

PLANNING A FUNERAL

During this time of grief, count on the **PRAYERS & SYMPATHY** of the parish community of St. Peter Cathedral. We stand with you in your mourning, raising you up in prayer, that God's mercy will give strength and consolation.

Planning a Catholic Funeral may seem complicated and intimidating. The parish staff will gladly help you! Typically, after meeting with the funeral director to make funeral arrangements, a family may want to meet with the priest to plan the liturgies: usually a wake service at the funeral home and the funeral Mass in church. Sometimes, they would rather not meet.

The **WAKE SERVICE**, if one is desired, could either be 1) a communal recitation of the rosary or 2) a scripture service with (or without) remembrances (eulogy). The family chooses, considering the life and devotion of the deceased and the number of non-Catholics who may be present. It is also acceptable to forego the wake service altogether.

The survivors decide how much of the **FUNERAL MASS** they would like to plan. **A Catholic person has a right to a Funeral Mass**, so choosing some other option must be made with respect to that right.

READINGS may be chosen according to the schema at right. Options are listed on the reverse side of this sheet. These readings need not necessarily "fit" the life or personality of the deceased. They may be chosen more for the consolation of those who will gather for the funeral. Readings from scripture not found on this sheet may be used as long as they are taken from the same section of the bible (Old Testament, New Testament, Gospel). Non-scriptural readings or poetry are not permitted during the time of the Mass readings. Psalms are used for the Responsorial Psalm and not as one of the readings. A specific responsorial psalm may be requested from the musicians.

Our music director, Mr. Richard Thompson, will be happy to help you choose the **MUSIC** and make arrangements for a cantor. During the service in church, only **SACRED MUSIC** (music found in our hymnal, for example) is permitted. Secular music can be played at the funeral home, but not in church.

GIFT BEARERS, READERS, and SERVERS may also be chosen. Readers must be Catholic accustomed to reading the scriptures at Mass. A server is provided by the parish, unless a family desires someone specific to serve.

The proper place for a **EULOGY** or **REMEMBRANCE** is at the Vigil Service. Under certain circumstances, a brief 2- to 3-minute eulogy may be permitted at the end of the funeral Mass. Longer eulogies tend to make everyone uncomfortable.

Most often, a funeral Mass takes place at **10:00AM** at St. Peter Cathedral. Other times are perfectly acceptable, bearing in mind that the scheduling of the church for many other events has to be considered.

Please keep in mind that, out of respect for the deceased, **THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH REQUIRES THE BURIAL OR ENTOMBMENT OF THE MORTAL REMAINS OF THE DECEASED**, even if cremated.

As a sign of affection for your family and friends, we offer a simple but delicious **FUNERAL LUNCHEON** after the burial. Please notify us of the planned number of people attending if you want this service.

Again, you're remembered daily in the prayers of the parishioners of St. Peter Cathedral. May those prayers and God's eternal mercy upon all His people bring you comfort and peace!

- Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB



Readings

Section A. # _____

Section C.* # _____

Section E. # _____

*A reading from Section D during the Easter season.

Reader: Reading 1 _____

Reader: Reading 2 _____

Gift Bearers (2-4 people)

Other Notes

All of this information should be conveyed to the parish office after meeting with the funeral director.

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A. Old Testament Readings

Choose ONE reading from section A.

- *A1. Job 19:1, 23-27 *I know that my Redeemer lives.*
- *A2. Wisdom 3:1-6,9 *He accepted them as a holocaust.*
- A3. Wisdom 4:7-15 *A blameless life is a ripe old age.*
- A4. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 *The Lord God will destroy death for ever.*
- A5. Lamentations 3:17-26 *It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.*
- A6. Daniel 12:1-3 *Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake.*
- A7. Maccabees 12:43-46 *It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.*

B. Responsorial Psalm (sung by cantor)

C. New Testament Readings

Choose ONE reading from Section C.

- C1. Romans 5:5-11 *Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.*
- C2. Romans 5:17-21 *Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*
- C3. Romans 6:3-4,8-9 *Let us walk in newness of life.*
- *C4. Romans 8:14-23 *We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.*
- C5. Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 *Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?*
- *C6. Romans 14:7-9,10b-12 *Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*
- C7. I Corinthians 15:20-23,24b-28 *All people will be brought to life in Christ.*
- C8. I Corinthians 15:51-57 *Death is swallowed up in victory.*
- C9. II Corinthians 4:14-5:1 *What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.*
- C10. II Corinthians 5:1,6-10 *We have an everlasting home in heaven.*
- C11. Philippians 3:20-21 *Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours to be like his glorious body.*
- C12. I Thessalonians 4:13-18 *We shall stay with the Lord for ever.*
- C13. II Timothy 2:8-13 *If we have died with him, we shall live with him.*
- C14. I John 3:1-2 *We shall see God as he really is.*
- C15. I John 3:14-16 *We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.*

* indicates a commonly chosen text.

E. Gospel Readings

Choose ONE gospel from Section E.

You may also choose to leave the choice of gospel to the priest or deacon who will preach.

- E1. Matthew 5:1-12a *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*
- *E2. Matthew 11:25-30 *Come to me, and I will give you rest.*
- E3. Matthew 25:1-13 *Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*
- E4. Matthew 25:31-46 *Come, you whom my Father has blessed.*
- E5. Mark 15:33-39 *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*
- E6. Luke 7:11-17 *Young man, I say to you, arise.*
- E7. Luke 12:35-40 *Be prepared.*
- E8. Luke 23:33,39-43 *Today you will be with me in paradise.*
- E9. Luke 23:44-46,50,52-53 *Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*
- E10. Luke 24:13-16, 28-35 *Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?*
- E11. John 5:24-29 *Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.*
- E12. John 6:37-40 *All who believe in the Son will have eternal life*
- E13. John 6:51-58 *All who eat this bread will live for ever; and I will raise them up on the last day.*
- E14. John 11:21-27 *I am the resurrection and the life.*
- E15. John 11:32-45 *Lazarus, come out.*
- E16. John 12:23-28 *If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*
- *E17. John 14:1-6 *There are many rooms in my Father's house.*
- E18. John 17:24-26 *Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am.*
- E19. John 19:17-18, 25-30 *There, they crucified him.*

* indicates a commonly chosen text.