

A CATHOLIC FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE



Mary of the Visitation
Catholic Church
Becker – Big Lake

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTIONPage 3

PRAYERS FOR DECEASEDPage 4

GENERAL INFORMATION FORMPage 5

BURIAL INFORMATION FORM.....Page 6

PARISH PRAYERS / VISITATIONPage 7

FUNERAL MASS / WORD SERVICEPage 8

FUNERAL LUNCHEON AND CATERING INFORMATION.....Page 9

CREMATION Page 10

PLANNING THE FUNERAL LITURGY..... Page 11

ORDER OF LITURGY.....Pages 12-15

MUSIC SELECTIONSPages 16-18

FEES Page 19

LIST OF FORMS TO COMPLETE AND RETURN TO CHURCH FEES Page 20

INTRODUCTION

Dealing with death and grief over the loss of a loved one is very painful. During such an emotional time, it is hard to make decisions, and yet, there are necessary arrangements that must be made. It is for this purpose that Mary of the Visitation Parish presents this informational booklet to you. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share in your sorrows and to celebrate your loved one's life and resurrection in Christ, our Savior.

The funeral home of your choice should be contacted immediately upon the death of a loved one. They will assist you in making the necessary funeral arrangements and will contact the church for you. You may also call the church yourself, if you prefer.

Either the pastor and/or the Director of Music and Liturgy will provide assistance and support to you and your family. They will meet with you to discuss the service, listen to your preferences including music and scripture readings, and work out the details with you.

As a Eucharistic Community, we believe that each funeral service should reflect our faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and the life of the deceased, while meeting the needs of the family and the assembled community. It is our role as the Eucharistic family to accommodate these needs.

It is helpful to have information available for those doing the planning. It is our hope that this booklet will be a helpful guide to you and your family in planning.

"By means of the funeral rites it has been the practice of the Church, as a tender mother, not simply to commend the dead to God but to raise high the hope of its children and to give witness to its own faith in the future resurrection of the baptized with Christ." (1969 *Decree promulgating the Order of Christian Funerals-OCF*)

In planning and celebrating the various parts of the Funeral Rite, it is our hope that this quote will bear fruit. May your experience be filled with hope, support and faith.

This booklet is here to aid you in planning the rites we celebrate: the Parish Prayers (otherwise known as the Wake Service), the Funeral Liturgy and the Committal (also known as the Prayers at the Grave). Through prayerful worship, we give honor to the deceased, hope to those gathered in prayer and praise to God for the life given and shared with us. We are here to help you! Though this booklet will answer many of your questions, feel free to contact us for help or guidance.

A PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED

Father, we entrust our brother/sister to Your Mercy,
You loved him/her greatly in this life.

Now that he/she is freed from all its cares,
Welcome him/her now into Paradise,
 Where there will be no more sorrow,
 No more weeping
 No more pain.

But only peace and joy with Jesus, Your Son,
 And the Holy Spirit,
Forever and ever,

Amen.

Together now, we pray.....

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.
Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen.

Eternal life grant unto him/her, O Lord:
And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God,
Rest in peace.

Amen.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Deceased:

(First, Middle, Last)

Address:

(City, State)

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Age: _____ Date of Burial: _____

Parents Names:

Wife/Husband (if applicable):

Contact People:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Funeral Home: _____ Phone: _____

Director: _____

Fees will be collected by: Funeral Home Parish directly (circle one)

Please provide on the back of this sheet information regarding life, work, hobbies, church involvement, or any other information that will be helpful in preparing the homily,

BURIAL INFORMATION

Burial Date _____

Deceased _____

Cemetery:

Immaculate Conception – Becker, MN

previously purchased needs to purchase (*X applicable*)

Section: _____ Lot: _____ Grave #: _____

Our Lady of the Lake – Big Lake, MN

previously purchased need to purchase (*X applicable*)

Section: _____ Lot: _____

Other: _____

Type of Service:

Casket Cremation

Veteran of war? _____

Cemetery Contact Info:

Our Lady of the Lake (Big Lake)
Ernie Kroll (612) 308-9992

Immaculate Conception (Becker)
Dean Moeller (612) 219-8038

PARISH PRAYERS / VISITATION

It is suggested to offer a time when people can join you in keeping watch (or vigil) for the deceased. Often friends and family wish to express their wishes to you during this reviewal time. The reviewal typically takes place on the night before the funeral and/or just before the funeral. During this reviewal a Parish Prayer Service can take place.

