

# Guidelines for the Funeral / Memorial Mass

## CONTACTS:

\*Your first contact should be to the funeral home. Once arrangements are made with them, they will contact the Administrative Assistant at St. Paul's staff to book your mass.

\*Katie Van Damme, the Adult Faith Formation Coordinator, (671-2100 x24) will assist in planning your funeral mass along with readings and music selections. Please look over music and reading suggestions prior to meeting with Katie.

## FLOWERS:

\*Floral arrangements are always encouraged as part of a Funeral Mass. All arrangements should be delivered no less than one hour prior to the celebration. They will be displayed in the sanctuary by Church staff.

\*Arrangements can be bought or made of fresh flowers. If they are self-made, please arrange them at home and bring them to the church one hour before mass. Staff will display them in the sanctuary.

## MUSIC:

\*We will provide a musician and cantor for your mass. Their fees are included in the church fee which is payable through the funeral home. This does not include a stipend for the presider.

\*The music should come from the list provided due to the religious significance of the funeral rite. If you desire to have another liturgical hymn that is not listed here please let us know and we will seek approval from our Music Director. Music should be chosen as a sign of praise to God.

\*Secular music, such as *Oh Danny Boy*, is not approved for liturgical celebrations.

## CREMAINS:

\*If there are cremains, **all cremains** must be present at the funeral mass. It is preferred that they are all in one urn.

\*A table will be placed in the front of the church for cremains and a picture of the deceased. We ask that you respectfully limit pictures to one.

### **CASKET:**

- \*The casket can be processed and recessed by the pall bearers.
- \*At this time, family will not be following the casket into the church during the mass due to covid restrictions.
- \*Also, due to Covid restrictions we are not covering the casket with a pall at this time.

### **WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE AND THE HOMILY:**

- \*The words of remembrance are similar to what some would call a eulogy. They should be a reverent and respectful remembrance of the deceased life. They should be no more than 5 minutes long and will be given just before the First Reading. This should be delivered by someone close to the deceased. The words of remembrance are optional.
- \*The homily, which is given by the deacon or priest, is based on the liturgical readings. Some information about the deceased, in relation to the readings, will be included in the homily. The homily relates Christian death to the Lord's death and resurrection.

### **READERS:**

- \*Readings should be selected from the attached documents. However, we cannot use anything listed as a first reading for a second reading or vice versa.
- \*We ask for you to have three readers selected. Readers are needed for the first reading, the second reading, and the prayers of the faithful, which will all be selected by the family. The Adult Faith Formation Coordinator will fill in if necessary.
- \*If there is a biblical reading you would like to use that is not listed, please speak to the Adult Faith Formation Coordinator for further assistance.
- \*You do not have to choose a Gospel reading. The priest or deacon will select and read the Gospel.
- \*Readers should be in good faith, devout, and familiar with the lectionary processes.

### **REVERANT REMINDERS:**

- \*We will provide greeters and ushers to assist your guests
- \*A Cross bearer who will proceed and recede at the beginning and end of mass can also be selected from your attendees. If none are selected an usher will assist.
- \*The funeral / memorial mass is separate from calling hours and cannot be used as a substitute for it. We respectfully ask that people do not gather in the Narthex before or after the funeral.

\*If there are no calling hours, a Guest book is allowed in the breezeway or outside only.

\*The Narthex, or church entrance, is an extension of the Church. Reverence is always needed.

\*Photographs are limited to one that will be displayed with the cremains. No photographs, posters, or wall hangings are allowed in the Narthex.

\*Masks are required by all participants.