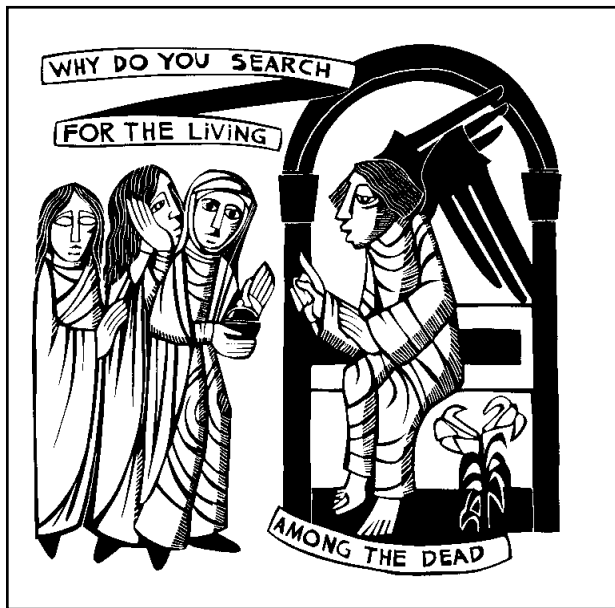


Blest Are Those  
Who Mourn:  
Planning the Funeral of a Loved One





## For Everything There Is a Season

There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to keep, and a time to cast away.

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2,4*



SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church offers our services in loving memory of your loved one. It is normal to feel uneasy about making funeral preparations. SS. Peter & Paul Parish wishes to help you with this.

The Funeral Liturgy provides courage and comfort for those who are mourning. The more family members, relatives and friends plan and participate in the liturgy, the deeper will be the consolation and strength they receive. Thus, the funeral itself will truly be a prayerful time for you.

As soon as possible after the death, the family should meet with the parish priest to arrange a Funeral Mass. **The deceased's family should consult with the priest before making final decisions about the funeral arrangements.**

## The Vigil (Wake)

*It is customary that prior to the day of burial there is a vigil or wake service.*

SS. Peter & Paul offers the use of the church for the vigil service, or the funeral home may be used. The time for the vigil is mutually agreed upon by the Pastor, after consulting the church calendar and the family.

Most of the vigils take place the evening before the day of Christian burial. It is suggested that private time for the immediate family be arranged before the time for public viewing. There will be time set aside during the public wake for the celebration of the “Vigil for the Deceased.”

The following should be kept in mind at all times.

- ➔ The option for an “open” or “closed” casket is the decision of the family. The church will respect whichever option the family chooses.
  
- ➔ The wake service is a time for relatives and friends to get reacquainted. This can be a comfort and support to the family at this very demanding time in their lives. However, we ask that socializing and conversation be done in the foyer, the parish center or outside of the church. A spirit of quiet and prayer is to be maintained in the church out of respect for the deceased as well as out of reverence for the real presence of Jesus contained in the Eucharist. Catholics, please remind non-Catholic relatives and friends of this tradition.
  
- ➔ The vigil service includes:
  - Greeting
  - Opening Song (optional)
  - Invitation to Prayer and Prayer
  - Reading
  - Psalm
  - Gospel
  - Homily
  - Litany
  - Remarks or Eulogy
  - Lord’s Prayer, Concluding Prayer and Blessing

At the request of the family, a rosary may be said on the night of the Vigil. Anyone agreed upon by the family may lead the people in this devotion.

- The Book of Condolences to be signed by your guests before and during the Vigil will be placed in the church or funeral home foyer by your funeral director.
- It is a Catholic tradition to offer Memorial Masses on behalf of our beloved dead. Donation envelopes for this purpose will be available near the Book of Condolences. All requests for Masses in honor of your deceased loved one will be scheduled by the parish secretary. Individuals wishing to make a bequest to SS. Peter & Paul for a specific purpose in memory of the deceased may use this same envelope.



## The Mass of Christian Burial

Since the Eucharistic celebration is the central prayer of the faithful Catholics while they live, it is most appropriate that the Eucharistic liturgy be celebrated in connection with their death. A Funeral Mass is to be celebrated only in a parish church.

Planning the funeral of a loved one can be confusing. The following will be of assistance as you meet with those people who are helping you to make plans. Please select one from each group of readings and mark your selection on the planning sheet that you will find at the end of this booklet. Note that only readings from Sacred Scripture may be chosen.

→ **Readings:** Family members or friends may read, or the church can provide experienced readers who proclaim the Word of God on a regular basis at SS. Peter & Paul. Parish readers will be contacted by the parish.

→ Old Testament Reading (from the Hebrew Scriptures)

II Maccabees 12:43-46 (*He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.*)

Job 19:1,23-27 (*I know that my redeemer lives.*)

Wisdom 3:1-9 **or** 3:1-6,9 (*As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*)

Wisdom 4:7-15 (*An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.*)

Isaiah 25:6a,7-9 (*The Lord God will destroy death for ever.*)

Lamentations 3:17-26 (*It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.*)

Daniel 12:1-3 (*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.*)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (*For everything there is a season.*)

### During the Easter Season

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 **or** 10:34-36,42-43 (*He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.*)

Revelation 14:13 (*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*)

Revelation 20:11 – 21:1 (*The dead were judged according to their deeds.*)

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 (*There shall be no more death.*)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm (will be sung by the cantor)

Psalm 23 (*Shepherd me, O God **or** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*)

Psalm 25 (*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul*)

Psalm 27 (*The Lord is my light and my salvation **or** In the land of the living*)

Psalm 42 and 43 (*Like a deer longs for running water, so my heart longs for you.*)  
Psalm 63 (*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*)  
Psalm 103 (*The Lord is kind and merciful.*)  
Psalm 116 (*I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*)  
Psalm 122 (*I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.*)  
Psalm 130 (*Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord*)  
Psalm 131 (*In you, O Lord, I have found my peace.*)  
Psalm 143 (*O Lord, hear my prayer.*)  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

→ New Testament Reading

Romans 5:5-11 (*Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.*)  
Romans 5:17-21 (*Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.*)  
Romans 6:3-9 **or** 6:3-4,8-9 (*We too might live in newness of life.*)  
Romans 8:14-23 (*We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*)  
Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 (*What will separate us from the love of Christ?*)  
Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12 (*Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*)  
I Corinthians 15:20-28 **or** 15:20-23 (*So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.*)  
I Corinthians 15:51-57 (*Death is swallowed up in victory*)  
II Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1 (*What is seen is transitory; but what is unseen is eternal.*)  
II Corinthians 5:1,6-10 (*We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.*)  
Philippians 3:20-21 (*He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.*)  
I Thessalonians 4:13-18 (*Thus we shall always be with the Lord.*)  
II Timothy 2:8-13 (*If we have died with him we shall also live with him.*)  
I John 3:1-2 (*We shall see him as he is.*)  
I John 3:14-16 (*We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.*)  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12a (*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*)  
Matthew 11:25-30 (*Come to me and I will give you rest.*)  
Matthew 25:1-13 (*Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to him!*)  
Matthew 25:31-46 (*Come, you who are blessed by my Father.*)  
Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6 **or** 15:33-39 (*Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*)

Luke 7:11-17 (*Young man, I tell you, arise!*)

Luke 12:35-40 (*You also must be prepared.*)

Luke 23:33,39-43 (*Today you will be with me in Paradise.*)

Luke 23:44-46,50,52-53;24:1-6a **or** 23:44-46,50,52-53 (*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*)

Luke 24:13-35 **or** 24:13-16,28-35 (*Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?*)

John 5:24-29 (*Whoever hears my words and believes has passed from death to life.*)

John 6:37-40 (*Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day.*)

John 6:51-59 (*Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.*)

John 11:17-27 **or** 11:21-27 (*I am the resurrection and the life.*)

John 11:32-45 (*Lazarus, come out!*)

John 12:23-28 **or** 12:23-26 (*If it dies, it produces much fruit.*)

John 14:1-6 (*In my Father's house there are many dwellings.*)

John 17:24-26 (*I wish that where I am they also may be with me.*)

John 19:17-18,25-30 (*And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit.*)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

- **Music** during the funeral liturgy affirms this gathering as centering on God's presence in the life of the deceased and on the faith and hope of those gathered to mourn the loss of a friend and loved one. For this reason, the music chosen should support the full participation of the assembly during the funeral liturgy. Members of the assembly should be warmly invited to participate through the invitation of the cantor and helpful information in the program.

As a Funeral Mass is an official act of worship of the whole church, only sacred music is permitted as part of the liturgy. The music you choose should always encourage the assembly to participate in the rite; as members of the assembly your friends and colleagues are participants in the liturgical rites and will welcome the opportunity to show their support through their participation. The priest or music director will help you select music that is both meaningful to you and in keeping with the nature of the liturgy.



The following hymns and songs speak of our Christian faith in the mercy of God and our hope for eternal life in Christ and are suggested for your consideration. They will be included in the program so that your friends and family will be able to express their support through active participation in the funeral liturgy. Music which is more suitably performed as a solo by a cantor or soloist may be used at the preparation of the gifts, as a song after communion, or as a prelude piece. You may wish to choose music whose text speaks to you of the life and faith of the deceased, or you can choose from the list below.

→ Processional and Recessional Songs: (both to be sung by the assembly)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus  
For all the Saints  
Holy God, We Praise Your Name  
I Call You to My Father's House (to the tune: Amazing Grace)  
I Know That My Redeemer Lives  
Jesus, Remember Me  
Joyful, Joyful (Hymn to Joy)  
Now Thank We All Our God  
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven  
Sing With All the Saints in Glory (to the tune: Hymn to Joy)

→ Preparation of the Gifts and Altar

Amazing Grace  
Be Not Afraid  
Blest are They, the Poor in Spirit  
Jerusalem, My Happy Home  
Lord of All Hopefulness  
On Eagle's Wings  
We Will Rise Again  
Instrumental

→ Communion Procession: (this song must reflect the Eucharist)

I Received the Living God  
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup  
I Am the Bread of Life  
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

→ Communion Meditation or Song of Praise: (may be sung by a soloist)

Panis Angelicus  
Other song of praise

Other \_\_\_\_\_

An organist and a cantor are provided by SS. Peter & Paul for the Funeral Mass. If the family wishes an additional cantor or instrumentalist, this is welcome, but arrangements must be made with the parish Director of Music.

A program giving the order of worship can enhance the assembly's participation in the funeral liturgy by providing the words, music for songs and acclamations, and directions (when to sit, stand, etc.) that will be helpful to those unfamiliar with Catholic liturgies. This program will be prepared by the Parish Office, who will ask for the full name and dates of birth and death of the deceased as well as an estimate of the number of programs desired.



# **An Outline of the Mass of Christian Burial**

## **INTRODUCTORY RITES**

Prelude Music

Placing of the Pall and other Christian Symbols on the Coffin

The church welcomes the family to place Christian symbols on the coffin (a special family bible, a family crucifix) and the pall provided by the parish. This symbol expresses the faith of the deceased. Please note that the American flag is not a religious symbol. It will be replaced by the pall upon entrance to the church and returned to the coffin as it leaves the church.

Procession

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily

General Intercessions

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts

You are welcome to pick two persons to bring up the gifts of bread and wine. They are asked to be at the offertory table at the back of the church after the congregation is seated following the General Intercessions.

Preface Acclamation

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

## **COMMUNION RITE**

Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Song during the Communion Procession

Remarks

One person only may speak about the deceased during the Mass at an appointed time. The address should not exceed five minutes and should be a reflection upon the deceased's life in the context of his or her faith. The person chosen to speak should be one who is likely to remain composed throughout the talk. It is recommended that the eulogy be written out and approved by the celebrant beforehand. Other occasions outside the funeral Mass may be more suitable for a eulogy: e.g., the vigil or wake, the interment, a meal after the funeral. A brief biography of the deceased might also be prepared by the family to be distributed at the funeral.

## **CONCLUDING RITES**

Closing Prayer

Song of Farewell

Recessional Song

## **Guidelines for the Reception of Communion**

**For Catholics** As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confession as soon as possible (*Code of Canon Law, canon 916*). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

**For our fellow Christians** We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (*John 17:21*).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (*canon 844 §4*). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to the Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these Church (*canon 844 §3*).