Parish Prayer Service is the preferred title to what is commonly referred to as the Wake Service. The reviewal and Parish Prayer Service can take place either at the funeral home or at the church, depending on availability.

Pastor or his designate will preside at the Parish Prayer Service.

There are a number of optional prayers that the Church provides for use at the Parish Prayer Service.

Check all preferences:

- Visitation (evening prior) at Funeral Home at Church
- Vigil Scripture Service (the night before)
- Visitation (day of funeral) at Funeral Home at Church
- Memory Table (photos, mementos that reflect and honor a person's life)

Items: _____

FUNERAL MASS / WORD SERVICE

The rituals and prayer surrounding death are a witness to the faith of the one who has died. They give comfort to the community of family, friends, and associates who have surrounded the deceased during life. These rituals affirm and express solidarity between the living and the dead in the communion of saints. The Funeral or Memorial Service can take place during the day or evening.

The funeral liturgy is usually conducted by a priest within the context of a Mass. Some exceptions may be made. The funeral Mass is the perfect prayer through which the focus shifts from the ending of a life to its new beginning in eternity. A funeral Mass is customarily held in the parish church of the deceased or his/her family. Funerals that take place during the Easter Triduum (*Holy Thursday – Easter Vigil*) are celebrated without Mass. When a funeral takes place without a Mass, it may be conducted either at the funeral home or at the church. For someone who has been away from the church for a length of time or a faith-filled spouse or relative who was not Catholic, a Word Service in the church or funeral home may be the preferred prayer. The Pastor or Director of Liturgy can help in advising on these matters.

FUNERAL LUNCHEON

Following the funeral, we encourage you to gather with family and friends in the Church gathering space for a luncheon. This is a time to come together with one another to share a meal, stories, and memories of your loved one whose life and resurrection in Christ you have all come to celebrate.

Salads, desserts, potato chips, drinks, etc. will be donated by other parish members. The Funeral Lunch Committee takes care of food preparation, setting the tables and preparing the hall, serving and clean up. A \$150 donation is requested for use of the parish gathering space and to cover the cost of the other meal items provided.

The family is asked to provide the main dish, which is produced and delivered by a local caterer. We have two options:

Stacy with Style Catering: www.stylecateringmn.com / 763-760-2975

Tim with Lake Cafe: 763-263-2408

You are asked to contact Stacy or Tim directly to choose the main dish and to set up payment directly for the cost of the main dish. Salads and desserts will be provided by the parish.

(Please circle your selection)

Style Catering Main Dish Selections:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Assorted Deli Sandwiches | Goulash |
| Sloppy Joes | Shepherd's Pie |
| Homemade Soup and Bread | |

Lake Cafe Main Dish Selection:

Broasted Chicken

Expected Number of Guests: _____

Luncheon: Immediately after service Following the Burial

*Leftovers from the meal will be packed and given to the family.

For families of a **non-member who has passed away, you will also need to provide the desserts and salads through the caterer. The funeral group will be happy to set up tables and serve the meal.

CREMATION

In May, 1963, the Vatican lifted the prohibition forbidding Catholics to choose cremation. This permission was incorporated into the Order of Christian Funerals. It then became standard practice to celebrate the funeral liturgies with the body and then take the body to the crematorium.

The Church prefers that cremation take place after the full funeral liturgy with the body. The presence of the body most clearly brings to mind the life and death of the person and better expresses the values that the Church affirms in its rites. However, when this is not possible, some of the usual rites which are celebrated with a body present may also be celebrated in the presence of cremated remains.

During the liturgies, the cremated remains are treated with the same dignity and respect as the body.

The paschal candle and sprinkling with holy water are primary symbols of baptism, and should be used during the Mass. However, the pall is not used. (*The pall is the large white cloth that is draped over the casket.*)

Appropriate, worthy containers, such as an urn are proper for cremated remains.

Respectful final disposition of cremated remains involves interment or entombment. Burial options include a family grave in a cemetery marked with a traditional memorial stone or an urn garden, a special section in a cemetery with small, pre-dug graves for urns, or the entombment of the cremated remains in a columbarium, an arrangement of niches into which an urn or other worthy vessel is placed for permanent memorial.

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 the reverent disposition that the Church requires.

PLANNING THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The following outline is to help you plan the funeral liturgy. Scripture readings and music suggestions are listed in this booklet. *Ministers for the liturgy play an essential and important role. If possible, we ask for family and friends to participate in certain capacities.*

Funeral Mass
(with Eucharist)

Scripture Service
(without Eucharist)

The pastor usually presides at the Funeral Mass, however, exceptions can be made in special circumstances. If a funeral is held at a Funeral Home, a pastoral minister may preside.

Presider: _____

The cantor and pianist are trained in leading Catholic liturgies and are responsible for directly assisting the Pastor. Therefore, we require that these people be a music minister from Mary of the Visitation. The Music Director will acquire them. At least one of the music ministers needs to be from MOTV.

Cantor: _____

Keyboard: _____

Other instruments (guitar, etc): _____

Should other friends or family members wish to sing or play a selection, they may do so before or after the liturgy; or, if the selection is short enough and appropriate for Mass, during the Preparation of Gifts.

LITURGICAL ORDER

Greeting

Sprinkling with Holy Water

Placing of the Pall:

The pall (white cloth) is a reminder of the garment put on at Baptism symbolizing we are clothed with Christ. We suggest family members place the pall.

Gathering Hymn: _____

Opening Prayer:

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading:

(from Old Testament)

Proclaimed by: _____

Responsorial Psalm: (*sung*)

Second Reading:

(from New Testament)

Proclaimed by: _____

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel Reading: _____

Homily:

Prayers of the Faithful:

Proclaimed by: _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts by *(2-3 people are needed)*:

Preparation of the Gifts Hymn:

Eucharistic Acclamations

Our Father

Sign of Peace

Communion

Eucharistic Ministers:

If the Eucharist is to be celebrated, Eucharistic Ministers may be needed to help share the Body and Blood of Christ with those gathered. However, these ministers must be confirmed and commissioned to serve communion in their home parish.

Communion Hymn: _____

Rite of Commendation

Song of Farewell: *"Saints of God"*

Recessional Hymn: _____

Additional Liturgical Ministers:

Altar Server(s): _____

Eucharistic Ministers: *(must be installed in their own parish)*

Gift Bearers: _____

SCRIPTURE READINGS

You are welcome to borrow a complete set of the following readings from the parish office.

● SUGGESTED FIRST READING SELECTIONS ● from the Old Testament

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 2 Maccabees 12:43-46 | <i>It's good and holy to pray for the dead</i> |
| Wisdom 1:14-14 | |
| Job 19:1, 23-27 | <i>I know that my redeemer lives</i> |
| Wisdom 3:1-9 | <i>Death is not the end, but the hope of immortality</i> |
| Wisdom | (alternate form of previous text) |
| Wisdom 4:7-15 | <i>The one who dies young has lived a full life</i> |
| Isaiah 55:1-12 | |
| Isaiah 55:10-12 | (alternate from previous text) |
| Isaiah 25:6a,7-9 | <i>The Lord God will destroy death forever</i> |
| Lamentations 3:17-26 | <i>Grief gives way to hope</i> |
| 2 Maccabees 12:43-46 | |
| Daniel 12:1-3 | <i>At the second coming, the faithful will arise</i> |
| Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 | <i>To everything there is a season</i> |
| Song of Songs 2:8-14 | <i>Arise, my love, my dove, and come away</i> |
| Wisdom 9:13-18 | <i>God's wisdom made our paths straight</i> |
| Ezekiel 37:12-14 | <i>I will open your graves, my people</i> |
| Micah 6:6-8 | <i>Do right, love goodness and walk humbly with God</i> |
| Zephaniah 3:16-20 | <i>I will gather you up and bring you home</i> |

