



Celebrating the Funeral Rites for Your Loved One

**St. Ann's Church
854 Midland Avenue, Yonkers, New York
(914) 965-1555 | (914) 965-0678 Fax
www.StAnnsYonkers.org
stannsparishyonkers@gmail.com**

The Parish family of St. Ann's Church in Yonkers extends its most sincere condolences to you on the loss of your loved one. At a difficult time such as this, you may be a bit overwhelmed, and probably have numerous questions as to the proper way to honor your loved one. We have prepared this booklet to assist you. We hope it will answer some of your questions and will help you prepare a meaningful funeral for your loved one. If you have any concerns that are not addressed here, please feel free to speak with your funeral director or to call one of our priests.

Reverend Stephen P. Norton
Pastor,
St. Ann's Parish

ST. ANN'S CHURCH POLICY ON EULOGIES

The loss of a loved one is without a doubt the most difficult time of our lives. We do many things to help comfort a family in their time of grief. There is one area that unfortunately often causes, not the comfort intended, but rather a conflict: giving a eulogy. A eulogy is often a powerful means of healing and can be a great comfort to a family who has lost a loved one; however, at the Funeral Mass we are unfortunately often under a strict time schedule. There may be a second funeral coming in shortly, or the cemetery may need to have you arrive at a certain time, etc. Repeated polite requests by the priest to the person delivering the eulogy to be sensitive to time and the appropriateness of content during the Holy Mass have often been ignored, which causes tension, and family members sometimes feel the need to apologize to the priest afterwards for a eulogy where the requests were not adhered to. We don't believe a family in grief should be forced to apologize for something that was supposed to comfort them. In addition, sometimes people have said things that have angered family members and caused fights. A eulogy is by no means required; in fact, it is not a part of the Catholic Funeral Ritual but is an accommodation from secular society that we are willing to permit if it comforts the family. But as mentioned above, the desired comfort does not always happen. For these reasons, we request the following concerning eulogies:

ALL EULOGIES SHOULD BE DELIVERED DURING THE WAKE, when there is more time available and more people who wish may speak than we could possibly permit at Mass. This is an ideal time especially for those not comfortable with public speaking.

Should, however, there be a compelling reason why presenting the eulogy at Mass would be necessary, we request the following:

- Please call the rectory and explain to the pastor the reason you need to have the eulogy delivered at Mass.
- In accordance with approved Archdiocesan guidelines, only one person may speak.
- The speaker must be someone comfortable with public speaking who will be well composed and therefore comforting to you and to your guests.
- The eulogy must be brief - **THREE OR FOUR MINUTES** - positive in nature, and *must not contain any content that would be inappropriate at Mass*. The eulogy should emphasize the Christian faith of the individual and our gratitude to God for the gift of this beloved person in our lives.
- A written copy of the eulogy is to be sent to the pastor no later than the day before the funeral for approval.

THE WAKE

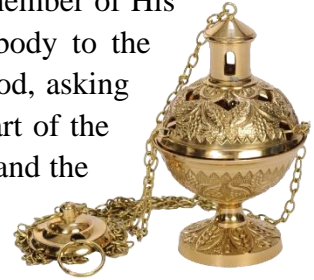
We strongly encourage the celebration of a wake for your loved one, even if only for an hour or two the night before the Funeral Mass. While the Funeral Mass is for the deceased, the wake is for the living, and is a vital part of the grieving process. It provides a powerful means of receiving the



comfort of family and friends to help you through the difficult mourning period. In addition, one of the priests will come and offer prayers of hope and consolation.

