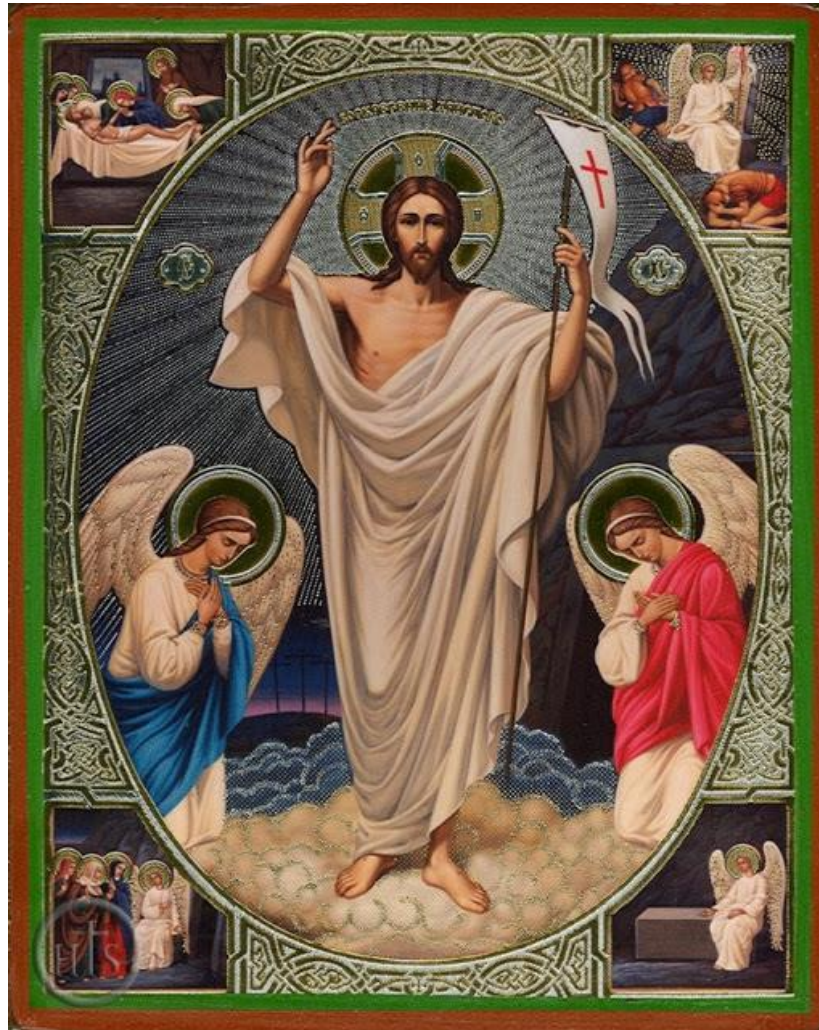


FUNERAL GUIDELINES
AND PLANNING GUIDE



SAINT MARY'S VISITATION PARISH
ELM GROVE, WISCONSIN

Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult moments we will experience over the course of our earthly lives. During this time of sadness and grief the Church mourns with you and prays for the person who has died, trusting in the promise of her Lord and Master, that all who have died with Christ will live with Him.

This funeral planning guide has been designed to assist families in preparing for the funeral rituals of the Church. Please take a few moments to review this guide and then to begin to fill in some of the choices and selections which will assist in preparing for the funeral.



*O God, in whose presence the dead are alive
and in whom your saints rejoice full of happiness,
grant our supplication, that your servant,
for whom the fleeting light of this world shines no more,
may enjoy the comfort of your light for all eternity. Amen.*

(From the Roman Missal)

FUNERAL GUIDELINES

The Funeral Home

St. Mary's recommends using a funeral home in the process of preparing for a funeral. The trained staff of a funeral home facilitates communication between the family and the parish and provides much needed services and direction in the midst of a difficult time.

Scheduling the Funeral

St. Mary's does its best to coordinate a time for the celebration of the funeral taking into account the desires of the family, the availability of the priest and the overall parish calendar. Generally morning funerals are preferred.

The Visitation

Visitations are traditionally held prior to the celebration of a funeral Mass, either immediately preceding it or on the evening beforehand at the funeral home. Visitations at St. Mary's may be held in the church or in the Parish Atrium, with preference given to the Parish Atrium

The Cemetery Committal

It is appropriate, but not necessary, for a priest or deacon to accompany the family to the cemetery for a committal service. Due to factors sometimes out of their control, St. Mary's cannot always provide a priest or deacon for these prayers. According to the ritual itself, however, these prayers may be led by a lay person in the absence of a priest or deacon.



