

Funeral Planning Guide

DIVINE SAVIOUR CHURCH

SAINT ANN CHURCH

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My Dear Friends,

The death of a loved one is a sad and difficult moment in each of our lives. We know this and want to be especially present to you through our prayers and pastoral support during this time of sorrow. The priests, staff and community of Divine Saviour and St. Ann are here to help. In making funeral arrangements at Divine Saviour and St. Ann, we ask the following:

- Speak with our office staff to select a time for Mass. Once a priest has been contacted and a time selected, if you would like to meet with a Priest. We can schedule an appointment prior to the Funeral Liturgy.
- Ordinarily, the priests at Divine Saviour of St. Ann preside at funerals here. You are free to ask either of our priests to preside. Occasionally, families request a relative to preside. Priests must have full archdiocesan faculties in order to preside and must be able to commit to all the religious aspects of the funeral so that details are not left unattended. Please contact me to discuss the possibility of visiting clergy presiding.

We look forward to extending a warm welcome to you and ministering to you if you would like to have a funeral at Divine Saviour and St. Ann. May God bless you in this special time of need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Albert Pragasam, OSM , Pastor

Roman Catholic Funeral Rites

The Vigil:

At the Vigil the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer. The vigil may be celebrated in the mortuary or the parish church. The vigil is led by a priest, deacon, or trained lay person. In the Vigil service the Word of God in scripture provides comfort and hope in the face of darkness and death. The Rosary, or a portion of it, may be included in the vigil service, or may be recited by the family at another time.

The Funeral Liturgy

The Roman Catholic Church encourages the celebration of the mass, as the central celebration for the deceased. The priest presides at the mass. When Mass cannot be celebrated, the Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass is used. A deacon or layperson may lead this Rite. The Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass may be used for various reasons: (1) on certain Holy Days during the year when the Funeral Mass is not permitted, (2) when a priest is not available, (3) when the pastor and the family judge that it is more suitable form of celebration, such as when some of those participating are not catholic.

The usual place for the celebration of the Roman Catholic Funeral Mass is at the parish church. When there are special circumstances and serious pastoral necessity, your pastor may decide to celebrate the Funeral Mass at the Mortuary Chapel. The Funeral Director will first consult with your Parish before finalizing your plans to determine the best times and locations for the service you select. Sensitivity to the parish calendar needs to be taken into account in scheduling the services.

The Committal:

The Rite of Committal is the conclusion of the funeral rites. It is led by a priest, deacon, or trained layperson. Whenever possible, it is celebrated at the site of committal, that is, beside the grave, crypt, or niche. The community expresses hope that the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection. The deceased passes with the farewell prayer of the

community of believers into the welcoming company of those who see God face to face.

Remembrance:

The Vigil service is the appropriate time for a member of the family or a friend of the deceased to speak in remembrance of the deceased. This sharing may take the form of a eulogy, sharing of memories, or reading of a poem or letter. In some instances, a brief eulogy of 3-5 minutes may be allowed at the Funeral Mass after communion.

Music for the Funeral Rite:

Live music and singing are encouraged for the Vigil and Funeral Mass. The responsorial psalm, acclamations of the Mass and the appropriate Christian hymns may be sung. Recorded music, folk songs and other types of secular music are not appropriate for mass.

Funeral pall, Casket Spray, and National Flag:

It is customary to place a pall over the casket during the Funeral Mass. The pall is a white cloth, which is a reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased and is a sign of the Christian dignity of the person. Christian symbols may rest on or be placed near the casket as a reminder that the Christian is marked by the cross in baptism and through Jesus' suffering on the cross is brought to the victory of his resurrection. A bible may be placed on casket as a sign that Christians live by the word of God and that fidelity to that word leads to eternal life. If there is a casket spray of flowers or a national flag it is removed for the funeral liturgy. The casket spray or flag may be replaced when the casket leaves the chapel and the funeral pall has been removed.

Viewing:

If a viewing has been arranged as part of the funeral services it is done during the vigil or concluded before the Funeral Mass begins. The final closing of the casket takes place before the Funeral Mass. The casket is not reopened after the mass or in the cemetery.

Cremation:

Since 1963 the Church has permitted cremation. The Church strongly prefers that cremation take place after the full funeral liturgy with the body. However, when this is not possible it is appropriate that the cremated remains be present for the funeral rites. An appropriate worthy container is used for the cremated remains which are buried in a family grave or entombed in a niche at the cemetery. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air or on the ground or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not reverent disposition that the church requires

Texts of Sacred Scripture

There is one reading and a responsorial psalm before the gospel reading. During Easter season, the first reading is chosen from the New Testament selections numbers. Instead of from the Old Testament. The priest will select the Gospel reading.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1. A reading from the book 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 eyes, not another's, shall behold him, and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

2. 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 men, 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, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings

he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as spark through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy once, and his care is with his elect.
The word of the lord

3. A reading from the book of wisdom

The just person, though dying early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Understanding is gray hair and spotless life is ripe old age. The one who passed God was loved the one who lived among sinners was transported, snatched away, lest wickedness pervert the mind or deceit beguile the soul. For the fascination of evil obscures true values and restless desire undermines a simple heart. Having become perfect in a short while, the just one reached the fullness of a long career. This one's soul was pleasing to the Lord, and therefore was quickly removed from the midst of wickedness. People saw but did not understand it did not occur to them that God's grace and mercy are with God's chosen ones and God's care is with the holy.
The Word of the Lord

4. A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil the veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On this 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 he has saved us!"
The word of the Lord.

5. A reading from the book of Lamentations

[My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the Lord. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope:] 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 will I hope in him. Good is he Lord to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; it is good to hope to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

The word of the lord.

6. A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

I, Daniel, mourned and I heard word of the Lord: "At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, Guardian of your people; it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. But the wise shall shine brightly like the slender of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

7. A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas the ruler of Israel then took up the collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus

he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings during Easter Season

1. A reading from the acts of the apostles

Peter processed to address the people in these words: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is accepted to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaims peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, [what has happened LL over Judea, beginning in Galilee, after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus in Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree

2. A reading from the book of Revelation

A reading from the Book of Revelation I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The word of the Lord.