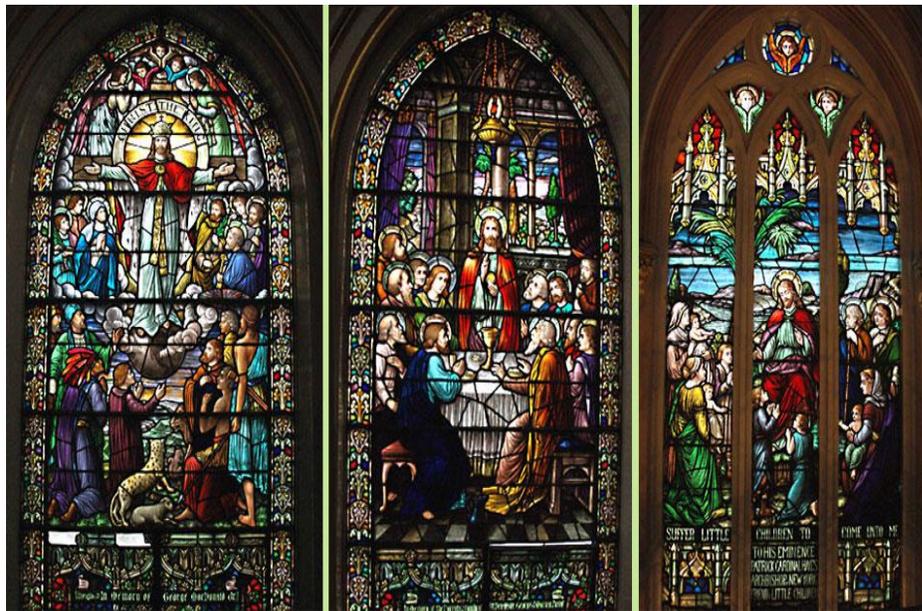


MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Preparation Booklet



St. Joseph's Church

95 Plum Brook Road
Somers, New York, 10589
www.stjosephsomers.org
(914) 232-2910
(914) 232-2912 (fax)

PASTORAL STAFF:

Fr. John M. Lagiovane, Pastor
Fr. Matthew Breslin, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Jude Aguwa, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Lawrence Battersby
Sub-Deacon Michel Rabbah, MCR
Mr. Kyle Mange, Director of Sacred Music

Dear Friend,

The family of faith that is St. Joseph's Church, offers to you and your family our sincerest love and sympathy during this most difficult time. The loss of a loved one is never easy, so please know that our parish family is praying that our Heavenly Father may send His Holy Spirit to strengthen and console you in your grief.

Though you are brought together by death, the Funeral Mass surrounds us with the symbols of resurrection and new life. In this way, Holy Mother Church reminds us that in Jesus' victory over death lies our assured hope of eternal life.

Just as our deceased loved one was once brought to the saving waters of Baptism, you now bring them for burial. Just as the family of the deceased participated in the Rite of Baptism, you now have the opportunity to participate in their burial. We invite and encourage you to participate as much as possible in this preparation for, and in the celebration of, the Funeral Mass. It is completely understandable if you would prefer not to do this, and if so, we will do it for you. You might like to meet with the priest or deacon to help you in planning the Mass. Please know that the priests of St. Joseph's Church will be available to assist you in the planning process.

If you choose to participate in the planning of the Funeral Mass, we offer this booklet as a help to you. Please review the following pages and select readings and music that are meaningful to you in light of the life of your loved one.

Please know that we are here to support you in any way possible, not only during this most difficult time, but also in the days and weeks ahead. Please do not hesitate to call on us if there is anything we can do for you.

With our prayers, love and sympathy,

The Parish Family of St. Joseph's Church

GENERAL REFLECTIONS:

At the funerals of its children, the Church confidently celebrates Christ's Paschal Mystery. Its intention is that those who were made one with Christ in Baptism may also pass from death to life with Him. In soul, they are to be cleansed from earthly sin and taken up into heaven with the saints and the elect; in body, they await the blessed hope of Christ's coming and the resurrection of the dead.

The body of the deceased Catholic Christian is the body that was once washed in Baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the Bread of Life. Although cremation is now permitted, the Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the Funeral Mass, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values that the Church affirms in those rites. At the Funeral Mass, the Church pours forth prayers and petitions for the deceased. Because of the communion of all of Christ's members with each other, all of these things bring spiritual aid to the dead and the consolation of hope to the living.

FEES:

Church Offering - \$400.00

Organist - \$250.00

Soloist - \$175.00

Other fees may apply for additional services or requests.

PREPARATION FOR FUNERAL MASS:

Readings

Using the selections in the booklet provided (*Through Death to Life*), please choose a First Reading and a Second Reading. These selections should reflect some aspect of the life of the deceased, or should have some particular meaning to you. Please indicate the passages selected on the FUNERAL MASS PLANNER sheet provided.

Music

Music is an integral part of Catholic worship and is designed to enhance the prayer at mass. Secular music (popular songs, show tunes, etc.) is not appropriate during a Funeral Mass and is not permitted. Please refer to the Guidelines for selecting Liturgical Music for the Mass of Christian Burial found on the reverse side of the FUNERAL MASS PLANNER sheet. Select a piece from that list. (You may indicate that all music is to be selected by the Director of Sacred Music.) Additional selections (not included on that sheet) may be made from the parish hymnal. Music selections will be played at the appropriate rite during the Funeral Mass. Be sure to complete the Music Section on the FUNERAL MASS PLANNER sheet with your hymn selection. Saint Joseph's Church has an organist/cantor on our parish staff, therefore outside musicians are not permitted. Questions regarding sacred music or special requests should be addressed in advance with the Director of Sacred Music at 917-685-4945 or by E-mail at Sjmusic70@gmail.com

EULOGIES/ WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE:

Please be advised that Eulogies/ Words of Remembrance are NOT permitted during the Funeral Liturgy.