The Priest

Funeral Masses at St. Mary's are generally celebrated by our assigned parish priest(s) or by one of our usual assisting priests. Priests who are close family members or family friends can request permission to celebrate the funeral Mass from the parish pastor / administrator. A priest from outside the Archdiocese must provide a Letter of Suitability from his superior and is expected to follow the General Instruction of the Roman Missal as well as the guidelines listed in this booklet.

Music

St. Mary's will provide a pianist / organist as well as a cantor for the celebration of the funeral Mass. If there is the desire for an instrumentalist (ex. cello, violin, etc.), this will be coordinated through the Director of Music. Outside musicians or singers who may be particular friends of the deceased or family members may play or sing a hymn during the time of the Remarks of Remembrance. Unfortunately, outside musicians and cantors cannot take the place of the parish musicians.

Music for the funeral Mass is chosen in dialogue between the family of the deceased, the priest and the Director of Music. Only liturgical music is to be used at the funeral Mass. Secular music can be used at the visitation or at the cemetery committal or a reception following the funeral services.

Favorite hymns of the deceased or their family may be listed in the Funeral Planning Guide part of this booklet.

Remarks of Remembrance

Remarks of Remembrance, sometimes known as a "eulogy" can be done at the time of the funeral, but they are not required. St. Mary's asks that the Remarks of Remembrance start ten minutes prior to the start of the funeral Mass and are limited to no more than two people for a total of five to seven minutes. Remarks of Remembrance should focus in on the faith and virtues of the person who has died.

FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE

(Name of the Deceased)

(Date of Birth)

(Date of Death)

_____ at _____
(Date and Time of Funeral)

Funeral Home: _____

Director: _____

Family Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Relationship: _____

Visitation at: _____

On: _____

From: _____ To: _____

Hymnody

Please list any favorite hymn for possible inclusion in the funeral Mass here if desired. If you do not have any preference, the Director of Music will be happy to select appropriate music.

Remarks of Remembrance

____ Yes, we will have Remarks of Remembrance given by: _____

____ No, we will not have Remarks of Remembrance

Readings

Possible reading selections can be found at the St. Mary's website, www.stmaryeg.org/funerals or by consulting a Through Death to Life Book which can be provided by the parish upon request.

First Reading: _____

Read By: _____

Second Reading: _____

Read By: _____

Gospel: _____

Preparation of the Gifts

Two or more people may bring up the gifts of bread and wine.

FUNERAL PLANNING INFORMATION

Contact Information

St. Mary's Visitation Parish
1260 Church Street
Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122
262-782-4575

Funeral Fees (As of 2015)

Stipend: \$50.00 (*Made Payable to St. Mary's*)

Organist: \$150.00 (*Made Payable to Organist*)

Cantor: \$ 100.00 (*Made Payable to Cantor*)

Visitation (if at the parish): \$100.00 (*Made Payable to St. Mary's*)

Priest: An Honorarium of \$100.00 - \$200.00 is traditional (*Made Payable to Priest*)

St. Mary's Visitation Parish Cemetery

St. Mary's has a cemetery, located to blocks away on Watertown Plank Road. Plots and graves are eligible to be purchased by parish members. Unfortunately we are not able to sell plots or graves to non-parish members. If you would like further information, please contact the parish offices at 262-782-4575.

FUNERAL HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Be Not Afraid
Blest Are They
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
Day Is Done
Eat This Bread
Eye Has Not Seen
For All The Saints
Healer of Our Every Ill
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
I Am the Bread of Life
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
In Paradisum
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Jesus, Remember Me
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Lift High the Cross
Lord of All Hopefulness
May the Angels Lead You into
Paradise
Now We Remain
O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
On Eagle's Wings
Sing with All the Saints in Glory
The Strife Is O'er
Taste and See
This Is the Feast of Victory

We Have Been Told
We Shall Rise Again
We Walk By Faith
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
You Are Mine

Psalms

Ps. 23 Shepherd Me, O God
 or My Shepherd Is the Lord
Ps. 25 To You, O Lord
Ps. 27 The Lord Is My Light
Ps. 63 My soul is thirsting for you,
 O Lord my God
Ps. 103 The Lord is Kind and Merciful
Ps. 116 I will walk in the presence
 of the Lord