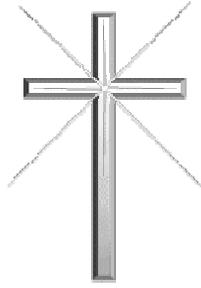


Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Catholic Practices  
Surrounding  
"The Hour of Our Death"

Parish Guidelines

Planning Guide  
for you and your loved ones



"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 also to raise high the hopes of its children and to give witness to its own faith in the future resurrection of the baptized with Christ."

**(Congregation for Divine Worship, Prot. no. 720/69)**

"At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of baptism and strengthened at the Eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The Church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting word of God and the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just. The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral.

The Church through its funeral rites commends the dead to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins. At the funeral rites, especially at the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice, the Christian community affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one great communion of saints. Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and intercession. At the rite of final commendation and farewell, the community acknowledges the reality of separation and commends the deceased to God. In this way it recognized the spiritual bond that still exists between the living and the dead and proclaims its belief that all the faithful will be raised up and reunited in the new heavens and a new earth, where death will be no more.

The celebration of the Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. While proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and witnessing to Christian hope in the resurrection, the funeral rites also recall to all who take part in them God's mercy and judgment and meet the human need to turn always to God in times of crisis."

**(Order of Christian Funerals, Introduction)**

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References: Our Lady of the Greenwood (Indiana) Funeral Planning Guide  
Joseph M. Champlin, Through Death to Life

## If you have a loved one who is terminally ill ...

**Call a priest:** The best situation is to have a priest come while the person is conscious and aware of what is happening. In this way you and your loved one can be consoled by the Church's prayers, scriptural readings and sacraments.

If this time of consciousness has already passed, still call a priest to administer the sacraments before your loved one dies.

The "Last Rites" are not administered after death.

The three sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Anointing compose the "Last Rites." The last reception of Holy Communion is called "Viaticum" and means that it is the spiritual food that you "take with you on the way" to heaven. If a person is unable to receive reconciliation or Holy Communion, the priest will still administer the Sacrament of Anointing.

**After Death:** If it is possible, call a priest before the family leaves the body. There are prayers that the Church offers at this time. The prayers are to commend the deceased to the Lord and to console the living.

## If you have a loved one who died ...

**Call the mortuary:** They will send someone to take charge of the body until the funeral.

**Meet with the Funeral Director:** Even if your funeral is pre-planned and pre-paid, there are many decisions to be made about the date and time of the funeral.

- \* You will want to bring pictures to be displayed and probably bring the burial clothes.
- \* Be prepared to help the funeral director develop an obituary to be published in the newspaper.
- \* Know whether or not you want a Mass in the church or a funeral home service. The normal liturgy is a Mass in church.
- \* Know whether or not you want a rosary or a scriptural "Vigil for the Deceased." The normal liturgy is a scripture service.
- \* Before your meeting with the funeral director is concluded, the funeral director should call the priest to finalize the date and time of the funeral, making sure that the priest and church are available (There might be other funerals, weddings, ordinations, etc.) and to set up a meeting with the priest to plan the funeral Mass.

**Meet with the Cemetery:** There are usually financial and practical matters to be decided.

**Meet with the priest or parish staff to plan the funeral liturgy.** At this meeting the following will be discussed: photo of the deceased (bring a good close-up if one is available), favorite scriptural readings, songs, prayers, etc. The priest will ask about what important spiritual and moral values about the life of the deceased which should be included in the homily.

**Visitation:** This can take place either in the funeral home or at the church. If at the church, it can be either in the church, chapel, or narthex. It can either be on the day of the burial or the night before.

**The Vigil for the Deceased:** This takes place in the same location as the visitation, toward the end of the visitation period. The normal liturgy is a scripture service or there can be a rosary instead. This is also the preferred time for a eulogy if one wishes.

**The Funeral Liturgy:** The preferred liturgy is a Mass, with the body present, in church. The Church also offers a "Liturgy Outside Mass." This is also an option. It is a scriptural service, usually in the funeral home, on the day of burial.

**The Burial at the Cemetery:** Although a Catholic cemetery with consecrated ground is preferred, the Church has always allowed its members to be buried in public cemeteries. If it is a public cemetery, the priest will bless the grave. The liturgy is a brief scripture service, either graveside or in a chapel. The staff of the cemetery buries the body after the mourners have departed.

**Masses offered for the deceased:** It is the custom of the Catholic Church to offer Masses in memory of the deceased. Normal times are on the anniversaries of death, on birth anniversaries, on anniversaries of marriage or ordination. Since the effects of the Mass are infinite, one Mass can be offered for multiple people in the same intention e.g. "For the repose of the souls of John and Mary Smith" or "For the repose of the souls of the members of the Smith family" or for "For the Poor Souls in Purgatory." In the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, a \$10 stipend per Mass intention is given to the parish. The priest is personally paid through the Archdiocesan Payroll system for one Mass per day, if the Mass had a paid intention. If he says more than one Mass per day he is only allowed to take \$10 per day; the "Bination" Stipend is given to a Church charity, but not to the Church operation. If a Mass is said and no intention has been paid and published, the priest does not get paid but he may offer the Mass for his own private intention. Most Indianapolis Archdiocese priests belong to the "St. Michael the Archangel Society" which is a group of priests whose members agree to offer three Masses for a priest member when he dies.

