

The Rite of Christian Burial

The Catholic Funeral rites are sacred acts that help bereaved families on their journey over several days through mourning, prayer, consolation and separation from their deceased loved one, in the company of friends and neighbors. "The body that lies in death recalls the personal story of faith, the past relationships, and the continued spiritual presence of the deceased person."

Monsignor Sean P. Flynn, Pastor

St. Mark's Catholic Church

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Funeral Rites

The Rite of Committal is an important part of funeral rites. If there is a delay between the Funeral Liturgy and the bringing of the remains to their final resting place, the Rite of Committal is still prescribed. Either a *priest*, *deacon* or a *lay minister* may lead the Rite of Committal and all are encouraged to make the necessary arrangements with the Church.

The Rite of Committal prayer brings the earthly remains to a final resting place. The rite consists of Scripture, a prayer over the place of committal, intercessions, the *Our Father*, concluding prayer and a prayer over the mourners. This rite may be celebrated at graveside, crematorium or burial at sea. Concluding the rite is a final time of prayer, accompanied by a parting sign such as the sprinkling of holy water.



Forming the *Introduction to the Order of Christian Funerals*, these words explain the purpose and the structure of all Catholic funerals, whether it is the actual Funeral Liturgy on the day of burial, or a Mass for the deceased celebrated at a later time.

This brief handout is designed to help our parish families, in times that are often marked by grief, confusion and haste, to participate to the degree they wish in the commending of our loved ones to God, here at St. Mark's Church.

If you have any questions about the Funeral Liturgy at St. Mark's, please do not hesitate to call us:

Rectory: 732 449-6364 ext. 100

Director of Music: 732 449-6364

Ministry of Hope (Bereavement Minister): *Please call the Rectory*

Please know that you, your loved ones, and your whole family are constantly in our prayers at all our parish Masses and at other liturgies during these days.

Time and Place

The Funeral Mass celebrated at church is the norm for all Catholic funerals. Funerals are usually celebrated at 9:30 AM on weekday mornings. Funeral Masses will not be celebrated in funeral homes. A Funeral Service (without Mass) will only be celebrated in unusual circumstances (for example for a non-Catholic spouse or parent of a parishioner, when the family of the deceased is non-Catholic or when a Mass will be celebrated at a later time when more of the family can gather. If there is a wake, the parish will provide ministers to conduct a Prayer Service at the wake the day before the Funeral Mass. If at all possible, the parish will provide a priest or other minister to accompany the body to the cemetery and to conduct the Committal Rites.

Presence of the Body

The norm is for the body of the deceased to be brought to Church for the funeral liturgy. During previous centuries when cremation was an anti-Christian practice that purposely denounced the Christian belief in the resurrection of the body, cremation for Catholics was not permitted. Today, as long as cremation does not carry any anti-Christian sentiment, it is permissible, and the cremains may be brought to the Funeral Mass. However, Church practice insists that the cremains be treated with the dignity befitting the body that was once “the temple of the Holy Spirit.” With that in mind, *cremains are always buried, never scattered across landscapes or bodies of water*. In relation to such a decision, the faithful should not keep the ashes of the dead in their homes, but to bury them in the usual manner, until God shall raise up those who rest in the earth, and until the sea gives up its dead. Mingling of the cremains, dividing them between relatives, or a recent fad of adding them to jewelry, are *not permitted*. The Catholic Church respects the remains of each deceased person, just as it is clear that these practices would desecrate a body in a casket. The Church does allow for burial at sea, provided that the cremated remains of the body are buried in an appropriate container and are not scattered.

All of these teachings on the treatment of cremated remains of the body correspond with the Christian’s foundational belief in eternal life, both body and soul, in Jesus Christ among the Communion of Saints.

Preparation of the Funeral Liturgy

The parish staff which includes priests, deacon, music director, pastoral associates, and bereavement ministers, are able to help the family prepare the liturgy.

Scripture Readings

There are forty-five passages from Scripture provided for funeral liturgies. These are explained in the booklet, *From Death to Life: Preparing to Celebrate the Funeral Mass*, which is available from the parish. The family may choose one reading (each) from the Old Testament and from the New Testament, as well as a Gospel Reading. Secular readings may never be substituted for Sacred Scripture. It is not required that the family select texts; this is often left to the celebrant of the Funeral Mass. However, since the celebrant must preach from these Scripture texts, the selections must be in the hands of the celebrant no later than the night before the funeral. No changes may be made the day of the funeral. The celebrant will choose the passages if the family has not provided selections by previous evening.

Participation in the Funeral Liturgy

There are a number of opportunities for various members. While these opportunities are available, it is not required that the family takes advantage of all or any of them. Each family will approach this from their own sense of comfort and desired level of participation.

Celebrant—Friends of the family who are priests or deacons are always welcome to participate in the funeral. If they are to be the celebrant, or the homilist, the parish priests must be notified.

