



PREPARING A
FUNERAL LITURGY
AT ST. CHARLES PARISH

An Aid for Families



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? And 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.”

John 14:1-3

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Christians firmly believe that through his death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has conquered death for all time. As followers of Christ, we also believe that our true home is with him in heaven. Therefore, even though we grieve and mourn the death of a loved one, we remain confident that physical death in this world is not final, and that we are all called to new life in Christ.

Many people often feel alone when they have lost a loved one. The Saint Charles Parish Community is here to reassure you that you are not alone during this time. Through our support and prayers, we will be your companions during this time and in the days to come. “Do not let your hearts be troubled,” for Christ, too, is your companion and friend during these difficult days.

OUTLINE OF A FUNERAL MASS

Introductory Rites

When the procession reaches the front of the church the remains are sprinkled with holy water and covered with a pall.

The Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading (Old Testament)
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading (New Testament)
- Gospel Reading
- Homily
- Prayer of the Faithful

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- The Offertory
- The Eucharistic Prayer
- The Lord’s Prayer and Sign of Peace
- Communion

Final Commendation and Farewell

- The remains are incensed and the pall is removed.
- The service may continue at a cemetery for interment of a casket or at the Columbarium for inurnment of cremated remains.

MUSIC SELECTIONS FOR FUNERALS

Music for Funeral and Memorial Masses are selected from the Liturgical Music of the Church.

The following is a list of commonly used hymns for Funeral Masses. Please note this list is not exhaustive and other hymns may be appropriate. A total of 3 or 4 hymns and 1 psalm will be used at Mass.

Hymns for Possible Use:

Traditional

Abide With Me
 Amazing Grace
 Be Not Afraid
 Be Still, My Soul
 Behold the Lamb
 Blest Are They
 Center of My Life
 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
 Day is Done
 Eat This Bread
 Eye Has Not Seen
 For All the Saints
 Gift of Finest Wheat
 Glory and Praise to Our God
 Go, Silent Friend
 Here I Am Lord
 His Eye is on the Sparrow
 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
 Hosea
 How Great Thou Art
 I Am the Bread of Life
 I Have Loved You
 I Heard the Voice of Jesus
 I Know that My Redeemer Lives
 I Receive the Living God
 Jesus, Remember Me
 Lord of All Hopefulness
 Nearer, My God, to Thee
 O God Beyond All Praising
 On Eagle's Wings
 One Bread, One Body
 Praise to the Lord
 Prayer of St. Francis
 Quietly, Peacefully
 Remember Your Love
 Shelter Me, O God
 Sing to the Mountains
 Sing with All the Saints in Glory
 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
 Taste and See
 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
 The Strife is O'er
 These Alone Are Enough
 Unless a Grain of Wheat
 We Remember
 We Walk By Faith
 We Will Rise Again
 What Wondrous Love is This
 You Are Mine
 You Are Near

Contemporary

10,000 Reasons
 Amazing Grace: My Chains Are Gone
 Better Is One Day
 Go In Peace
 His Eye is on the Sparrow
 Holy is the Lord
 I Am the Bread of Life
 I Am the Resurrection
 I Can Only Imagine
 I Give You My Heart
 My Redeemer Lives
 Our God is Here

Gospel/Spirituals

Come and Go With Me to My Father's House
 Just a Closer Walk With Thee
 Plenty Good Room
 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
 Shall We Gather at the River
 Soon and Very Soon
 When the Saints Go Marching In

Psalms for Possible Use:

Psalm 16 – Center of My Life
 Psalm 23 – My Shepherd is the Lord
 Psalm 23 – Shepherd Me, O God
 Psalm 23 – The Lord is My Shepherd
 Psalm 24 – I Have Loved You
 Psalm 25 – To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul
 Psalm 27 – I Know that My Redeemer Lives
 Psalm 27 – The Lord is My Light and My Salvation
 Psalm 84 – How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place
 Psalm 90 – In Every Age
 Psalm 91 – Be With Me, Lord
 Psalm 91 – On Eagle's Wings
 Psalm 103 – The Lord is Kind and Merciful
 Psalm 116 – I Will Walk in the Presence of the Lord
 Psalm 121 – Our Help is From the Lord
 Psalm 122 – I Rejoiced

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ **The funeral pall:** The funeral pall is a white cloth that is placed over the casket of the deceased at the beginning of the funeral Mass. The pall is symbolic of the white garment the deceased wore at his or her baptism. Family members are encouraged to place the pall on the casket. Either the funeral directors or a member of the parish staff will assist the family with this.
- ❖ **Liturgy of the Word:** In a funeral liturgy, there are Scripture readings that are proclaimed, as well as the Prayers of the Faithful. The family, with the assistance of the presiding priest, will choose the readings that they wish to be proclaimed at their loved one's service. Family members are also encouraged to proclaim these readings and Prayers of the Faithful at the service. Copies of the readings and the Prayers will be provided by the parish. A parish reader will do the reading if family members or friends do not wish to do so.
- ❖ **Family members are encouraged to bring up the Eucharistic gifts of bread and wine at the Offertory.**
- ❖ **Eulogies/Words of Remembrance:** If the family chooses to have a vigil service at the funeral home, it is encouraged that the family and friends have their eulogies during that service. However, if the family is not having a vigil service, one family member or friend may give a brief eulogy before the Mass begins. Words of Remembrance should be written out ahead of time. Ad lib or off-the-cuff remarks are discouraged.
- ❖ **Scheduling:** St. Charles Parish will do everything possible to accommodate the needs of the family when scheduling a funeral. Please be aware that there are certain times we are unable to schedule funerals, notably on Saturday afternoons, Sundays, holy days, and the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday).
- ❖ **Meeting with the presiding priest:** After you have scheduled the funeral services for your loved one, you will need to arrange a meeting with the presiding priest to go over the readings and music you wish to have at the funeral, as well as talk about your loved one's life (what were his/her interests, what happened during their life, etc.) Please remember to bring a photograph of your loved one to this meeting, which will be part of the cover of the worship aid.
- ❖ **Worship Aids:** St. Charles Parish will provide a worship aid at no cost for your loved one's funeral. As mentioned above, when you meet with the priest who will be presiding at the service, the priest will assist the family in choosing the readings and will ask about which music the family wishes to have at the funeral. All music, reading citations and Mass parts will be included in the worship aid. If you have special requests (ex. a favorite poem of the deceased) or any questions, please contact Elizabeth Thompson, Pastoral Associate, at 262-367-6704.
- ❖ **Music:** If the family wishes to utilize a cantor or musicians other than those provided by the parish, please contact Dr. Aaron Mathews, Director of Liturgical Music, at 262-367-0800, ext. 225 before making other arrangements.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

❖ **Candlelight Memorial Mass:** Each year, on All Souls' Day (November 2nd), Saint Charles Parish has a Candlelight Memorial Mass for all who are mourning the loss of a loved one during that year. Your family will be invited to attend this service, and you are always welcome to attend future Candlelight Memorial Masses.

❖ **Post-funeral Meal:** Many families wish to gather with family members and friends after the funeral to share a meal and continue their remembrances of their loved one. Our Borromeo Room may be used for funeral meals. The scheduling of the Borromeo Room is made at the same time when the family or funeral home contacts the Parish to schedule the funeral. In order to arrange the meal, please contact Diane Mautz (262-367-3453), who will give you menu options and fees. (Please note that sometimes the Borromeo Room is not available due to previously scheduled events; if possible, we will try to accommodate your family and friends in our Parish Hall, which is next to the Borromeo Room).

_____ **ST. CHARLES FUNERAL PLANNING WORKSHEET** _____

Funeral Liturgy Wishes for: _____

Funeral Date: _____

I wish to have: (please check all that apply)

- ___ a funeral liturgy in Church
- ___ a visitation in Church prior to the liturgy (same day)
- ___ a visitation in the funeral home prior to the funeral (usually the evening prior)
- ___ please include a vigil service at the funeral home
- ___ I prefer no vigil service at the funeral home

If opting for cremation, I wish to have: (please check all that apply)

- ___ a funeral liturgy with my body prior to cremation
- ___ a funeral liturgy with my cremains after cremation
- ___ a memorial Mass without my remains

The following are my wishes for my funeral liturgy or Memorial Mass:

(Liturgical binders are available to check out from the Parish Office to help aid in picking the Readings and Gospels ahead of time.)

First Reading: _____ to be read by: _____

Second Reading: _____ to be read by: _____

Gospel Reading: _____

Petitions to be read by: _____

The gifts to be brought up by: _____

The pall to be placed by (in the case of a funeral liturgy with the body present in Church):

Music Selections:

Prelude (Optional): _____

Gathering Song: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Preparation of the Altar: _____

Communion: _____

Meditation (Optional): _____

*Song of Farewell: Tune of "Old Hundredth" _____

*Sending Song: In Paradisum (with bells) _____

*These are standard selections included in all funeral Masses at St. Charles.

**We use Dan Schutte's Mass of Christ the Savior for the parts of the Mass.

