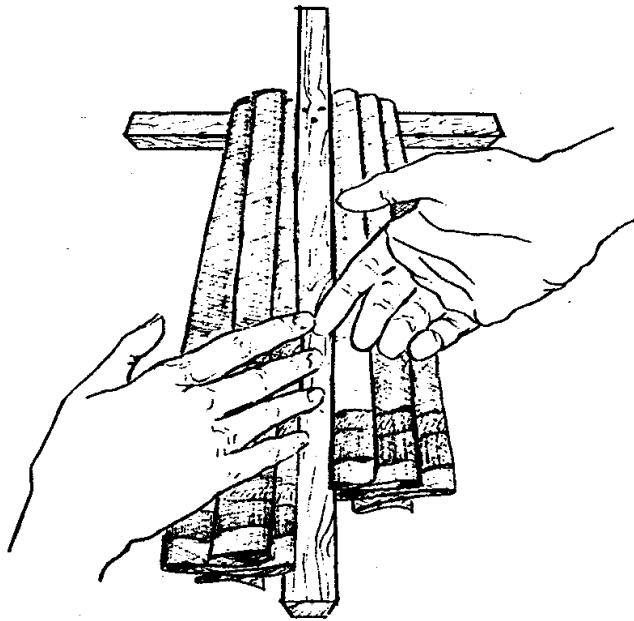


# St. Andrew's Catholic Community



## A Personal Planner for The Rite of Christian Burial

## *THE FUNERAL RITES*

Most important events are celebrated with “rites of passage” or rituals. Death is a rite of passage for both the deceased and the living. The funeral rites are the community’s celebration of Christ’s promise in baptism; that as we share in Jesus’ life and death, so shall we share in Christ’s resurrection.

Ideally, funeral rites should be planned before death. You can select the readings, music, gift bearers, write the intercessions and more. There are 3 major parts to the funeral rites. They are:

- A) Vigil/Wake Service
- B) Rite of Christian Burial
- C) Rite of Committal (Interment)

### *CREMATION*

The Church allows considerable latitude to those Catholics who request that their bodies be cremated. The choice of cremation generally is the specific choice of the individual before death. When cremation has been chosen, the various elements of the funeral rite will be conducted in the usual way, with the body present.

### *VIGIL/WAKE SERVICE*

This service is centered on the scriptures. It is a time to express sorrow, extend sympathy and support to the family, and find comfort and strength in the Word of God. Where possible, it is preferable to have this service in the church, which is the gathering place of the Christian community.

A Wake service can include: songs, psalms, scripture, homily, and readings or sharings from relatives or friends. An opportunity is given near the end of the service for family members or friends of the family to share memories and stories of the deceased.

## *FUNERAL LITURGY*

If you are a baptized Catholic you would normally have a funeral mass celebrated in your local parish church.

While the emphasis of the wake service is an expression of sorrow and the offering of comfort to the family, the theme of the funeral liturgy is Resurrection. Here we express our belief that death is not an end but a transformation to new life. The selections of prayers, readings, music and the use of symbols bring a feeling of hope and even subdued joy for family and friends.

**READINGS:** *There is a selection of nearly fifty readings from the scriptures. If you would like only one reading, choose a Gospel and an Old Testament reading. If two readings are to be chosen, select a Gospel reading then the Old and New Testament readings. A list of readings follows.*

**MUSIC:** *Music is a very important part of the funeral rites. It helps us express emotion, and conveys the themes of hope and resurrection. It is important to choose music that can be sung by the participating community. Music choices should also be liturgically correct and support the readings. This can be done with the help of the Director of Music or the priest.*

**SYMBOLS:** *These play an important part of the funeral liturgy. The prominent display of the Easter candle and the sprinkling of the casket with holy water recall our baptism and its promise. The funeral pall, a long white drape over the casket, symbolizes the white Baptism robe of new life in Christ. Incense, a sign of prayer and divinity, can be used to symbolize the community's prayers for the deceased and as a token of respect for the body.*

## *RITE OF COMMITTAL (INTERMENT)*

The graveside service is a simple one, consisting of a blessing of the site, Scripture reading and commitment of the body. The graveside service may be led by a lay person. The focus of the graveside service is the commitment of the body to the earth from which it came. In the United States, the lowering of the casket is not usually done at this time, unless it is specifically requested. The lowering of the body into the grave symbolizes a final release of the body to death and the individual to new life.