Altar Servers—If there are altar servers among the family and friends, they are welcome to exercise their ministry at the funeral.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist—If there are family and friends who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, it is possible to ask for their assistance depending on the needs of each

individual Funeral Mass. This must be approved by the celebrant.

Readers—Readers may be selected to proclaim the Old and New Testament passages and to introduce the petitions in the General Intercessions. Those selected should be familiar with liturgical proclamation, and be comfortable doing it within the context of this particular liturgy. Each reading may only be proclaimed by one person. No introductory or concluding remarks are ever added to the Scripture readings.

Funeral Pall—At the beginning of the Funeral Mass, at the Baptismal Font, after the body is blessed with holy water, the family may participate in draping the white pall, a remembrance of the Baptismal garment, over the casket.

Presentation of the Gifts—Family members or friends may bring the gifts of bread and wine forward for the Eucharist.

Altar Flowers

The parish welcomes donations of real flower arrangements should the family request it. Flowers are not to be carried in the recessional.

We recommend that the florist provide floral arrangements that are appropriate for St. Mark's.

Music

The Parish Music Director is responsible for providing music at all funeral liturgies. St. Mark's is blessed to offer experienced cantors who are available for funerals and are members of St. Mark's Music Ministry Team. Because all music at liturgy is meant to enhance prayer and support the liturgical action, no secular music is ever used during the funeral liturgy (see page 6 for a list of some of the recommended music). If secular music is desired, it would be more appropriately used at other times, such as the wake, or at the repast following the burial. *Bagpipes are not played in the church itself but are permitted outside the church prior to the start of Mass and at the conclusion of the liturgy.*

Any family member wishing to cantor or play instrumental music may be invited to participate in the liturgy and when possible will be best integrated into the funeral liturgy along with St. Mark's cantor and the Music Director. While every effort will be made to accommodate the desires of the deceased and the family with regard to Scripture and music, ultimately the liturgical norms of the Church will determine the suitability of the selections.

Please choose three or four songs and hymns from the following list of suggested music for Funeral Masses. Also select one Responsorial Psalm. The music and verses can be found on the page referenced after the title. Where there are variations of the same song, all references are listed.

Our Director of Music will place your selections in the proper order for the Funeral Mass. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jarred Tafaro, Director of Music at 732-449-6364 (cell) or email TAFMUSPNO@gmail.com.

Family Remarks

Following the prayer after Communion and before the final commendation, a member or friend of the family, *with the pastor's approval*, may speak in remembrance of the deceased. These remarks must be brief and in harmony with the Christian hope of resurrection. They must be written out, never extemporaneous. If a selection from poetry or some other printed source is used, this must be cleared with the celebrant beforehand. Lest this overwhelm the flow of the liturgy, one person only may speak. If multiple persons wish to express their thoughts, then it is appropriate to provide time for other speakers at the wake, at the cemetery or at the repast following the burial.

Offering for the Funeral Mass

The offering for the Funeral Mass for parishioners is \$600; non-parishioners is \$650. Please make check payable to *St. Mark's Church* or the funeral home that is handling the arrangements. If you would like additional musical accompaniment, such as a flutist or harpist, this fee arrangement is *not* included in the offering amount stated above.

Congregational Hymns

(H=One in Faith hymnal, V2=Voices 2,
M=Ignatius Pew Missal)

- ☐ Abide With Me H 771
- ☐ All Will Be Well H 772
- ☐ Alleluia! The Strife is O'er H 452
- ☐ Amazing Grace H 576
- ☐ Be Not Afraid H 774
- ☐ Be Still and Know That I Am God H 756
- ☐ Blest Are They M 99
- ☐ Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine H 757
- ☐ Canticle Of Simeon H 304
- ☐ Christ Be Our Light H 867
- ☐ Come All You Blessed Ones H 775
- ☐ Come To Me H 791
- ☐ Eat This Bread H 536
- ☐ Father I Put My Life In Your Hands H 240
- ☐ For All The Saints H 899
- ☐ Give Thanks for Life H 779
- ☐ Gift Of Finest Wheat H 540
- ☐ God Of Love H 600
- ☐ Grant Them Eternal Rest H 781
- ☐ Hail Mary-Gentle Woman M 138
- ☐ Here I Am Lord H 698
- ☐ Hosea H 581
- ☐ How Great Thou Art H 842
- ☐ I Am The Bread Of Life M 149 (Toolan), H 542 (Kaczmarek)
- ☐ I Heard The Voice Of Jesus H 784 (Bolduc), H 777 (Kingsfold Hymn)
- ☐ I Know That My Redeemer Lives V2 #284 (Haas), H 599 (Hughes), H 628 (Duke Street Hymn)
- ☐ I Received The Living God H 544
- ☐ In Paradisum/May the Angels Lead You H 334
- ☐ In The Arms Of A Shepherd H 782
- ☐ Jerusalem, My Happy Home H 776
- ☐ Jesus Lives H 474
- ☐ Jesus, Remember Me H 783
- ☐ Jesu Dulcis Memoria M 159
- ☐ Jesus the Very Thought Of Thee M 163
- ☐ Journey for Home H 723
- ☐ Lead Kindly Light H 770
- ☐ Lord, Let Your Mercy H 242
- ☐ Lord Of All Hopefulness H 726
- ☐ Lord, Receive Your Servant H 603
- ☐ Lord, When You Came To The Seashore H 708
- ☐ Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service H 871
- ☐ O Lord, I Am Not Worthy H 940
- ☐ On Eagles Wings H 789
- ☐ Open The Eyes of My Heart H 753
- ☐ Peace H 799
- ☐ Prayer Of St. Francis H 797
- ☐ Precious Lord, Take My Hand H 788
- ☐ Salve, Regina/ Hail, Blessed Lady H 922
- ☐ Shall We Gather at the River H 737
- ☐ Sing with All the Saints in Glory H 881
- ☐ The Cup of Salvation H 568
- ☐ The King of Love H 749
- ☐ There is a Wideness in God's Mercy M 240
- ☐ Ubi Caritas M 243 (chant); M 244 (Taize)
- ☐ We Shall Walk through the Valley H 769
- ☐ Yes, I Shall Arise H 584
- ☐ You Are Mine M 259
- ☐ You Are the Light I Seek H 773

