

FUNERAL GUIDELINES AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

If you are reading this information after the death of a loved one, we at St. Francis of Assisi Church extend our deepest sympathy. We will do all we can to ensure a respectful and meaningful liturgy in accordance with the rites and traditions of the Catholic Church.

After the funeral home consultant calls the parish office to coordinate the date and time of the funeral with our pastor, a trained bereavement volunteer will contact the family to set a planning time with a team of planners and the priest. During the meeting, the liturgy planners will learn more about your loved one and help you finalize appropriate readings and music for the service. As many family members and friends as appropriate may come for this meeting.

FEES

The fee for a funeral at St. Francis of Assisi is \$250. The amount covers items such as utilities, music, and janitorial time. Many funeral homes include the fee in their billing and pay the parish directly. If the fee is not included on your statement, please write a check to St. Francis of Assisi and give it to the priest or the coordinator or drop it off at the parish office. We have a convenient space for visitation in the library area with a view of the St. Francis garden. We can arrange for tables and easels for displays as needed. Any honorarium for the priest is separate from these fees.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

The parish will cover the ministries for Mass. These roles include an organist, lectors, cantors, ushers, servers and Eucharistic ministers. Our music director has final discretion for approval of music selections, visiting musicians and visiting vocalists. In general, music selections must be in our hymnals to allow participation by the congregation. At the planning session, the group may discuss having family members serve in some of these capacities.

Office staff will print worship aids (programs) for use at the funeral.

LUNCHEONS

St. Francis of Assisi parish offers luncheons following funeral Masses as long as space and sufficient volunteers are available. The planners will share general information and help you make contact with the Martha Ministry leaders, if a luncheon is desired. We ask families to pay the cost of the entrée, with the parish providing all other items. **See page 71 of this document for more information on luncheons.**

No alcohol is permitted.

CREMATION

Because cremation is increasingly common, a brief summary of Catholic teaching related to cremation is included here. For more complete information see the Order of Christian Funerals: Appendix 2 or pages 72-73 of this document. Basic information is as follows:

1. The Church allows cremation as long as the cremation does not represent a denial of one's faith in the resurrection of the body. (#2301 Catechism)
2. Even with cremation, the ideal is to have the earthly body at the church for the funeral rites. The Catholic Church encourages the celebration of the funeral Mass, within a reasonable time after death, prior to cremation. (#413 Order of Christian Funerals: Appendix 2: Cremation) If this is not practical, given the circumstances, a Mass may be celebrated with the cremated remains present. As a sign of our respect for the cremated remains, our parish offers an ossuary, a wooden box with hand-carved angels in which the cremains may be placed during the Mass, in order to give all containers of ashes the same dignity.
3. The cremated remains are to be treated with the same respect given to any deceased human body. Therefore, the Church encourages burial or entombment in a columbarium. With burial, the loved one follows the pattern of Christ, who died, was buried and rose. The Church especially discourages the scattering of cremated remains over land or water and the division of cremains into multiple containers, jewelry or novelty items. (#417 Order of Christian Funerals: Appendix 2: Cremation)

Once again, we at St. Francis of Assisi Church extend our condolences to you. If you have any questions, please call the parish secretary at 937-345-0101, and she will direct your inquiry to the appropriate person.

GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT

St. Francis of Assisi Parish organizes a GriefShare series several times a year. Both evening and daytime groups are offered. Please check the parish website or call the office at 937-345-0101 ext. 3043 for more information.

PRE-PLANNING A FUNERAL

If you are inquiring about pre-planning a funeral, please call the parish office when you are ready. We have experienced volunteers available to work with you confidentially to make note of your wishes. Once completed, a copy of the planning sheet is filed at the parish office.

Instructions for Using the Funeral Planning Kit

If you are using this kit to pre-plan a family funeral, our bereavement ministers will be happy to answer your questions. If you are using this kit following the death of a loved one, you have our deepest sympathy. We realize that the days before and following a family death can be very challenging, so please know that you have the full support of our faith community.