To quote Rev. James Dallen, "The new funeral liturgy, with its unrestrained and confident joy in the midst of sorrow, is a challenge to us...to live as people who are ready for resurrection from sin and selfishness and even from death."

Family and friends are invited by the community to return to the parish hall after the interment for a social gathering. This gathering allows a continued sharing of stories and memories.

## *PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGY*

Family and friends can participate in the funeral rites. Persons with artistic talents can design programs or memorial cards. Those with musical talents can help sing, or play an instrument. A person can deliver the readings, or offer a communion meditation. Others can serve as pallbearers, servers, gift bearers, or eucharistic ministers.

The following pages are to help you plan the funeral liturgies. You can fill out the forms, keep them in a safe place and a copy may be filed with your own parish.

## SOME READINGS FOR THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### GOSPELS

Matthew 5:1-12a	The Beatitudes.
Matthew 11:25-30	"Come to me all you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you."
Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6	Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed His last.
Luke 7:11-17	The raising of the son of the widow of Naim.
Luke 12:35-40	Be like those waiting for the arrival of their master.
Luke 23:33, 39-43	Today you will be with me in paradise.
Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-6a or 23:44-49	"God, into your hands, I commend my Spirit."
Luke 24:13-35	The appearance of the risen Jesus to the disciples at Emmaus.
John 5:37-40	Whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life and will be raised up on the last day.
John 6:51-59	"If anyone eats this bread, he shall live forever."
John 11:17-27 or 21-27	The death of Lazarus. "I am the resurrection and the Life."
John 11:32-45	The raising of Lazarus shows the power and love of Jesus.
John 12:23-38	If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.
John 14:1-6	There are many rooms in God's house.
John 17:24-26	"All those you gave me I would have in my company."

### OLD TESTAMENT

Job 19:1, 23-27a  
Wisdom 3:1-9 or 1-6  
Wisdom 4:7-15

Isaiah 25:61, 7-9  
Lamentations 3:17-26  
Daniel 12:1-3  
2 Maccabees 12:43-46

### NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 10:34-43, or 34-36, 42-43  
Romans 5:5-11  
Romans 5:17-21  
Romans 6:3-9 or 3-4, or 8-9  
Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12  
1 Corinthians 15:20-24a, 25-28 or 20-23  
1 Corinthians 15:51-57  
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10  
Philippians 3:20-21  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
2 Timothy 2:8-13

1 John 3:1-2  
1 John 3:14-16

Revelation 14:13  
Revelation 20:11-21:1

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

Job's prayer of confidence in God.  
Death is not an end, but the hope of immortality.  
Confidence that one who dies young has lived a full life and is with God.  
The promise of the Kingdom's conquest over grief.  
Grief gives way to hope.  
At the second coming the faithful will rise.  
Offer prayers for the deceased.

Jesus Christ is forgiveness for those who believe.

Jesus' death is a testimony of God's love for us.  
The grace of Jesus Christ overcomes our offenses.  
Through baptism we are eternally united to Christ.  
Alive or dead, we belong to God.  
All will be brought to life in Christ.

Even the seeming finality of death is conquered by Jesus Christ.

We have an everlasting home with Christ.  
Our bodies will be glorified.  
The glory of the Resurrection on the last day.  
If we have died with Christ, then we shall live with Christ.

We are God's children.  
We pass out of death into life because we love each other.

Happy are those who die in Christ.  
The dead have been judged according to their works.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

or personal favorite texts can be considered.

***A Personal Pre-planned Rite of Christian Burial  
arrangement for:***

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Person to contact for arrangements:***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred time of Vigil \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred time of Funeral Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a "Pre-Need Plan":

Name of Mortuary \_\_\_\_\_

**VIGIL/WAKE SERVICE PLANNING**

Special requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

Intercessions: Sung \_\_\_\_\_ Spoken \_\_\_\_\_

**FUNERAL LITURGY PLANNING**

Eucharistic Ministers (*optional*): \_\_\_\_\_

Pallbearers: \_\_\_\_\_

Other preparations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Music — *Processional*: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Testament reading: \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament reading (*optional*): \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Servers (*optional*): \_\_\_\_\_

Music — *Communion*: \_\_\_\_\_

Music — *Recessional*: \_\_\_\_\_