● SUGGESTED SECOND READING SELECTIONS ● From the New Testament

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Acts 10:34-43 | |
| Romans 5:5-11 | <i>Jesus' death is a testimony of God's love</i> |
| Romans 5:17-21 | <i>The grace of Jesus overcomes our sins</i> |
| Romans 6:3-9 | <i>Through baptism, we are united with Christ</i> |
| Romans 8:14-23 | <i>We are children of God and heirs with Christ</i> |
| Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 | <i>Nothing can separate us from God's love</i> |
| Romans 14:7-9,10b-12 | <i>Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 | <i>All will be brought to life in Christ</i> |
| 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 | <i>Death is conquered by Jesus Christ</i> |
| 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1 | <i>What is unseen is eternal</i> |
| 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 | <i>We have an everlasting home with Christ</i> |
| Philippians 3:20-21 | <i>Our bodies will be glorified</i> |
| | |
| 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | <i>The glory of the resurrection</i> |
| 2 Timothy 2:8-13 | <i>If we have died with Jesus, we shall live</i> |
| 1 John 3:1-2 | <i>We are God's children</i> |
| 1 John 3:14-16 | <i>We pass from death to life</i> |

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7
Ephesians 3:14-21
2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18

Experience a love beyond telling
I have finished the race and kept the faith

● **SUGGESTED SECOND READING SELECTIONS**
DURING THE EASTER SEASON ●

Acts 10:34-43
Revelation 14:13
Revelation 20:11-21:1
Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

Jesus is forgiveness for those who believe
Happy are those who die in the Lord
The dead are judged by their works
I am the Alpha and the Omega

● **SUGGESTED GOSPEL SELECTIONS** ●

Matthew 5:1-12a
Matthew 11:25-30
Matthew 25:1-13
Matthew 25:31-46
Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6
Luke 7:11-17
Luke 12:35-40
Luke 23:33, 39-43
Luke 23:44-46,50,52-53;24:1-6a
Luke 24:13-35
John 5:24-29
John 6:37-40
John 6:51-59
John 11:17-27
John 11:32-45
John 12:23-28
John 14:1-6
John 17:24-26
John 19:17-18, 25-30
John 3:13-17
John 10:11-18
John 10:27-30

The Beatitudes
Come to me, you who are weary and burdened
Parable of the bridesmaids; suddenness of death
Parable of the Final Judgment
Jesus gave out a cry and breathed his last
Raising of the son of the widow of Naim
Waiting for the arrival of the master
The thief on the cross: you will be in paradise
Into your hands I commend my spirit
Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road
Whoever hears and believes has passed into Life
Whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life
Those who eat this Bread will live forever
I am the resurrection and the life
The raising of Lazarus
If a grain of wheat dies, it produces a rich harvest
There are many rooms in my Father's house
All those you gave me I would have in my company
Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit
All who believe will have eternal life
I am the Good Shepherd
I give my sheep eternal life

MUSIC SELECTIONS

For centuries, people have found hope and comfort in music. By singing and praying together we give praise to God and receive encouragement in ways that cannot be experienced through spoken prayer alone. For these reasons and many others, the church encourages music at all its celebrations. It is customary to have a cantor or small group of singers assist with the music along with an accompanist. Gretchen Roe is the Director of Music at the Mary of the Visitation. Please contact her at (763) 447-3339 ext 307 to discuss the music choices and arrangements for the musicians. The funeral home takes care of any fees as part of your planning. If you wish, music can also be arranged for the Vigil Service.

As with all church celebrations, in funeral liturgies we emphasize congregational singing. Most of the songs should be familiar to those who gather for the celebration and be appropriate for singing in church. There are times when solo music is possible and family members can certainly be a part of this. Be aware, however, that this is a very emotional time and sometimes it is unrealistic to ask a family member to sing or play a song through their grief. It is also possible that the "favorite song" is not suitable for a church setting and may be more appropriate at another time of remembrance. During the seasons of Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, seasonal hymns would be appropriate. If you have questions, the Director of Music is available to help in your selections.

