



ST. MARY OF THE
ASSUMPTION
CHURCH



Order of Christian Funerals

PLANNING GUIDE

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The staff of St. Mary of the Assumption Church has prepared these guidelines to assist your family in planning the Funeral Mass. We hope that by choosing the readings and music, you and your family might share more fully in the liturgy, and express your care and love for the deceased. Attached to this booklet is a liturgy planning form to plan the Funeral Liturgy. Please fill it out as best as possible and bring it with you to your meeting with the priest, deacon, or pastoral associate. Be assured of the prayers of our parish during this time of sorrow.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Catholic Funeral

The Church confidently proclaims that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death. The Order of Christian Funerals celebrates this in three groups of rites that correspond to the three ritual movements in the funeral of Christians. These three movements form one procession beginning with the Vigil (wake), followed by the Funeral Mass, and Rite of Committal at the cemetery. While this is the usual custom, options are available.

Cremation

In recent years, the restriction of cremation has been lifted. While the Church encourages cremation to follow the Funeral Liturgy, it realizes that financial constraints or other circumstances may result in the desire for cremation before the funeral services. Cremated remains are brought to the church and treated the same as if a body were present. The Church discourages the dividing or scattering of ashes. Cremains are to be buried in the ground or placed in a columbarium. A columbarium is a structure designed to hold the cremated remains of the deceased, typically in individual niches.

Scheduling a Funeral

Funeral Masses can be held any day of the year with the exceptions of Sundays, Holy Days, or during the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday). The funeral director works with the family and the clergy to find a date to schedule the funeral.

Eulogy Guidelines

If a eulogy is given, it is most appropriate when given at the funeral home. Time at the funeral home is meant to be a time to reflect on the life of the deceased. Time at the funeral Mass is to reflect on the blessing of the deceased's life from God and time at the luncheon is to focus on the relationships with the deceased's loved ones.

Ministers

Readers: We will provide readers from the parish to proclaim the readings and Universal Prayer. However, family or friends who want to participate in these liturgical roles may do so. Readers should be Catholics familiar with the Mass, and should have a good public speaking voice. We will provide you with copies of your chosen readings when you meet with the parish staff.

Gift Bearers: You may choose two or more people to bring the bread and wine forward during the Offertory.

Musicians and Servers: Our staff will contact our musicians and servers. Families are welcome to request that a family member or friend offer their musical talents as part of the funeral liturgy. However, all visiting musicians must coordinate in advance with the parish music director and receive approval before participating. While their contributions are valued, it is important to note that the primary responsibility for providing music during the Mass remains with the parish's designated musicians. Guest musicians may be invited to participate in a limited role – such as offering a prelude, communion reflection, or postlude – depending on their experience and the needs of the liturgy. This policy ensures the sacred nature of the liturgy is preserved and that all musical elements align with the Church's liturgical norms. Secular music can be played at the funeral home or luncheon. Sacred music is to be played at the Mass.

Stipends

All parishioners are entitled to our ministries without charge. We also would not exclude anyone who is not formally registered or hasn't been able to contribute financially to the parish. Some people desire to make an offering to the church. Typically, a portion of the fees paid to the funeral director is used to cover the services of the music ministers (organist and cantor) and the priest (Total \$400.00). Again, these are not required in order to receive a Christian burial.

Mass Offerings

Masses for the intention of the deceased can be requested through St. Mary of the Assumption or any parish church. The usual stipend is \$10.00 per Mass. Due to a large volume of requests, we can only schedule **4** per year for each household based on availability (2 weekend Masses and 2 weekday Masses). Additional intentions may be distributed to other parishes, to the missions, or to retired priests.

Other Donations

If you wish to honor your loved one by making a donation to a special fund or ministry, our staff can assist you in that decision. We discourage individual purchases of memorial vessels and vestments since this often results in an overabundance of items for the parish.



THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

I. RITE OF RECEPTION

During the Rite of Reception, the priest greets the family and friends and blesses the body/casket of the loved one with holy water. A white pall (a symbol of the person's baptismal garment) is placed over the casket by the family.

Then, all will process to the front pews while singing a hymn of consolation. When all have reached their places, the priest invites the assembly to pray, to be seated, and to be attentive to the Word of God.

II. THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the Word of God. A careful selection of readings from Sacred Scripture will provide the family and the community with an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their need, sorrows, fears, and/or hopes.

For your convenience, brief summaries of the Scripture readings are included in this packet to facilitate your selection. The Gospel reading is always proclaimed by a priest or deacon. You may invite family members or friends to proclaim the first reading, second reading, and Universal Prayer.

Homily

The purpose of the homily is not to eulogize the deceased, but to offer the hope of the resurrection to all who are present. Still, information about the deceased is helpful in prayerful preparation of the homily. The focus of the information should be on how the deceased lived out the gospel message. Your personal reflections will be welcomed by the homilist when you meet.

III. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

Following the General Intercessions, the Liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated according to the familiar norms experienced at Sunday Mass. The Preparation of the Gifts, which involves the presentation of the bread and wine to the priest, can be brought forward by family members of your choosing.

IV. FINAL COMMENDATION

Following the reception of Holy Communion, prayers are offered that express our trust and hope in the love of Christ, which conquers all things and destroys even death itself. A song of farewell, incense, and the prayer of commendation are offered so that the loved one may be granted eternal rest and that God's loving and perpetual light may lead all souls to paradise.



READINGS FOR THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

The first reading is taken from the Old Testament, or from the Acts of the Apostles or Revelation during the Easter Season. Please choose one of the following readings and mark your selection on the planning form. A short passage containing the main message of the reading has been provided.

1000 Job 19:1, 23–27a

“As for me, I know that my vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust.”

1005 Proverbs 31:10–30

“When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.”

1010 Ecclesiastes 3:1–8, 14

*“There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot the plant.”*

1015 Wisdom 3:1–9 (Long Form) or 3:1–6, 9 (Short Form)

“The souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them...”

1020 Wisdom 4:7–15

*“The righteous one, 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.”*

1025 Sirach 3:2–5, 12–15

*“The Lord sets a father in honor over his children...
My son, be steadfast in honoring your father; do not grieve him as long as he lives.”*

1030 Isaiah 25:6a, 7–9

*“The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces...
Indeed this is our God; we looked to him, and he has saved us!”*

1035 Lamentations 3:22–26

*“The favors of the Lord are not exhausted. His mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning – so great is his faithfulness.”*

1040 [Easter Season] Acts 10:34–43 (Long Form) or 10:34–36, 42–43 (Short Form)

*“To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

1045 [Easter Season] Revelation 14:13

*“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.
Let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them.”*

1050 [Easter Season] Revelation 20:11–21:1

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away.”*

1055 [Easter Season] Revelation 21:1–5a, 6b–7

*“I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”*



SECOND READING

The second reading is always taken from the New Testament. Please choose one of the following and indicate your selection on the planning form. A short passage containing the main message has been provided.

2000 Romans 5:5-11

*"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...
But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

2005 Romans 6:3-9 (Long Form) or 6:3-4, 8-9 (Short Form)

*"Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
As Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life."*

2010 Romans 8:14-23

*"You received a spirit of adoption, through which we say Abba 'Father!'
We are children of God, and if children, then heirs."*

2015 Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

"If God is for us, who can be against us?...What will separate us from the love of Christ?"

2020 Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

*"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 are the Lord's;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."*



2025 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

"We shall not all fall asleep, but we will be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye..."

2030 2 Corinthians 4:14-18, 5:1

*"We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus.
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..."*

2035 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

*"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."*

2040 Philippians 3:20-21

"Our citizenship is in heaven."

2045 Philippians 4:4-9

*"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything...make your requests known to God.
Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

2050 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*"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."*

2055 2 Timothy 4:6-8

"I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith."

2060 1 John 3:1-2

"See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called children of God."

GOSPEL

The Gospel is always proclaimed by the priest or deacon. Please choose one of the following Gospel readings and mark your selection on the planning form. The final decision on the Gospel is left up to the Presider.

3000 Matthew 5:1-12a

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted."

3005 Matthew 11:25-30

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

3010 Matthew 25:31-46

"...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

3015 Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6

"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."

3020 Luke 7:11-17

"Young man, I tell you, arise."

3025 Luke 12:35-40

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

3030 Luke 23:33, 39-43

*"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom..."
"...Amen I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*

3035 Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

*"Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory."
"Stay with us, Lord, for evening draws near..." "Were not our hearts burning within?"*

3040 John 6:37-40

"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 them on the last day."

3045 John 6:51-58

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven: whoever eats this bread will live forever..."

3050 John 11:17-27

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."

3055 John 11: 32-45

"Mary said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died' ...and Jesus wept."

3060 John 12:23-28 (Long Form) or 12:23-26 (Short Form)

"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."

3065 John 14:1-6

"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."

MUSIC SELECTIONS

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The musician and cantor lead the assembly in singing the response. Please choose **one** of the following Psalm responses and mark your selection on the planning form.

- Psalm 16** You Are My Inheritance, O Lord
- Psalm 23** The Lord is my Shepherd, there is Nothing I Shall Want
- Psalm 23** Shepherd Me, O God
- Psalm 25** To You, O Lord, I Lift my Soul
- Psalm 27** The Lord is my Light and my Salvation
- Psalm 42** As the Deer Longs
- Psalm 103** The Lord is Kind and Merciful



HYMNS

Please choose a hymn under each heading. A Reflection Hymn is optional. *Only sacred (religious) music may be used at the Funeral Mass. It is not appropriate to use secular music.*

Note: Some songs may be used interchangeably in other parts of the Mass. Please consult the Priest or Director of Music with any questions.

PROCESSIONAL

- Amazing Grace #645
- Be Not Afraid #683
- Here I Am, Lord #777
- Hosea #484
- I Have Loved You #588
- I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say #724
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives (DUKE ST) #527
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is #712
- Shelter Me, O God #717

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

- As the Deer Longs
- Ave Maria*
- In Every Age #716
- Make Me a Channel of Your Peace #828
- Only a Shadow (Landry)
- Only This I Want #782
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand #955
- Shepherd Me, O God #35
- These Alone are Enough #650
- You Are Mine #721
- (*Sung as a solo)

COMMUNION

- Behold the Lamb #939
- Gift of Finest Wheat #940
- Eye Has Not Seen #728
- Hail Mary: Gentle Woman #889
- I Am the Bread of Life #945
- One Bread, One Body #932
- We Remember

REFLECTION

- Angel Gospodov (Slovenian Marian song)
- Ave Maria (Schubert)
- Lady of Knock
- Pie Jesu
- Serdeczna Matko (Polish Marian song)
- She's Finally Home (Cissy McCaa)

FINAL COMMENDATION

- Go Forth
- Go in Peace
- Irish Blessing (May the Road Rise to Meet You)
- Irish Commendation (O Saints of God - Danny Boy)
- Jesus, Remember Me #510
- May the Angels Lead You into Paradise #980 (In Paradisium)
- May Songs of the Angels (Dufford)
- O Loving God (Danny Boy)
- Song of Farewell (Sands)

RECESSIONAL

- All I Ask of You
- Eternal Father, Strong to Save (Navy Hymn)
- For All the Saints #884
- Holy God, We Praise Thy Name #615
- How Great Thou Art #578
- On Eagle's Wings #691
- Let There Be Peace on Earth #829
- Precious Lord, Take Thy Hand #955
- Sing with All the Saints in Glory #539
- We Shall Rise Again #871

THE GATHERING CENTER at ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

We pride ourselves in showing you that we care in using the St. Mary of the Assumption Gathering Center. Below are the services we provide to help you plan accordingly and to be worry free.

St. Mary of the Assumption provides the following at no cost to you:

- All paper products, silverware, and utensils
- Linen tablecloths
- Seasonal Centerpieces
- Coffee, Tea, Condiments, Ice
- Set up trays as needed
- Leftover boxes for food to be sent home with family
- Set-up and clean-up

The family usually provides the desserts, bottled water, and soft drinks.

Please call our Event Coordinator - **Cindy Rozzo** at **(440) 255-3210**.

If the space is available at the time you desire, you would then select the caterer and menu. The Event Coordinator is available to answer your questions and/or concerns at any time.

We are unable to host a reception in the Gathering Center if the visitation will be taking place in the Gathering Center.

If you would like to offer a donation for use of the space, we would greatly appreciate it.



Regarding Mass Offerings and Memorial Gifts

St. Mary of the Assumption welcomes Mass Intentions offered for your loved one throughout the year. Please call the Parish Office at (440) 255-3404 to schedule a date.

Many families have chosen to honor their loved one by donating to St. Mary of the Assumption or to our school scholarship fund which supports parish students attending St. Mary of the Assumption School. These donations are far more enduring than floral tributes and provide a living memorial to your loved one through critical tuition assistance to our students. Please consider requesting donations to the St. Mary of the Assumption or our school fund in your loved one's death notice. Each gift is acknowledged by a letter from the pastor.

While acknowledging the sentiment, we cannot accept gifts of vestments and chalices.

Additionally, the church is appropriately decorated for the liturgical seasons of the year. We request that funeral flower arrangements not be brought to the church, please.

Thank you very much for your understanding.



FUNERAL INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Deceased	
Age	
Address of Deceased	
Date of Death	
Was the Deceased a practicing Catholic?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Closest Relative	
Relationship	
Relative's Home Address	
Phone & Email Address	
Funeral Home	
Calling Hours	
Cemetery	
Burial Options	<input type="checkbox"/> Body <input type="checkbox"/> Cremains (Ashes)
Date/Time of Funeral Mass	
Celebrant	

FUNERAL PLANNING SHEET

Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading (ie 1000): _____ Read By: _____

2nd Reading (ie 2000): _____ Read By: _____

Gospel (ie 3000): _____ (Read by Priest)

Universal Prayer Reader(s): _____

Presentation of the Offertory Gifts (2-4 People): # _____ Names: _____

Hymn Selections

Opening Hymn: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Presentation of the Gifts Hymn: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Reflection Hymn (Optional): _____

Final Commendation: _____

Closing Hymn: _____

Additional Requests: Bagpiper Military Honors Taps

Guest Musicians/Vocalists: _____

What are a few things you will remember most about the character of the deceased?

Other Notes or Questions: