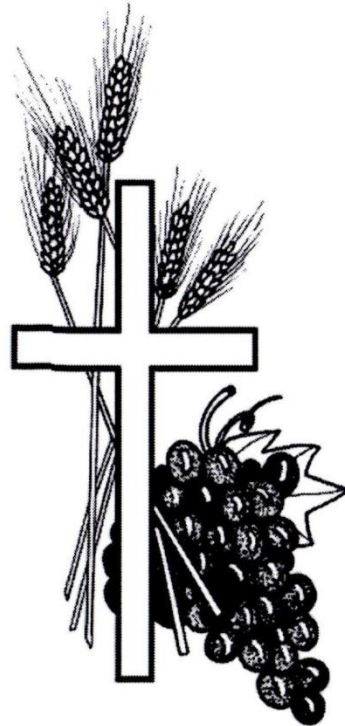


**"Into your hands Lord,
I commend my spirit."**



Blessed Sacrament Parish

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In times of grief, many families choose to designate charities to which donations may honor their loved ones in lieu of gifts or flowers.

Blessed Sacrament is appreciative of any support and welcomes memorial gifts in your loved one's name.

Blessed Sacrament Extends its Sympathy and Prayers

The parish family of Blessed Sacrament extends its sincere sympathy and condolences on the death of your loved one. We are with you and support you in prayer. May God bring you and your family comfort and consolation at this difficult time.

The death of a person is a sacred event. The event opens all of us to the embrace of our loving God who has promised us eternal life through Jesus Christ in the power of Baptism. The Liturgy of the Church celebrates the fulfillment of the promise in Faith and Joy even in the midst of our sorrow and grief.

This booklet is offered to you in a spirit of compassion and Faith as you celebrate the life and death of your loved one who has been gathered up into Eternal Life.

You may use this resource to help you plan the funeral or Memorial Mass if you wish. Please note that any selections that are not made in the planning process will be made for you by the priest celebrant or the pastoral planning team. ***Please contact the parish office at your earliest convenience if you would like our pastoral team to plan the liturgy.***

In this booklet, you will find suggested readings, intercessions, songs, etc. We invite you to become as involved in the planning as you desire at this time.

There is a planning sheet at the end of this booklet with an outline of involvement possibilities. We request that you contact the parish office to meet with a member of our pastoral planning team to go over this outline. Please submit this sheet to the priest or his representative when they are present at the wake.

The planning sheet must be at the rectory no later than the evening before the funeral or Memorial Mass.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance in any way, both now and in the weeks ahead. We offer our prayers to support you and ask God's blessings on you, your loved one and your family.

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Tonawanda, NY
Fr. Bill Quinlivan, Pastor

The Parts of the Liturgy

The Liturgy of the Church observes the death of a person in three parts:

- (1) The Wake
- (2) The Mass of Christian Burial
- (3) The Burial Rites

The Wake

During the wake, the details of which may have been pre-planned with the funeral director, one of the parish ministers will call on the family. The minister will offer prayers for the deceased and for the comfort and consolation of the family and friends. At the time of this visitation, the minister will assist the family in planning the funeral liturgy if it has not already been done.

The wake is a graced time of remembrance in the sharing of vignettes and stories of the deceased whom we honor. It is at the wake—either at the conclusion of the last time of visitation or on the morning of the funeral before the procession to the church—when it is most appropriate to share a eulogy.

This option may take various forms according to the wishes of the family. Occasionally, a family requests that a eulogy be given at church at the conclusion of the Eucharist. When this is requested, the request will be granted for one person to give a brief eulogy highlighting how the deceased inspired others by living their Faith and Love of the Lord Jesus. A printed/neatly handwritten copy should be given to the priest celebrant the evening before the funeral and approved by him.

The Mass of Christian Burial

Funeral masses are scheduled when the funeral director contacts the parish for a time that is most convenient for all involved and in view of other scheduled parish masses. (9:30 AM is the preferred time.)

The family is invited to choose the following:

- people to place the pall and other Christian symbols on the casket
- the Old and New Testament readings and readers to proclaim them
- the Gospel which is proclaimed by the priest or deacon

- Select or compose the General Intercessions and choose a reader for them
- 2 gift bearers
- appropriate hymns for the celebration of the Eucharist following the guidelines of the Diocese for appropriate liturgical music. Our parish hymnal is a rich resource for hymn selection. If a family desires a soloist or other musicians, arrangements are to be made in a timely manner with the organist before the Funeral Liturgy

Friends of the family who are either priests or deacons are always welcome to be in the sanctuary for the Funeral Liturgy.

The Burial Rites

As our last gesture of respect for the body of the deceased, the Church recommends that the body be escorted to the place of burial which is either an earthen grave, mausoleum crypt, or the place for the cremated remains.

The guidelines of the Church regarding cremation, which are based on that profound respect for the human body as the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, are included here for your information and convenience.



Suggested Readings and Intercessions

The Mass of Christian Burial or Memorial Mass has three readings from scripture: the first is taken from the Old Testament and read by someone of your choice; the second reading is taken from the New Testament and read by someone of your choice; the third reading is of the Gospels and is proclaimed by the priest celebrant or a deacon.

In between the first and second reading, a responsorial psalm is offered as a response to the reading. This is sung by a cantor and responded to by the congregation.

After the Gospel reading, a homily is offered by a priest or deacon. Following the homily, someone of your choice will offer the Intercessory Prayers (also known as the General Intercessions or Prayers of the Faithful).

If you select a suggested reading or intercession, please note the number of the reading for the planning sheet, as many Biblical references may be similar.

Once all readings have been selected, a book with large print will be prepared with the readings and intercessions and placed on the ambo (lectern) for the readers. Those chosen to read need not carry the practice copy of the readings with them to the altar.

If you have other scripture readings in mind or if you would like to compose your own intercessions, please contact the rectory to help facilitate the planning process.



Suggested Readings: First Reading (Old Testament)

READING# A-1

Job 19:1,23-26

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

READING# A-2

Proverbs 31:10-13,17-20,25-26,28-29

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 makes cloth with skillful hands.

She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.

She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. 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: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all."

The Word of the Lord.

Suggested Readings: First Reading (Old Testament)

READING# A-3

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair 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 a 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 to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.



*The Lord is my light
and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the defense of my life.*

Suggested Readings: First Reading (Old Testament)

READING# A-4

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

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 people, 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 God proved them, and as a sacrificial offering God took them to himself.

Those who trust in God shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with God in love.

Because grace and mercy are with God's holy ones, and God's care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

READING# A-5

Isaiah 25:6a,7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain God will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations. God will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces. The reproach of all people God 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 God has saved us.

The Word of the Lord.

Suggested Readings: First Reading (Old Testament)

READING# A-6

Isaiah 35:3-6a,10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak.

Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; With divine recompense he comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; Then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the dumb will sing.

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; They will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.



The Word of the Lord.

READING# A-7

Lamentations 3:22-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations

It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save. 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 I will hope in God.

Good is the Lord to anyone 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.

Suggested Readings: Second Reading (New Testament)

READING# C-1

Romans 6:3-4,8-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Are you unaware that we who were baptized in 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 the 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.

READING# C-2

Romans 8:31b-35,37,39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who 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.

Suggested Readings: Second Reading (New Testament)

READING# C-3

Romans 14:7-9,10b-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

None of us 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.

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 shall give praise to God."

So then each of us will give an account of our self to God.

The Word of the Lord.

READING# C-4

Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

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.



*May Christ, who called you, take you home,
And angels lead you to Abraham.*

Suggested Readings: Second Reading (New Testament)

READING# C-5

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

Put on [then], as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



The Word of the Lord.

READING# C-6

2 Timothy 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power:

proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

For I 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 Word of the Lord.

Suggested Readings: Second Reading (New Testament)

READING# C-7

Revelation 21:1-5

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John saw a new heaven and earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, prepared as a bride about to be married; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold God's dwelling is among you".

I will dwell with you and you shall be my people, and I myself will be with you; I will wipe away every tear from your eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain, for the former things have passed away.

The Word of the Lord.



Suggested Readings: Gospel Reading

The Gospel is proclaimed by the priest or deacon following the second reading.

READING# D-1

Matthew 5:1-12a

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

READING# D-2

Matthew 11:25-30

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: "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."

Suggested Readings: Gospel Reading

READING# D-3

John 6:37-40

Jesus said to the crowd:

"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 own will but the will of the 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."

READING# D-4

John 6:51-59

Jesus said to the crowd:

"I am the living bread that came 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 our ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

READING# D-5

John 14:1-6

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. 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."

Suggested Readings: Gospel Reading

READING# D-6

John 11:17-27

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. And 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 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 messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."



READING# D-7

Luke 24:13-16,28-35

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, 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 prevented them 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 not our hearts burning within us while 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.

Suggested Readings: Gospel Reading

READING# D-8

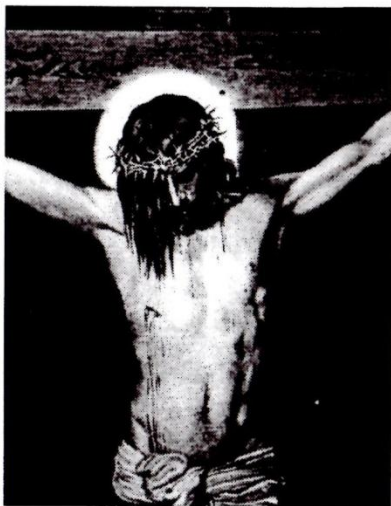
Matthew 27:45-54

Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, "This man is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. But the rest of them said, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him."

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"



Suggested Intercessory Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful)

You may select up to six Intercessory Prayers.

Please note the reading number in the shaded box (e.g. F-13).

Our response is: Lord, Hear Our Prayer

FOR THE DECEASED

F-11 For _____, who in baptism received the light of Christ, that he/she may now be welcomed into the fullness of God's life.

We pray to the Lord

F-12 For _____, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of saints.

We pray to the Lord

F-13 For our brother/sister who ate the Body of Christ, the Bread of Life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day.

We pray to the Lord

FOR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS

F-21 For all of our deceased relatives and friends, that they may find rest and peace in God's love.

We pray to the Lord

F-22 For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

We pray to the Lord

F-23 For all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.

We pray to the Lord

F-24 That all of our deceased loved ones may enjoy the glorious splendor of the Lord, especially those whom we remember at this Eucharist.

We pray to the Lord



Suggested Intercessory Prayers (Prayers of the Faithful)

FOR LIVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

F-31 For the family and friends of _____, that the Lord will come to their aid and dispel the doubt and darkness of grief.

We pray to the Lord

F-32 For the family and friends of _____, that they might be consoled by the Lord in their grief.

We pray to the Lord

F-33 For _____, whose death we mourn, that our memories of his/her life may stir in us great feelings of joy and gratitude.

We pray to the Lord

F-34 That those of us left with the pain and loss of the death of a loved one may we always look to Jesus for comfort and consolation.

We pray to the Lord

F-35 For all who cared for _____ during his/her last days and for all caregivers, that they may realize the importance of their work and feel the love and strength of the Lord in their service.

We pray to the Lord

F-36 That peace will reign throughout the world and within our families, and that love will guide our way.

We pray to the Lord

FOR THE ASSEMBLED FAITHFUL

F-41 For all assembled here in faith to pray for _____, that we may live in the expectation of Jesus' coming.

We pray to the Lord

F-42 That all assembled here to pray for _____ may live always in the expectation of Jesus' coming.

We pray to the Lord

F-43 For all assembled here to worship in faith that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

We pray to the Lord

Suggested Hymns

Most of the following suggested hymns may be found in our parish missalette (The Heritage Missal) at the numbers listed. Other hymns may be requested. *Please contact the parish office if you are planning on hiring additional musicians.*

Amazing Grace
Ave Maria (cantor solo)
Be Not Afraid
Blest Are They
Bread of Life
Center of My Life
Christ, Be Our Light
Come to the Water
Eat This Bread
Eye Has Not Seen
Hail Mary: Gentle Woman
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Hosea
How Great Thou Art
I Am the Bread of Life
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
Jesus, Come to Us
Lead Me, Lord
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Like A Shepherd
Lord of All Hopefulness
On Eagle's Wings
Only This I Want
Panis Angelicus
Prayer of St. Francis
Shelter Me, O God
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Supper of the Lord
This Alone
Ubi Caritas
Unless a Grain of Wheat
You Are Mine
You Are Near
We Remember



~ Notes ~

Blessed Sacrament Parish ~ Funeral Planning Sheet

Please submit this sheet to the priest or his representative when they are present at the wake.

This planning sheet must be at the rectory no later than the evening before the funeral or Memorial Mass.

This planning sheet has two parts:

Personal Background (below) and Funeral Details (following page).

*Please complete **BOTH** parts and return both sheets to Blessed Sacrament.*

PERSONAL BACKGROUND
NAME OF DECEASED:
OCCUPATION:
MILITARY SERVICE?
MINISTRIES (I.E. REL. ED. TEACHER, LECTOR, ALTAR/ROSARY OR HOLY NAME MEMBER)
SPIRITUALITY (I.E. MASS/SACRAMENTS; PRAYER LIFE - DEVOTIONS, PATRON SAINTS)
NAMES OF PRE-DECEASED FAMILY (HUSBAND/WIFE/CHILDREN):
OTHER THOUGHTS:

22

FUNERAL DETAILS

DATE OF FUNERAL:

TIME:

* "RELATIONSHIP" REFERS TO THE RELATIONSHIP TO THE DECEASED.