATE OF DEATH** _____

DATE OF FUNERAL: _____ **Time** _____

VISITATION AND VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED: Funeral Home _____

Hours of Wake _____ **Time of Prayer Service** _____

Time of Rosary _____ **led by KC's** _____ **Dof I** _____ **other** _____

Visitation at Church: _____

Burial: Place _____ **Time** _____ **Military Honors** _____

Luncheon: _____ **Place** _____ **Time** _____ **#** _____

FUNERAL LITURGY SELECTIONS

PLACEMENT OF THE PALL _____

OPENING SONG: _____

OLD TESTAMENT READING _____ **Reader:** _____

PSALM RESPONSE: _____

NEW TESTAMENT READING _____ **Reader:** _____

GOSPEL READING _____

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: _____ **Reader** _____

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS: _____ **GIFT BEARERS:** _____

COMMUNION: _____

SONG OF FAREWELL: _____

RECESIONAL: CLOSING SONG: _____



EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: (1) _____ . (2) _____ .
(3) _____ . (4) _____ . (5) _____

Call Luncheon Committee: **Call for Ushers:** **Call for Servers:**
Contact Musicians **Contact Choir/Singers**

OTHER DETAILS: