

Mass of Christian Burial

Preparation Booklet



St. Peter-St. Mary Church

115 Broadway | Haverstraw, NY 10927

845-429-2196

Pastoral Staff

Fr. Thomas Madden, Pastor

Fr. Carlos Germosen, Parochial Vicar

Dcn. Jorge Estela, Dcn. Paul Stolz, Dcn. Gene Hamilton

Dear friend in Christ,

The Parish of St. Peter-St. Mary expresses our deepest condolences to you and your loved ones during this time of grief. Please know of our prayers for you as you grieve the loss of your loved one. May the Lord strengthen, console, and fill you with his Hope.

Although you are gathered together in a moment of sorrow, the Mass of Christian Burial offers us signs of hope in the Resurrection. Holy Mother Church reminds us in this way that Jesus' victory over sin and death grounds us in the hope of eternal life.

We invite and encourage you to participate as much as in the preparation of this beautiful rite that Holy Mother Church offers to her faithful. It is completely understandable during your time of grief to not be able to complete the full preparation, and if it is the case with you, we will gladly assist. We, the priests of St. Peter-St. Mary Church, are available to help you with the full planning of the Funeral Mass.

We offer this booklet as a guide in helping you to prepare and plan for the Mass of Christian Burial. Please review the following selection of hymns and readings that are meaningful to you in remembering the life of your loved one.

Know always of our support for you, not only during the funeral liturgy, but in the days, weeks, and months to come. If there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Faithfully in Christ, with our prayers and sympathy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Thomas F. Madden".

Fr. Thomas Madden, Pastor

A Point for Reflection

From the General Instruction to the Order of Christian Funerals:

“At the funeral liturgy the community gathers with the family and friends of the deceased ...

- to give praise and thanks to God for Christ’s victory over sin and death,
- to commend the deceased to God’s tender mercy and compassion,
- and to seek strength in the proclamation of the paschal mystery.

Through the Holy Spirit the community is joined together in faith as one Body in Christ to reaffirm in sign and symbol, word and gesture that each believer through baptism shares in Christ’s death and resurrection and can look to the day when all the elect will be raised up and united in the kingdom of light and peace.” (no.129)



Practical Considerations;

FEES:

Church Offering: \$200

Organist: \$200

Soloist: \$200

SCHEDULING:

According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal #380,

“Among the Masses for the Dead, the Funeral Mass holds first place. It may be celebrated on any day except for solemnities that are holy days of obligation, Holy Thursday, the Easter Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter”

The holy days of obligation, outside of Holy Thursday, the Easter Triduum, and Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, are as follows:

- January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter - the Ascension of the Lord (exact date may vary)
- August 15th - Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- November 1st - Solemnity of All Saints
- December 8th - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- December 25th - Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Christmas Day)

Preparation for the Funeral Mass

Readings

One of the purposes of the readings at the Funeral Mass is that they convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's Kingdom. Using the packet provided at the end of the booklet, please select a First Reading from the Old Testament and a Second Reading from the New Testament. The readings that you select should have a particular meaning to you or may reflect some aspect of the life of your loved one. Please indicate the passages selected on the FUNERAL PLANNING SHEET at the end of the packet.

Sacred Music

Music is an integral part of our worship as Catholics and is designed to assist in raising our prayers to God at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. For this reason, secular music (popular songs/tunes, etc.) is not appropriate for use and is not permitted in the Funeral Mass. Please refer to Appendix I (Guidelines for Selecting Sacred Music for the Funeral Mass) for a full list of approved music. Additional selections that are not listed may be taken from the parish hymnal. You may also wish to indicate that all music for the Funeral Mass is to be selected by the organist and soloist. Music selections must be clearly indicated on the FUNERAL PLANNING SHEET. St. Peter-St. Mary Church has an organist and cantor on our parish staff, therefore outside musicians are not permitted.

Faith and Life Testimonies

It has become custom for a family member to deliver a short testimony of the faith and life of the deceased **at the beginning** of the Funeral Mass. **It is optional, and not required.** If you choose to have eulogy delivered before the Funeral Mass, the focus must be on the faith of the deceased. Please be prudent in what you include your testimony on the faith and life of the deceased. Please avoid including details that would cause embarrassment or scandal. Profane language/humor is prohibited. They should be no more than 3-5 minutes in length.

If you would prefer to share a faith and life testimony at another time, you may wish to share it at the end of the vigil service in the funeral home, at the graveside, or even at the family luncheon after the funeral. 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).

The rationale for a focused eulogy is that it is often considered the centerpiece of the service, which can detract from the central message of the Funeral Mass, which is “to give praise and thanks to God for Christ’s victory over sin and death” (no. 129).

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

Just as your loved one was greeted at the doors of the church building when they were brought to the waters of Baptism, so now is your loved one greeted at the doors of the church in the commendation of their soul to Almighty God.

The coffin is received at the entrance of the church, sprinkled with Holy Water - a reminder of our Baptism - and covered with a white cloth called a funeral pall. The funeral pall is a reminder also of our Baptism, reminding us of how we were clothed with a white garment as a sign of the new life grace we were born into.

Reception of Holy Communion

With due reverence to the Holy Eucharist and per the guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, only those Catholics who are prepared (in a state of grace) should receive Holy Communion.

Those Catholics who are not properly disposed, and those who are not Catholic, are invited to take this time to pray for the repose of the soul of the deceased.

The celebrant of the Mass will repeat these instructions at the time of reception.

A Special Note for Cremated Remains

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. Peter-St. Mary Church FUNERAL PLANNING SHEET

Name of the Deceased: _____

Mass Date/Time: _____

Family Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Biographical Notes about your Loved One:



Readings:

1st Reading from the Old Testament: _____

To be read by: _____

2nd Reading from the New Testament: _____

To be read by: _____

Responsorial Psalm (usually sung): _____



Sacred Music Selection (Please see “Guidelines for Selecting Sacred Music” on next page)

Hymn Request(s): _____

- Check here to indicate your preference to have the Organist and Cantor make the music selection(s).

Guidelines for Selecting Sacred Music for the Funeral Mass

If you would like to request a special hymn to be sung, please select a piece from the list below. (You may also indicate that all music is to be selected by the Organist and Cantor). Additional selections (not included on the list below) may be made from the parish hymnal. Please note that the Pastor and Music Ministers may not be able to accommodate all requests due Liturgical regulations. A **maximum** of four (4) hymns may be selected as special requests. The selected hymns will be sung at the appropriate liturgical rite during the Funeral Mass.

Please complete the FUNERAL PLANNING 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 have any questions, please contact Theresa Kenny at (845) 786-8728 or at tmksings@yahoo.com or call the Rectory Office at (845) 429-2196.

SUGGESTED HYMN SELECTIONS (*Italicized Hymns are in Spanish*):

- Abide with Me
- Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
- All My Days
- All that Is Hidden
- Amazing Grace
- America, the Beautiful
- The Battle Hymn of the Republic
- Be Not Afraid
- Be Thou My Joyance
- Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
- The Cry of the Poor
- *Entre tus Manos*
- Eternal Father, Strong to Save
- Eye Has Not Seen (*Ni Ojo Ni Oído*)
- For All the Saints
- *Hacia Ti, Morada Santa*
- Here I Am, Lord (*Aquí Estoy, Señor*)
- Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
- How Can I Keep from Singing
- How Great Thou Art
- I Am the Bread of Life (*Yo soy el Pan de Vida*)
- I Heard the Voice of Jesus
- I Know that My Redeemer Lives
- *Juntos como Hermanos*
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- Lift High the Cross (*Alcen la cruz*)
- The Lord is My Hope
- *Mi Pensamiento Eres Tú*
- *Amén. El cuerpo de Cristo*
- Morning Has Broken
- *Oh Jesús, Oh Buen Pastor*
- On Eagle's Wings
- One Bread, One Body (*Un Pan, Un Cuerpo*)
- *Pan de Vida*
- Panis Angelicus
- *Pescador de Hombres* (Lord, You Have Come)
- Prayer of St. Francis (*Oración de San Francisco*)
- *Qué Alegría cuando Me Dijeron*
- *Resucitó*
- Shelter Me, O God
- Shepherd Me, O God (*Guíame, Señor*)
- There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
- There Is a Longing
- This Alone
- Turn to Me
- *Un Mandamiento Nuevo*
- We Remember
- What Wondrous Love Is This
- I Lift Up My Soul
- You Are Near

FOR FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Thank you for all that you do in assisting our faithful in grieving the loss of their loved ones. Your special role of accompaniment is greatly appreciated.

When scheduling the Funeral Mass:

Please make sure to avoid scheduling Masses of Christian Burial on Holy Days of Obligation. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal #380,

“Among the Masses for the Dead, the Funeral Mass holds first place. It may be celebrated on any day except for solemnities that are holy days of obligation, Holy Thursday, the Easter Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter”

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- December 8th - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- December 25th - Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Christmas Day)

Once the Funeral Planning Sheet is completed,

Please forward a copy of the sheet via email to the organist, cantor, and priest celebrant.

Organist:

- David Van Campen - djcvancampen@gmail.com

Cantor:

- Theresa Kenny - tmksings@yahoo.com

Priest:

- Fr. Thomas Madden - tmadden@stpeterstmary.us
- Fr. Carlos Germosen - cgermosen@stpeterstmary.us