Included in the hard copy binder are a number of small pamphlets. You may keep any of them which are helpful to you, but please return the kit at the planning session or to the office at your convenience.

For the Mass you will need to choose two readings—one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. The binder has a series of tabs to lead you through the selections, or you may wait for our planning session to make final decisions, since the planning team is experienced in helping families make appropriate choices. You may pick a Gospel or the priest will pick one after listening to your family's stories. If we are doing this by email, the tabbed sections were sent as additional files.

Your choice for the first (Old Testament) reading: _____
Name a reader or a bereavement person will cover. _____

Your choice for the second (New Testament) reading: _____
Name a reader or bereavement will cover. _____

Your choice for the Gospel _____ -
The priest or deacon reads the Gospel.

You may choose a reader for the petitions, the prayer of the faithful. _____

You will need to choose five pieces of music. There is a sheet in the binder with commonly used selections for funerals and tabs with the actual music, in case the songs are unfamiliar. By email or online, we usually do not have the printed music. Hymnals are available at the church.

Hymn 1: OPENING _____

Hymn 2: RESPONSORIAL PSALM _____

Hymn 3: OFFERTORY/PREPARATION _____

Hymn 4: COMMUNION _____

Hymn 5: CLOSING _____

If there are pallbearers, please list their names for the program. (Six to eight pallbearers)

We need at least two gift bearers to carry up the offertory bread and wine. Others may escort the main gift bearers.

The bereavement contact is Julie Weaver at 937-344-9226. (cell)

FIRST READINGS

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,

and a time for everything 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 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 of hate;

a time of war and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil?

I have considered the task that God has appointed

for the sons of men to be busied about.

He has made everything appropriate to its time,

and has put the timeless into their hearts,

without man's ever discovering, from beginning to end,

the work which God has done.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament—Ezekiel 34: 11-15

A reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd that tends his flock
When he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so I will 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 mountain 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 stray I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD:

O my people, I will open your graves

and have you rise from them,

and bring you back to the land of Israel.

Then you shall know that I am the LORD,

when I open your graves

and have you rise from them.

O my people!

I will put my spirit in you that you may live,

and I will settle you upon your land;

thus you shall know that I am the LORD.

I have promised, and **I** will do it, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace.

I have forgotten what happiness is;

I tell myself that 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.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

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 works with skillful hands.

She reaches out her hands to the poor and extends her arms to the needy.

She is clothed with strength and dignity.

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.

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting:

the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a reward for her labors,

and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Now will I praise those godly men, our ancestors, each in his own time.

These were godly men

whose virtues have not been forgotten;

Their wealth remains in their families,

their heritage is with their descendants.

Through God's covenant with them

their family endures, their posterity for their sake.

And for all time their progeny will endure,

their glory will never be blotted out;

Their bodies are peacefully laid away,

but their name lives on and on.

At gatherings their wisdom is retold,

and the assembly proclaims their praise.

The word of the Lord.

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.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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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

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.

SECOND READINGS

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.

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To Him all the prophets bear witness,

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will receive forgiveness of sins through His name”

The word of the Lord.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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,
[love] is not pompous,
it is not inflated,
it is not nide,
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.
If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing;
if tongues, they will cease;
if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.
For we know partially and we prophesy partially,
but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.
When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child;
when I became a man, I put aside childish things.
At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face.
At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.
So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

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

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 a 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.

The word of the Lord.

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

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the resurrection of the dead came also through a 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.

The word of the Lord.

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 all 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.

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.

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.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: 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.

The word of the Lord.

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.

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.

A reading from the first letter of Saint Peter

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 you believe in him,

you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

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.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

7:9, 14-17

I, John had a vision of a great multitude,
 which no one could count,
 from every nation, race, people and tongue.
They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,
 wearing white robes
 and holding palm branches in their hands.

Then one of the elders said to me,
 "These are the ones who have survived
 the time of great distress;
 they have washed their robes
 and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
 "For this reason they stand before God's throne
 and worship him day and night in his temple.

The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.
They will not hunger or thirst anymore,
 nor will the sun or any heat strike them.
For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne
 will shepherd them
 and lead them to springs of life-giving water,
 and God will wipe away every tear
 from their eyes."