The practice of eulogies at Catholic funerals is officially discouraged. In the General Introduction to the Order of Christian Funerals, we are told that a homily is to be given, "but there is never to be a eulogy" (no.27). By a eulogy is meant an elongated narration of the human achievements and qualities of the deceased person. Certainly, homilies have to have a personal quality and the homilist has to connect the readings to the life and death of the deceased. The primary emphasis is always, however on the readings and the symbols of the funeral rite—and most of all on the Cross and resurrection of Christ.

There is certainly a place for the whole genre of presentations that fall under the heading of a eulogy, and this is outside the Funeral Mass, notably at the end of the funeral vigil. The church prescribes that before the end of the vigil, "a member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased" (no.80). Also, when the vigil is completed, there is a place for additional talks. Another obvious place for eulogies about the deceased is at gravesite or the luncheon that generally follows the funeral.

The rationale is that eulogies are often considered the centerpiece of the service, and therefore detract from the mass and its central message, which is the Christian meaning of death.

PARTICIPATION IN THE FUNERAL MASS:

Pallbearers

It is customary that family members and/or friends of the deceased serve as pallbearers at the church. This matter should be arranged directly with your funeral director.

Entrance into the Church

The Rite of Reception takes place in the narthex of the Church. Following the greeting, the coffin is sprinkled with holy water, reminding us of the waters of Baptism. The funeral pall is then placed on the coffin. This white cloth over the coffin reminds us of the white garment that was given at Baptism as a sign of the new life of grace entered into at that time. Just as family members clothed the infant in the new white garment at Baptism, it is appropriate that family members place the funeral pall on the coffin at this time, and we invite you to do so. If you choose to place the pall, please let the priest know before the beginning of the Funeral Mass.

Holy Communion

Only Roman Catholics in the state of grace should receive Holy Communion. Non-Catholics and those unable to receive are invited to take this time to pray for the repose of the soul of the deceased in this difficult time.

Cremation

While the Catholic Church continues to stress the preference for burial or entombment of the body of a deceased, cremation is permitted by the Catholic Church.

With this said, the cremains (ashes) are to be treated with the same respect and dignity of a full body. The cremains of a loved one need to be buried or interred as soon as possible after a Funeral Mass. Cremains should never be displayed or stored in an urn at home or sprinkled over land or water, nor may they be divided among family members and friends. Just as the body is reverently buried, so should the remains be buried reverently with the prayer of the Church. Please speak with one of the parish priests if you have any questions.

St. Joseph's Church FUNERAL MASS PLANNER:

To be completed and returned to Funeral Director at time of Wake.

Deceased: _____

Mass Date / Time: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Biographical Notes about your Loved One

Entrance into the Church: Placing of the Pall: _____

Readings:

First Reading: C - Old Testament _____

Reader: _____

Second Reading: E -New Testament _____

Reader: _____

Sacred Music / Hymn:

Selection: _____

- Check here to indicate your preference to have the Director of Sacred Music make the music selection(s).

Initials: _____

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Liturgical Music for the Mass of Christian Burial



Here are the guidelines for choosing the music for a Funeral Mass:

Select a piece from the list below. (You may indicate that all music is to be selected by the Director of Sacred Music.) Additional selections (not included on the list below) may be made from the parish hymnal. Music will be played at the appropriate liturgical rite during the Funeral Mass. Please complete the FUNERAL MASS PLANNER sheet on the reverse side of this sheet. *This sheet must be completed and returned to the Funeral Director at the time of the Wake.*

If you are planning to prepare a printed program for the Funeral Mass, kindly email a copy of such printed program to the Director of Sacred Music for review at least a day before the mass. A sample template is available for your use by request and on the parish website. Questions regarding the music or requests for additional instrumentalists/soloists should be addressed in advance as well, to the Director of Sacred Music at 917-685-4945 or by E-mail at Sjmusic70@gmail.com.

SUGGESTED MUSIC SELECTIONS:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| "Abide With Me" | "Lord of All Hopefulness" |
| "All Creatures of our God and King" | "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" |
| "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" | "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" |
| "Amazing Grace" | "O God Beyond All Praising" |
| "Ave Maria" (various composers) | "O God Our Help in Ages Past" |
| "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" | "O Rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn) |
| "Crown Him With Many Crowns" | "Panis Angelicus" (various composers) |
| "The Day of Resurrection" | "Pie Jesu" (various composers) |
| "Dwellers in the Holy City" | "Praise My Soul the King of Heaven" |
| "For All the Saints" | "Prayer of St. Francis" |
| "I Am the Bread of Life" (Toolan) | "Rejoice the Lord is King" |
| "I Heard the Voice of Jesus" | "Saints of God" (Marier) |
| "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" | "Shepherd of Souls" |
| "In Paradisum" (Plain Chant) | "Sing With All the Saints in Glory" |
| "Jerusalem My Happy Home" | "The Strife is O'er" (Palestrina) |
| "Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring" | "To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King" |
| "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" | "What Wondrous Love is This" |
| "Jesus My Lord, My God, My All" | "Whatsoever You Do" (Jabusch) |
| "The King of Love" | "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" |