**For those not receiving Holy Communion** All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

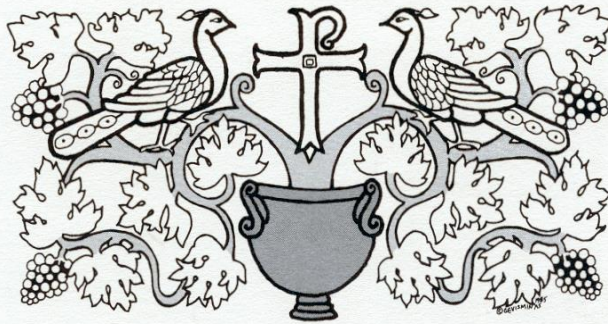
**For non-Christians** We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

## At the Cemetery

It is the preference of the Church that Catholics be buried in Catholic cemeteries. However, this is a decision that rests with the family. In the case of Catholic cemeteries, the grave site is already blessed. In the case of non-Catholic cemeteries, the grave must be blessed as part of the rite.

In general, the burial rite at the grave site is brief, but the words which are used are carefully chosen by the Church to reflect the positive side of death.

YET EVEN AT THE GRAVE  
WE MAKE OUR SONG:



ALLELUIA  
ALLELUIA · ALLELUIA

## Cremation

The law of the Church “earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the body of the deceased be observed.” However, cremation is permitted as long as it is not chosen for reasons contrary to Christian teaching.

Although cremation is permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the body brings to mind the Church’s conviction that the human body is, in Christ, a temple for the Holy Spirit and destined for future glory at the resurrection of the dead. (*Order of Christian Funerals*, no. 412.) Moreover, the body of a deceased loved one helps the bereaved during the funeral rites to confront the mystery of life and death and to recall the personal story of faith, past relationships, and continued spiritual presence of the deceased.

Therefore, cremation should take place after the funeral Mass (*OCF*, nos.415, 418), and burial or interment with the Rite of Committal should take place as soon as possible after the cremation. (*OCF*, no. 420)

In the event that cremation must necessarily take place before the funeral Mass, the family should make every effort to gather with a priest in the presence of the deceased’s body prior to its cremation. The cremated remains of the deceased are to be placed in a worthy vessel which will be carried into the church during the entrance procession and placed on a table or stand at the location where the coffin would ordinarily be placed for the funeral Mass. The paschal candle will be placed next to the vessel just as it would be placed next to a coffin, but the pall, which is ordinarily used to cover the coffin, is not used in the instance of cremated remains.

The cremated remains of the deceased are to be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. They should be placed in a worthy vessel and handled with the same respect as the body. Columbaria for cremated remains are provided in Catholic cemeteries but are not permitted in churches or chapels within the Archdiocese of Washington. If at all possible, the place of burial or entombment should be marked with a plaque or stone memorializing the deceased. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. (*OCF*, no. 417)

## **Fees**

SS. Peter & Paul parish does not require a fee for use of the parish facilities for funeral liturgies and wakes. However, if the family would like to make an offering to the church \$125 is an appropriate amount. It is customary for the family or funeral director to make arrangements for paying the fees of musicians (organist, cantor/soloist, instrumentalists) when discussing their availability. Although the priests do not expect a stipend, you may wish to provide an offering in thanksgiving for their concern and service during this difficult time.

The usual contributions or fees are:

Cantor: \$125.00

Organist: \$150.00

Church: \$125.00

## **A Few Reminders**

- The recessional, or closing song, like the processional and the Song of Farewell, is to be sung by the congregation. Neither may be sung by a soloist.
- The use of radio and/or tape recorders/cassettes, etc., is not permitted before, during or after the Mass of Christian Burial.
- All music which is not performed by the regular staff of SS. Peter & Paul Parish must be cleared in advance by contacting the Director of Music. If your choices of music are not approved, they may not be sung or played at the funeral.
- Flowers will be received at the church one hour before the Funeral Mass is to begin. Members of the Environment Team or Funeral Director will place flowers in the sanctuary.

## **Music & Liturgy Planning Sheet**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Deceased \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### **INTRODUCTORY RITES**

Prelude Music: \_\_\_\_\_

Entrance Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Penitential Rite: \_\_\_\_\_

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Homily

General Intercessions: \_\_\_\_\_

### **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts: \_\_\_\_\_

Eucharistic Prayer Acclamations: \_\_\_\_\_

### **COMMUNION RITE**

Lord's Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God: \_\_\_\_\_

Song during the Communion Procession: \_\_\_\_\_

Hymn of Praise (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Eulogy: \_\_\_\_\_

### **CONCLUDING RITES**

Closing Prayer & Blessing: \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional Song: \_\_\_\_\_