The word of 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.

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.

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.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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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."

The word of the Lord.

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.

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 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 might also reign through justification for eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

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.

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.

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 first fruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

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.

A reading from the letter of St. 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 give praise to God.

So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The word of 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.

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.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

I Paul, 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 Lord stood by me and gave me strength,

and I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat

and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.

To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPELS

Pick one gospel reading, or if you prefer, Father will choose a gospel after listening to what the family shares about the deceased.

1. Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, the disciples came to him.

And he began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

2. Matthew 11: 25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time Jesus answered:

“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the
learned, you have revealed them to the childlike.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will;
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father
except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him.”

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves
for my yoke is easy and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

3. Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

“The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.

Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold the bridegroom!

Come out to meet him!’

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’

While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.

Then the door was locked.

Afterwards, the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’

But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’

Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

4. Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him.

And he will separate them, one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or see you naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?’

And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food. I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison and you did not care for me.’

Then they will answer and say, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger, or naked or ill or imprisoned and not minister to your needs? ‘

He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

5. Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6 (long form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

At three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sebachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Some of the bystanders heard and said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge in wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last, he said, "Truly, this man was the Son of God!"

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.

They were saying to each other, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large.

On entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed.

He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

5 b. Mark 15:33-30 (short form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sebachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Some of the bystanders heard and said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge in wine and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last, he said, "Truly, this man was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

6. Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.

As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her.

When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity and said to her, "Do not weep."

He stepped forward and put his hand on the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!"

The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Fear seized them all and they glorified God exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people."

The report about him spread throughout the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.

7: Luke 12:35-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.

Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.

And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants.

Be sure of this, if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord.

8. Luke 23:33, 39-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the soldiers came to the place they called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us."

The other man, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

9. Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun.

Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," and when he had said this, he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus. After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

At daybreak on the first day of the week, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the Body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."

The Gospel of the Lord.

9 b. Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53 (Short Form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," and when he had said this, he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus.

After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

The Gospel of the Lord.

10. Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke:

That very day, the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, "Were our hearts not burning within us as he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So, they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them, who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

11. John 5:24-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:

“Amen, amen, I say to you,
whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me
has eternal life and will not come to condemnation,
but has passed from death to life.

Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here
When the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
And those who hear will live.

For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to the Son the
possession of life in himself.

And he gave Him power to exercise judgment,
because he is the Son of Man.

Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who
are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out;
those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life,
but those who have wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.

The Gospel of the Lord.

12. John 6: 37-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowds,

“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,
because I came down from heaven, not to do my will,
but the will of one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me,
That I should not lose anything of what he gave me,
But that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father,
That everyone who sees the Son and believes in him
may have eternal life
and I shall raise him on the last day.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

13. John 6:51-59

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowds:

“I am the living bread come down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever,
and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,
“How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them,

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life, and I will
raise him on the last day.

For my Flesh is true food and my Blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father,
so also, the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors
who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.

The Gospel of the Lord.

14. John 11: 17-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.

Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him, "I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

14 b. John 11:21-27 Short Form

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him, "I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

15. John 11:32-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."

But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the dead man's sister, said, "By now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd here, I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me."

And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

And the dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands and his face was wrapped in a cloth.

So Jesus said to the crowd, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

16. John 12:23-28 (Long Form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life will lose it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say?
'Father, save me from this hour?' But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

"Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and I will glorify it again."

The Gospel of the Lord.

16 b. John 12:23-26 (Short form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life will lose it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

17. John 14:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples,
“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am, you also may be. Where I am going, you know the way.”

Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

18. John 17:24-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Those whom you gave me are your gift to me. I wish that where I am, they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name, and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, *Golgotha*. There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour, the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished."

And bowing his head, he handed over the Spirit.

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus, but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately Blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified and his testimony is true; he knows he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe.

For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken. And another passage says: They will look on him whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the Body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it.

