



OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
FUNERAL / MEMORIAL MASS  
PLANNING GUIDE

We know that funeral planning can be stressful and emotional. We are here to help during this difficult time.

**Our commitment to you:**

- We will pray for the happy repose of the soul of your loved one.
- We will pray for you and your family.
- We will accompany you during the planning process and answer any questions you have.
- We will ensure the funeral glorifies God and honors your loved one's faith.

**Funeral Mass Guidelines:**

- Funeral Masses will take place in the Main Church.
- Eulogies are not permitted at the funeral Mass but can be arranged at the visitation.
- Lectors must be catholic in good standing with the church otherwise will be provided by the church.
- Funeral Masses usually have one reading (second reading optional) and one psalm. The Gospel is chosen by the priest.
- Only Liturgical Hymns and Songs approved by the Pastor can be use during the Funeral Mass. (See attached list of the approved hymns) for more information about the music please contact our Music director Scott Dixon at 404-322-5198

**Stipends and Fees:**

- An offering to the celebrant (priest/deacon) is customary. The amount is decided by the family.

**Optional Reception:**

- The Bereavement Committee sponsored by the OLSS Hospitality would like to offer a simple reception after the funeral.
  - \* If the deceased was an active member of OLSS we can provide a reception following service in our Social Hall at no cost to your family upon the request
  - \*\* If the deceased was not active member of OLSS we can provide a "Cake and Coffee reception" following the service at no cost to your family
- There is no cost, but donations are appreciated.  
Please contact Mrs. Victoria Brooks at 912-322-6857 for more information.

Name of the Deceased	_____	
Date of Birth	_____	
Date of Death	_____	
Family Contact	_____	
Funeral Home	_____	
Relationship	_____	Phone _____
Wake Service	YES _____	NO _____
	If Yes, Where: _____	
	Date: _____	Time: _____
Priest/Deacon	_____	
_____ Vigil Prayer Service <u>with</u> Holy Rosary		
_____ Vigil Prayer Service <u>without</u> Holy Rosary		

Date of Funeral Mass:	_____	Time: _____
Burial at:	_____	
Priest/ Deacon:	_____	
Organist:	_____	
Cantor:	_____	

**Eulogies are not allowed by family members or friends at the Funeral Mass.**

However, family or friends may offer these reflections at the “Vigil of the Deceased” (Wake/Visitation) following the Prayer Service after the priest or deacon has offered the final blessing. The Catholic Funeral Rites entrust our beloved faithful departed into the arms of God’s mercy and we pray for the repose of the soul of the faithful departed. We pray for the consolation of those who remain. Therefore, the Catholic funeral rites are in no way to be described as a “celebration of life” but rather as prayer to entrust the faithful departed to God’s Divine Mercy and to celebrate what brings about forgiveness, redemption and salvation: the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Any words remembering the deceased must not give scandal by pointing out the deceased person’s sin or glorifying these sins in any way.

## CREMATION

In paragraph 5 of the Instruction “*Ad resurgendum cum Christo: Regarding the Burial of the Deceased and the Conservation of the Ashes in the Case of Cremation*”, published by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on 15 August 2016, the Congregation addresses the question of preserving ashes in special urns. It states that ashes must be kept in a sacred place, such as a cemetery, or in an area dedicated to this purpose, provided that it has been so designated by the ecclesiastical authority.

Pastoral reasons for this regulation are also given: “The reservation of the ashes of the departed in a sacred place ensures that they are not excluded from the prayers and remembrance of their family or the Christian community. It prevents the faithful departed from being forgotten, or their remains from being shown a lack of respect, which eventuality is possible, most especially once the immediately subsequent generation has too passed away. Also it prevents any unfitting or superstitious practices” (par. 5).

This regulation still retains all its validity.

2) Our faith tells us that we will be raised with the same bodily identity, which is material (like every creature on earth), even though that matter will be transfigured, freed from the limitations of this world. The resurrection will be “in this flesh in which we now live” (Formula “*Fides Damasi*”); in this way, any harmful dualism between the material and immaterial is avoided.

This transformation, however, does not imply the recuperation of the identical particles of matter that once formed the human being’s body. Therefore, the body of the resurrected person will not necessarily consist of the same elements that it had before it died. Since it is not a simple revivification of the corpse, the resurrection can occur even if the body has been totally destroyed or dispersed. This helps us understand why, in many cinerary urns, the ashes of the deceased are conserved together and are not stored separately.

3) The ashes of the deceased person, moreover, come from the material remains that were part of the person’s historical journey—so much so that the Church shows particular care and devotion concerning the relics of the saints. This attention and remembrance also leads us to have an attitude of sacred respect toward the ashes of the deceased, which we conserve in a sacred place suitable for prayer, sometimes located near the churches visited by the family and neighbors of the deceased.

## ORDER OF CELEBRATION

### 1. RITE OF ENTRANCE

Prescribed Introit (Played by Cantor)

Blessing of the Body

Placement of the Pall on the Casket:

By family members: \_\_\_\_\_

By funeral directors: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. PROCESSION

Abide With Me - O C M

All is Well with My Soul - E C M

Ave Maria- Schubert - C M

Ave Verum /instrumental only/ - C M

Be Not Afraid - E C

City of God - R

Eternal Father, Strong to Save - E C

Eye has not seen - O C

How great though art - O C

I am the Bread of Life - C

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say - E C

Life has changed, not ended - O

Like A Shepherd - O C

O God Our Help in Ages Past - E

One Bread, One Body - C

On Eagles wings - O C

Panis Angelicus - O C

Prayer of St Francis - O C M

Precious Lord take my Hand - E O C

Servant Song - O C M

Shall We Gather at the River - E O

Taste and See. (Moore). - C

The King of Love - O C M

The Supper of the Lord - C

E - Processional  
O - Offertory  
C - Communion  
R - Recessional  
M - Meditation

### 3. LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading (O.T. or N.T., except during the Easter Season, it must be from the New Testament):

Person to read must be Catholic in good standing with the Church

The Reader should come to the Sacristy before Mass.

Name of the reader \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm: Sung \_\_\_\_\_ or Recited \_\_\_\_\_

If sung, please select one below;

Shepherd Me Oh God \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord is my Shepard \_\_\_\_\_

For Funeral Masses a second reading is optional.

The Gospel is selected by the priest who will preach the homily.

Homily – Priest or Deacon

### 4. PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest / Deacon \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. OFFERTORY

(OPTIONAL) Procession with the gifts, wine, water and bread: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Names of gift bearers; \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Offertory Song \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 6. COMMUNION

Only Catholics in the state of grace should receive Holy Communion and consider offering it for the repose of the soul of the deceased. Non-Catholics and those Catholics who do not practice their faith or are not prepared to receive the Eucharist by a good confession, can during Communion time come forth with their arms crossed to receive a blessing or simply stay in their pew and pray in silence.

### 6. CONCLUDING RITE

**Prayer after Communion**

**Final Commendation**

Song of Farewell - Come to his/her aid

May the Choirs of Angels come to greet you

**Prayers of Commendation**

**Procession from the Church**

**Recession Song:** \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES

**106 EAST DILLINGHAM STREET  
SAINT MARYS, GA 31558**

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_