Responsorial Psalms

- ☐ Psalm 23 Shepherd Me, O God M 219
- ☐ Psalm 23 The Lord is My Shepherd H 232
- ☐ Psalm 25 To You O Lord H 89
- ☐ Psalm 27 The Lord is My Light H 237 (Bolduc); H 328 (Janco); H 238 (Waddell)
- ☐ Psalm 31 Father Into Your Hands H 241
- ☐ Psalm 33 Lord Let Your Mercy H 242
- ☐ Psalm 42 Like a Deer that Longs H 325
- ☐ Psalm 42 Like A Deer H 249
- ☐ Psalm 51 Be Merciful, O Lord (Ward) H 255
- ☐ Psalm 84 Lord Bring Me Home/How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place H 264
- ☐ Psalm 91 Be With Me Lord H 270
- ☐ Psalm 116 I Will Walk before the Lord H 284
- ☐ Psalm 131 In You O Lord (Moore)
- ☐ Psalm 134 We Will Rest In You H 222
- ☐ Psalm 139 Secrets of My Heart H 293

Rite of Final Commendation (*Song of Farewell*)

- ☐ Song of Farewell (Old Hundredth) H 333
- ☐ Song of Farewell (Wittry) H 602
- ☐ Saints of God
- ☐ Song of the Angels
- ☐ Psalm 139 Secrets of My Heart H 293
- ☐ Celtic Song Of Farewell (O Danny Boy tune) H 598

Solos (not in hymnal)

- ☐ Ave Maria (Bach or Schubert)
- ☐ Ave Verum (Mozart)
- ☐ Panis Angelicus (Franck or Lambillotte)
- ☐ The Lord's Prayer (Malotte)
- ☐ The Supper Of The Lord
- ☐ Come Home Softly and Tenderly
- ☐ God of Love
- ☐ Take Me Home
- ☐ How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place
- ☐ Pastures of the Lord
- ☐ May The Angels Gather You To Heaven
- ☐ Gaelic Psalm 23
- ☐ Gaelic Song of Farewell
- ☐ I Can Only Imagine

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ST. MARK'S SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE-MINISTRY OF HOPE

Ministry of Hope Contact Person: _____ Phone #: _____

Deceased: _____ Age: _____

Date of Death: _____ Parishioner: _____ Yes _____ No

Member of: Altar & Rosary Society: _____ Yes _____ No Holy Name Society: _____ Yes _____ No

Contact Person: _____ Phone #: _____

Relationship to Deceased: _____

Address: _____

Date of Wake: _____ Time: _____ Cremation: _____ Yes _____ No

Funeral Home: _____ Rosary: _____ Prayers: _____ Readings: _____

Date of Funeral: _____ Time: _____

Parish Priest: _____ Homilist: _____

Visiting Priest: Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Request for Priest at the Cemetery: _____ Yes _____ No If yes who: _____

Name of Cemetery: _____

Mass Information: 1st Reading (Old Testament): _____ Reader: _____

2nd Reading (New Testament): _____ Reader: _____

Intercessions: _____

Presentation of Gifts: _____

Eulogy: _____

Special Requests (Needs to be approved by the pastor): _____

Please complete a short form about the deceased on the back of this page.

Kindly fax to 732 449-1646 or return this form to the Rectory as soon as possible.

Priest Copy: _____

To Assist the Priest

From what did the deceased die?

How were his or her spirits during this time?

Did anyone take special care of him or her during this time?

Describe the deceased occupation:

Describe any interests the deceased had:

Describe the kind of person the deceased was:

List the survivors and how they are related to the deceased:

Other comments:

Name of Person who completed this form: _____

How related to deceased: _____ Phone number: _____

Music Director Copy: _____

Social Concerns Copy: _____

Revised: 10/09