So he came back and took his Body. Nicodemus, who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH
Suggested Music for Funerals

OPENING HYMNS

All Is Well With My Soul
Alleluia! Alleluia *Not in Lent*
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Christ, Be Our Light
City of God
For All The Saints

Gather Your People
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Holy, Holy, Holy
How Great Thou Art
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Morning Has Broken
On Eagle's Wings
Sing With All The Saints In Glory

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Psalm 19: Lord, You Have The Words Of Everlasting Life
Psalm 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd (Crandal)
Psalm 25: To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul
Psalm 42/43: As the Deer Longs
Psalm 63: My Soul Is Thirsting For You (Angrisano)
Psalm 130: With The Lord There Is Mercy (Modlin)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Be Not Afraid
Because The Lord Is My Shepherd
Eye Has Not Seen
Give Me Jesus
Here I Am
Here I Am, Lord

Only A Shadow
Open My Eyes
Prayer Of St. Francis

**Precious Lord Take My Hand
Shepherd Me, O God
Surely The Presence
You Are Near**

COMMUNION HYMNS

**Christ Be Our Light
Holy Darkness
I Am The Bread Of Life (Toolan)
O How Blessed
Surely The Presence
Taste And See (Hurd)
The Supper Of The Lord
We Remember
We Walk By Faith
Worthy Is The Lamb**

SONG OF FAREWELL #832

CLOSING HYMNS

**Alleluia! Alleluia! (Hymn to Joy)
City Of God
Carry Me Home
Christ, Be Our Light
Go In Peace
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name**

**Holy, Holy, Holy
How Great Thou Art
On Eagle's Wings
O Loving God
Sing A New Song (Schutte) *Not in Lent*
Sing With All The Saints In Glory
Though The Mountains May Fall**

LUNCHEONS AFTER A FUNERAL SERVICE

Hosted by the Martha Ministry Group

The Martha Ministry Group can host a luncheon for you, your family and your friends here at St. Francis of Assisi Church either immediately after the Mass or upon your return from the cemetery.

The cost of the entrée only is for the family's expense (if you cannot afford this, please speak privately with Fr. Brian). Our recommended options are:

--- Dot's broasted chicken – 125 pieces for \$143.75; 100 pieces for \$115;
75 pieces for \$89.25; 50 pieces for \$59.99

--- Dot's Sub Sandwich Platter – (chicken/turkey,ham) (\$2.33 each)
1 tray/18 sandwiches = \$42; 2 trays/36 sandwiches = \$84;
3 trays/54 sandwiches = \$126; 4 trays/72 sandwiches = \$168

--- Dot's Chicken Tenders - 50 for \$65.

--- Firehouse also offers subs --- 20 sandwiches for \$59 (\$2.95 each)

If there is another entrée you would prefer, talk to Carol Mauro about it when you speak to her concerning the luncheon. We are flexible to order other items.

The Martha Ministry group provides the appropriate number of side dishes and desserts plus coffee, iced tea and lemonade. We need at least 3 days notice to order the entrée. With our full effort we can serve a maximum of 100 people for a luncheon. Our kitchen and working staff make this our limitation. Any count larger than this requires some conference with the Martha Ministry group.

Please let your Bereavement planner know who is the main contact concerning the meal (name and phone number are needed). It is important to provide us with as close a count as possible as to the number of attendees for the luncheon.

Your Martha Ministry contact is Carol Mauro at 937-416-2644 (cell).

3/10/2025

Cremation for Catholics

Cremation has been a practice of the Catholic Church since 1963, restrictions allowed very few Catholics to choose it. In recent years, changes to these conditions made by the Catholic Church have enabled cremation to be considered an acceptable option.

Where Does the Church Stand on Cremation?

Because traditional funeral rites are intended to honor the body of the deceased, it is still preferred by the Catholic Church that the physical body of the deceased be present during Mass. After the traditional rites of the service have been performed, cremation is carried out. There are two reasons for this practice. The presence of the body at Mass shows reverence for the body and contributes toward the belief in resurrection of the body and the promise of eternal life. For relatives and friends it is an opportunity to view the body, express condolences and come to terms with the passing of their loved one.

Changes the Church has Made

Since many Catholics find cremation to be a necessity at times, the important issue of whether or not the presence of cremated remains at Mass is acceptable needed to be officially addressed.

In 1997, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' request for an indult allowing for cremated remains to be present at Mass was answered favorably. The decision, passed down by the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, grants each diocesan bishop the right to decide whether this practice will be allowed in his diocese.

When permission is granted, certain changes in the wording of funeral rites, as well as ceremonial modifications, must be made. These can be discussed in detail with your clergy.

The *Order of Christian Funerals*, Appendix 2: Cremation, gives instructions for three different possibilities:

1. When cremation takes place following the Funeral Liturgy
2. When cremation and committal take place following the Funeral Liturgy
3. When the cremated remains are present during the Funeral Liturgy

In the case of the third option, the cremated remains are to be placed in a worthy vessel on a small stand positioned where the casket normally would be. The urn may be carried to its place in the entrance procession or may be placed at the front of the Catholic Church before the liturgy begins.

Embalming

If cremation is to take place following the funeral liturgy, embalming is usually necessary. When cremation takes place soon after death, embalming is not necessary. Generally, the deceased that is not buried or cremated within 24-48 hours will need to be embalmed or refrigerated.

Purchasing a casket for cremation

It is not necessary to purchase a casket for cremation. If the body will be present for the funeral Mass with cremation to follow there are a couple of options, a casket rental, or the purchase of a special cremation shell casket.

Transportation of Cremains

Additional care must be addressed when packing and transporting an urn with cremains.

If transportation by airline is necessary, usually there are two options: carefully packed in checked baggage, or in carry-on baggage by some airlines. Documentation verifying cremation from the funeral home and the death certificate is needed. Alternatively, cremains may be shipped through a private shipper. The standard operating procedure is for cremains to be inspected via x-ray machine.

Consider using a sealed sturdy plastic container to transport cremains on a plane. TSA rules allow for transportation of ashes on a plane, but each airline has different policies. Be sure to visit the individual airline websites for full details.

Funeral Rituals that may be celebrated in accordance to the *Order of Christian Funerals*

- Prayers After Death: used immediately after death in the presence of a minister with readings, and prayers.
- Gathering in the Presence of the Body: allows for time of simple prayer and shared silence.
- Vigil for the Deceased: This is a Liturgy of the Word service, including prayer for the deceased and recognition of his/her Christian life. In some regions praying the rosary is part of this tradition. Display of photos and other mementos are appropriate at this time.
- Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass: The journey from baptism concludes when we enter eternal life. The paschal candle and sprinkling with holy water are used during a funeral Mass. The cremated remains are treated with the same dignity and respect as the body. They are in a sealed appropriate vessel and carried in procession and placed on a table where the coffin would normally be located near the Easter candle.
- Rite of Committal: The body is laid to rest with solemnity and dignity with the interment of the cremated remains.

What should I know about the final disposition of cremated remains?

The remains are to be treated with dignity and respect, placing them in a worthy vessel for interment. Designer containers such as jewelry, dishes, statuary or space capsules are unacceptable. Remains of other persons, pets, or other objects should not be included in the vessel. As it is also unacceptable to have cremains made into jewelry, dishes, or other similar keepsakes.

Once burial rites are held, cremated remains are to receive appropriate disposition in the form of traditional in-ground burial in a private or Catholic cemetery, or entombment in an above ground columbarium niche, crypt or mausoleum. Interment in this manner allows for permanent memorialization of the deceased, as well as providing a place of visitation and prayer for family members and friends. The presence of a site marker or plaque plays an important role in aiding family and friends with the grieving and healing processes that occur with the loss of a loved one.

How does the Church feel about scattering ceremonies?

Cremation itself is not a final means of disposition as it applies to the Catholic faith. The scattering of remains, an irreversible process, or permanently placing a loved one's urn in the home of a relative, is not considered to be in harmony with the reverence that the Catholic Church requires.

The exception would be a burial at sea, in which a worthy vessel containing a complete set of remains is placed at sea in a formal rite of committal ceremony.