THE FUNERAL MASS

At our baptism, every Christian is clothed with Christ and is made a member of His Body, the Church. When a Catholic Christian dies, we present his body to the Church, bless it with holy water, incense it, and present his soul to God, asking Him to be merciful in judgment. We honor the body because it is a part of the full individual and will rise from the dead on the last day. Our prayers and the celebration of the Eucharist make present the saving sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and assist our loved one by providing an expiatory sacrifice for the forgiveness of his sins. It is the most important of all the prayers we offer for our loved one. In light of this belief, the proper funeral service for a Catholic is a *Mass of Christian Burial*, or a Funeral Mass. The Funeral Mass is the Church's final act of blessing for the person who has died. It is often commonly misbelieved that people who were not churchgoers may not have a Funeral Mass. This is not true. ***All Catholics have a right to, and should receive a Funeral Mass.*** A Funeral Mass should never be denied a Catholic unless there is a serious reason to do so. If you feel there is a serious reason why a Funeral Mass would not be an appropriate way to celebrate the funeral rites of your loved one, we ask you to kindly contact the pastor of St. Ann's Church so that we may discuss what would be the best way to commend your loved one to the Lord.



CREMATION



The Catholic Church prefers that the body of a loved one be buried. There are, however, situations in which a family decides that cremation is a more suitable, or perhaps a necessary, form of burial. In the past, the Church did not permit cremation because there were groups hostile to Christianity that deliberately practiced cremation so as to deny the resurrection of the body on the Last Day. Since this is no longer a worry, the Church now permits cremation, provided it is not being done so as to deny the resurrection of the body. If you should choose to have your loved one cremated, it is preferred and strongly urged that this take place *after* the Funeral Mass and not before. If cremation must take place before the Funeral Mass, the ashes, or *cremains*, should be placed in a worthy vessel. You can purchase a proper urn in a variety of pleasant options from your funeral director. The cremains must be buried in the same manner in which a body would be buried. ***It is not permissible to scatter ashes or to keep them in an urn on a mantle or tabletop.*** All cremains must be placed in a grave, mausoleum, or columbarium.

SELECTING READINGS AND HYMNS

Family members often wish to select readings and hymns for the Mass. Your funeral director has a copy of the choices of readings that are used at a Funeral Mass. The first reading is taken from the Old Testament; the second reading is taken from the New Testament. During the Easter season, it is appropriate that the first reading be taken from one of the selections from the Acts of the Apostles. While it by no means mandatory, you are welcome to have members of your family proclaim the two readings. The individuals chosen, however, should preferably be people comfortable with public speaking who will be well composed on the day of the funeral. The Gospel reading is always proclaimed by the priest or a deacon.



We will be happy, to the extent possible, to honor your requests for any specific hymns which you feel will be prayerful and will comfort you at the Funeral Mass. Please bear in mind, however, that the purpose of our song is not to pay tribute to the life of the individual but to praise the Lord and present our loved one to Him in prayerful song. Thus, all songs at the funeral must be songs of worship that are normally sung at Mass. It would not be appropriate, for example, to request a song by your loved one's favorite rock group or from his favorite Broadway show be performed at the funeral. Neither is it permissible to use pre-recorded music, such as from a compact disk. According to Church law, all music must be performed live. Our music director would be happy to provide *hymns* of your particular ethnic background if possible (for example, *Resta Con Noi*, *Our Lady of Knock*, *Pescador De Hombres*). Ethnic songs, however, which are not hymns (such as *O Sole Mio*, *Danny Boy*, *Edelweiss*) are not appropriate and are therefore not permitted.

EULOGIES

It is occasionally desired by the family that one of the members give a eulogy at the end of Mass. While we realize that this is often a powerful means of healing and can be a most appropriate way of expressing a public farewell to our beloved, we are unfortunately often under time restrictions and a strict time schedule at the Funeral Mass. There may be a second funeral coming in shortly, or the cemetery may need to have you arrive at a certain time, etc. All these concerns can unfortunately make a person delivering a eulogy feel rushed, which lessens the comfort the words may bring. **We therefore request that all eulogies be given during the wake**, when there is more time available and more people who wish may speak than we could possibly permit at Mass. Should, however, there be a compelling reason why presenting the eulogy at Mass

would be necessary, we ask that, in accordance with approved archdiocesan guidelines, the following be observed: only one person should approach to speak rather than a series of people. The speaker should be someone comfortable with public speaking who will be well composed and therefore comforting to you and to your guests. The eulogy should be brief - **THREE OR FOUR MINUTES** - positive in nature, and be appropriate to be delivered at Mass. The eulogy should emphasize the Christian faith of the individual and our gratitude to God for the gift of this beloved person in our lives. The text of the eulogy must be presented to the pastor before the last session of the wake. If you wish, it would be perfectly appropriate for an individual merely to thank those who have come to offer their support. Unfortunately, we cannot allow anyone to speak at Mass who has not spoken with the pastor beforehand.