FUNERAL MUSIC REPERTOIRE

Songs marked 'JS' are found in the *Journeysongs* hymnal. Worship aids and any necessary music will be created/provided by MOV.)

Gathering/Closing Songs:

All Are Welcome (#850)
 All Creatures of Our God and King (#611)—not during Lent
 Amazing Grace (#645)
 Be Not Afraid (#683)
 City of God (#766)
 Glory and Praise to Our God (#606)
 God of Day and God of Darkness (#859)
 Here I Am, Lord (#777)
 How Great Thou Art (#578)
 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (#724)
 I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light (#593)
 *Jerusalem, My Happy Home (#870)
 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (#614)

Lead Me, Lord (JS#659)
 Lord of All Hopefulness (#663)
 Sing a New Song (#607)—not during Lent
 Sing with All the Saints in Glory (#539)—not during Lent
 Soon and Very Soon (#865)—not during Lent
 *We Walk by Faith (#680)
 You Are Mine (#721)

(Some songs from the Communion list may also serve as Gathering Songs.)

Psalms:

Ps. 23: Shepherd Me, O God (#35)
 Ps. 25: To You, O Lord (#39)
 Ps. 27: The Lord Is My Light (#41)
 Ps. 33: Happy Are the People—Refrain III (#44)
 Ps. 42: As the Deer Longs (JS#42)
 Ps. 63: My Soul Is Thirsting (#55 or 57)
 Ps. 91: On Eagle's Wings (#691)
 Ps. 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful (#72 or 75)
 Ps. 116: In the Land of the Living—Refrain III (#80)

Communion Songs:

All Who Hunger (#925)
 Be Not Afraid (#683)
 Blest Are They (#735)
 Center of My Life (#679)
 Eye Has Not Seen (#728)
 I Am the Bread of Life (#945)
 *I Have Loved You (#588)
 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (#828)
 On Eagle's Wings (#691)
 One Bread, One Body (#932)
 Seed, Scattered and Sown (JS#811)
 *Shelter Me, O God (#717)
 Take and Eat This Bread (#928)
 Taste and See (#930)
 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is (#712)
 Unless a Grain of Wheat (#783)
 We Are Many Parts (#834)

We Have Been Told (#784)
We Remember (#681)
We Will Rise Again (JS#714)
You Are Mine (#721)

***Preparation of Gifts:**

Because of the short duration of the Preparation of Gifts, instrumental music is often preferred. Otherwise a shorter song from the above lists can also be used; some suggestions are indicated with an asterisk (*).

Acclamations:

Mass of Creation (*recommended setting*)

Final Commendation:

Saints of God

FUNERAL SERVICE FEE GUIDELINES

| | Parish Member | When the deceased is not a parish member |
|---|---------------|---|
| Church Donation Payable to: Mary of the Visitation | \$150 | \$300 |
| Parish Hall & Kitchen use Payable to: Mary of the Visitation | \$150 | \$300 |
| Clergy (<i>recommended stipend</i>) Payable to President | \$100 | \$100 |
| Custodial Fee Payable to: Mary of the Visitation | \$75 | \$75 |
| Musicians | | |
| Accompanist | \$100 | \$100 |
| Cantor | \$100 | \$100 |
| Payable to the individuals | | |

*Additional Funeral Fee when a Family chooses not to utilize the presence of a
Funeral Home Staff at the Church.*

| | Members | Non-Members |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Administrative/Coordinator Fee: | \$100.00 | \$150.00 |

LIST OF FORMS TO COMPLETE AND RETURN TO PARISH OFFICE

The following forms need to be completed and returned to the MOTV office. Copies are included for your use in the front pocket of this binder. A sample of each can be found within these pages.

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| General Information | Page 5 |
| Burial Information | Page 6 |
| Parish Prayers/Visitation | Page 7 |
| Funeral Luncheon | Page 9 |
| Catering Information | Page 9 |
| Planning the Funeral Liturgy | Pages 11-18 |

In addition to these forms, you will also need to submit to the parish office the appropriate fees.

(see page 19)

REV: 1/20/2023