

## + The Funeral Liturgy at Saint Peter Church +

These guidelines are offered to help in planning a funeral liturgy, either in advance of or after the loss of a loved one. The liturgy for a Catholic's funeral is the *Eucharist (Mass)*. For pastoral reasons, *The Liturgy of the Word with Final Commendation* may be celebrated, which omits the celebration of the *Eucharist*. At the invitation of our Pastor, ministers from other religious traditions may be able to assist, if the deceased or next-of-kin have a personal relationship with other ministers. You may invite relatives and friends to serve in the roles of Lector, Gift Bearer, Eucharistic Minister, Cantor, Greeter, or Pall Bearer.

In the liturgy, the choice of scriptures, hymns, and prayers allow us to not only pray for the deceased, but recall his/her personal devotions and faith journey. Appropriate readings from scripture are listed in this booklet's insert; texts are available at: [www.USCCB.org](http://www.USCCB.org). Sometimes the deceased has indicated preferences for certain scripture passages, favorite hymns or other musical settings. A Bible belonging to the deceased may reveal favorite passages or prayers. More often, another person must make these choices. Our parish staff is here to help in all these matters.

Music is an integral part of the Roman Catholic liturgy. Our parish Director of Music will advise in making appropriate selections that encourage those present to participate. An *Order of Service* is printed; names of ministers, family members, and information about the deceased may be included, along with hymns, service music and scriptures. A Funeral Liturgy Outline is found inside this brochure for planning purposes.

Please contact the Parish Office before setting the time for a funeral.

The presence of friends can give great support to those in mourning. Late afternoon, early evening, or a Saturday may allow more people to attend; parking is more available as well. Some cemeteries have requirements on times available for interment.

### Visitation and Reception

With prior arrangement and permission of the Pastor, gatherings with the family may take place at the church before or after the funeral. This will be discussed further if it is desired.

### Cremation ~ Use of St. Peter Columbarium

The Roman Catholic Church permits cremation, with proper interment of the ashes. Our Columbarium has available niches; more information is available from the Parish Office.

When there will be no remains present at the church, a Memorial Mass or Liturgy is offered.

There is no cost for the use of the Church facilities for a funeral, although a donation is most welcome. It is customary to give a stipend to the officiating Priest/Deacon. Stipends for musicians are handled by our Director of Music, and customarily range from \$150-\$175 each.

Parking information may be found at: <http://www.stpeterchurch.org/parking-at-st-peter/>

The Clergy and Staff of Saint Peter Church wish to support you and your family before, during and after the loss of a loved one. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions or concerns, or desire to discuss funeral arrangements.

Saint Peter Church + 190 Adams + Memphis, Tennessee 38103  
Telephone: 901-527-8282 Fax: 901-526-6882

Music is an important element of worship, and our Hymnal contains a wide selection of sung prayer. Texts that reflect faith in God and hope in the Resurrection are most appropriate. Familiar melodies allow for better participation. Suggestions include:

#### **HYMNS**

Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er  
For All the Saints  
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today  
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
All Creatures of Our God & King  
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name  
How Great Thou Art  
I Call You to My Father's House  
O God, Our Help In Ages Past  
May the Angels Lead You  
Eye Has Not Seen

Prayer of Saint Francis  
The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say  
Amazing Grace  
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!  
God of Love  
Jesus, Lord, Have Mercy  
Be Not Afraid  
Blest Are They  
Keep In Mind  
Precious Lord

#### **PSALMS** (*most require a solo Cantor to sing*)

My Shepherd Is the Lord/Ps. 23  
My Soul Is Longing/Ps 131  
Here I Am, Lord/Ps. 40  
On Eagles' Wings/Ps. 91

You Are Near/Ps. 139  
The Lord Is My Light/Ps. 27  
Shepherd Me, O God/Ps. 23

Other choices may include instrumental and vocal solos, such as *Ave Maria*, *Panis Angelicus*, among others. Our Director of Music can guide you in planning a liturgy that reflects the faith of the deceased, while allowing family and friends (usually from a variety of religious traditions) to participate more fully in the worship service.

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## **Funeral Liturgy - Planning Outline**

- \* *Musical portions of the liturgy*

### **GREETING AT THE CHURCH DOOR**

*All face the church doors as the Ministers greet the family. The Sacrament of Baptism is recalled in the sprinkling of the casket with holy water and placing of a white pall. This ritual is omitted when cremation has been chosen; the ashes are usually placed in a suitable container, then set on a table in front of the altar before the liturgy begins.*

- \* **HYMN** \_\_\_\_\_

*A strong hymn of faith unites the voices of those present into one prayer*

### **PLACEMENT OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOL** (*optional*)

### **COLLECT**

~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

FIRST READING \_\_\_\_\_ read by: \_\_\_\_\_

- \* RESPONSORIAL PSALM \_\_\_\_\_ sung by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Preferably sung by the Congregation with the assistance of a Cantor*

SECOND READING \_\_\_\_\_ read by: \_\_\_\_\_

- \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION \_\_\_\_\_ sung by: \_\_\_\_\_

GOSPEL READING \_\_\_\_\_ read by: \_\_\_\_\_

HOMILY *preached by:* \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (Prayers of the Faithful)  
*Particular concerns or names to be included:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ *led by:* \_\_\_\_\_

If Mass is not celebrated: continue with the Lord's Prayer, and then Final Commendation

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

- \* PREPARATION OF GIFTS (Offertory) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Bread and wine may be presented by Gift Bearers chosen by the family.  
A hymn or other music may accompany this action.*

- \* MASS ORDINARY (Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, Agnus Dei)  
*These texts are to be sung by all present; familiar settings will be suggested*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*This prayer held in common by all Christians is usually recited*

- \* COMMUNION \_\_\_\_\_  
*Music may include congregational song, vocal solo, or instrumental selection*

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

*Brief remarks may be offered by a relative or friend, or a letter may be read.*

~ FINAL COMMENDATION ~

(omitted at a Memorial Mass or Liturgy when there are no remains present)

- \* SONG OF FAREWELL \_\_\_\_\_  
*A response, such as "May the Angels Lead You", is sung during the incensing.*

- \* PROCESSION/CLOSING HYMN \_\_\_\_\_  
*A hymn may be sung or instrumental music played as the procession leaves the Altar.*

**Funeral Arrangements for:**

*(please print clearly)*

Name (full legal name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date / Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Person authorized to handle arrangements: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Wishes regarding burial / cremation \_\_\_\_\_

~ LITURGY ~

Vigil Service location / time \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral date / time (*contact Parish Office before setting*) \_\_\_\_\_

Visitation / Reception (pre / post-liturgy) \_\_\_\_\_

**Persons to be invited to serve in the Liturgy (if available)**

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

Lectors \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Bearers \_\_\_\_\_

Eucharistic Ministers \_\_\_\_\_

Cantor / Organist / other musicians \_\_\_\_\_

Words of Remembrance (speaker) \_\_\_\_\_

Greeters \_\_\_\_\_

Pall bearers (not needed with cremation) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Altar Server \_\_\_\_\_

Altar Flowers to be provided? \_\_\_\_\_

*(Sprays are not used in sanctuary; they may be placed in the parish hall if a reception is held)*

Photograph display / other memorabilia to display: \_\_\_\_\_

Information for Order of Service (see suggested music titles and scriptures inside booklet)

\_\_\_\_\_

Memorials to \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Copy and send to St. Peter Church, funeral home, family contacts*

(Revised February 2018)