MEMORIALS

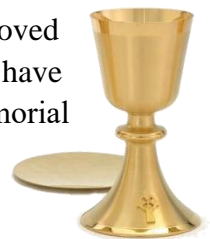


The best spiritual gift for a person who has died is to offer a Mass for the repose of his soul and the forgiveness of any sins he may have committed. A set number of announced Masses is available each year. There is no spiritual difference between an announced and an unannounced Mass. An announced Mass offers the family the opportunity to attend the actual Mass being offered; however, they usually must be booked months in advance. Unannounced Masses will be offered in a shorter

period of time, but will be offered in private.

In addition to Masses, the flowers on the altar, the candles, and the bread and wine may be offered in memory of the person. The names of those being so honored are published weekly in our church bulletin. To provide memorials or Masses, simply come to the parish office at 845 Midland Avenue. Memorials noted are available ranging from \$5-150.

It is often desired by family and friends to purchase an item in memory of their loved one. In general, we have more than enough vestments and chalices, and usually have to send these memorials to priests in the missions. St. Ann's Parish has a memorial brick piazza. You may purchase a permanent brick in front of the church or chapel in memory of a loved one in prices ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. For information, please call St. Ann's Rectory.



If you wish to make a donation to the church in your loved one's memory or if your loved one has requested that you do so, please call the pastor and speak with him. There are a variety of ways to leave money to the Church; thus, you may inadvertently make a type of donation that you did not intend. By contacting the pastor before making a bequest, you can assure that your donation is applied in the manner in which you intend.

Funeral Liturgy Arrangement Form
St. Ann's Church
Chapel, Rectory & Parish Office: 854 Midland Avenue
Main Church: 31 College Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10704

(914) 965-1555 Fax: (914) 965-0678 stannsparishyonkers@gmail.com

If you wish to make any requests for hymns, readings, or for volunteers to participate in the Funeral Mass, kindly complete this sheet and return it to Funeral Director or the Rectory as soon as possible **(no later than the day before the Mass, between the hours of 9AM and 4PM)**. Please note that Eulogies are NOT permitted at the Funeral Mass.

Name of Deceased

Date / Time of Funeral

Funeral Home

Director

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading,
Old Testament

Read by

Second Reading,
New Testament

Read by

HYMNS: MUST be religious music suitable for a Mass; see attached suggestions.

Processional

Offertory

Communion

Recessional

OFFERTORY PROCESSION: 2-3 people to present bread and wine.

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID

Number of people in procession.

**Suggested Hymns for Funeral Masses
St. Ann's Church**

Abide With Me
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Alleluia! The Strife is O'er
Amazing Grace
Ave Maria
Be Not Afraid
Beautiful Savior
Blest Are They
Come To Me
Day is Done
Eat This Bread
Eye Has Not Seen
Faith of Our Fathers
For All the Saints
Gift of Finest Wheat
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Here I Am, Lord
Hosea
How Can I Keep From Singing?
How Great Thou Art
I Am the Bread of Life
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Irish Blessing
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Lift High the Cross
Lord of All Hopefulness
O God Our Help in Ages Past

O Lord, I Am Not Worthy
On Eagle's Wings
One Bread, One Body
Only This I Want
Our Lady of Knock
Panis Angelicus
Prayer of St. Francis
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Shelter Me, O God
Shepherd Me, O God
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King
We Have Been Told
We Walk By Faith
You Are Mine
You Are Near

Easter Season:

Alleluia! Ye Sons and Daughters
Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain
Jesus Christ is Risen Today
Any other Easter hymn is appropriate

Italian Hymns:

Mira il Tuo Popolo
Resta Con Noi
T'Adoriam', Ostia Divina
Ti Salutiam' O Vergine
Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle
(during Christmas season)