**CREMATION:** "Although cremation is now permitted by the Catholic Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites.... When the choice has been made to cremate a body, it is recommended that the cremation take place after the Funeral Liturgy.... By virtue of an indult granted by the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot.1589/L0, the celebration of the Funeral Liturgy, including Mass, in the presence of the cremated remains of the body of a deceased person is permitted in the dioceses of the United States of America...." (quoted from the *Order of Christian Funerals*, 1998)

## SPECIAL FINANCIAL NOTE FOR SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHEDRAL PARISH:

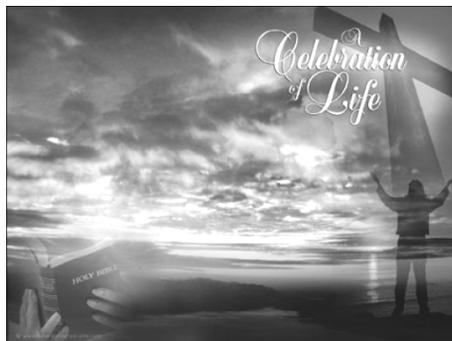
There is no charge, fee, expected stipend, suggested donation, etc. for the services of a priest or Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish at the time of death. However, as always, SS Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish, the priests, musicians and servers do gratefully accept donations.

### Pre-plan Your Own Funeral

**Make your wishes known:** Tell your relatives and health care providers that you wish to receive the "Last Rites" and to call a priest while you are still conscious enough to know what is happening.

**Pre-plan your funeral:** There are many financial advantages to making a contract with a mortuary far in advance of your death. In addition to these financial advantages, doing this is an act of kindness to those who would otherwise be left to make lots of decisions at the last minute. Furthermore, leaving funeral directives for your relatives insures that they know your desires; there will be no need for them to guess what you wanted. If they go against your directives, they will be breaking a sacred trust.

- \* See a lawyer to make out a Living Will, sometimes called an "Advanced Medical Directive."
- \* See a lawyer to make out a "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care" so that someone can speak for you after you have become incapacitated to the point that you can no longer speak for yourself. A regular "Power of Attorney" is not the same.
- \* See a lawyer to make out a will, taking care of the temporal treasure that God entrusted to you.
- \* Make plans for your funeral: which mortuary, cemetery, church, casket, clothes, grave marker, etc. Share your specific wishes and leave your written plans where they can be easily found by family members, relatives, friends or lawyers.
- \* Plan the liturgy: readings, songs, scriptural wake or rosary, etc. with the help of the lists of readings and music and the form at the back of this booklet.
- \* Leave a "Testament" about what important things you want people to remember about you, the type of spiritual and moral values that guided your life. This is a time to leave important advice to your relatives and friends. These are the things a family member can include in a eulogy or a priest can say in a sermon.



## Suggested Readings from the Old Testament (First Reading)

2 Maccabees 12:43-46	He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.
Job 19:1, 23-27a	I know that my Vindicator lives.
Wisdom 3:1-9	As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
Wisdom 4:7-15	An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9	He will destroy death forever.
Lamentations 3:17-26	It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.
Daniel 12:1-3	Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.
<i>The following may be used also if during the Season of Easter:</i>	
Acts 10:34-43	He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.
Revelation 14:13	Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.
Revelation 20:11-21:1	The dead were judged according to their deeds.
Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7	There shall be no more death.

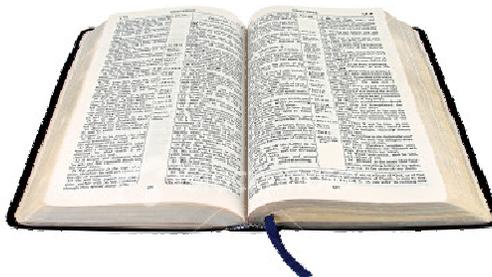
## Suggested Responsorial Psalms

Psalm 23:1-3, 4,5,6	
Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21	Psalm 103:8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18
Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14	Psalm 116:5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac
Psalm 42:2, 3, 5cdef; 43:3, 4, 5	Psalm 122:1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9	Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8

**Please Note:** Your choices of readings are not limited to those suggested in this booklet. It is very appropriate to choose Scripture readings of which the deceased was particularly fond or which held special meaning to them. Joseph M. Champlin's book "*Through Death to Life*" is available from SS Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish office.

## Suggested Readings from the New Testament (Second Reading)

Romans 5:5-11	Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.
Romans 5:17-21	Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.
Romans 6:3-9	We too might live in newness of life.
Romans 8:14-23	We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39	What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12	Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
1 Corinthians 15:20-28	So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.
1 Corinthians 15:51-57	Death is swallowed up in victory.
2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1	What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10	We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.
Philippians 3:20-21	He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
2 Timothy 2:8-13	If we have died with him we shall also live with him.
1 John 3:1-2	We shall see him as he is.
1 John 3:14-16	We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.



## Suggested Gospel Readings

Matthew 5:1-12a	Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. <i>(the beatitudes)</i>
Matthew 11:25-30	Come to me and I will give you rest.
Matthew 25:1-13	Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!
Matthew 25:31-46	Come, you who are blessed by my Father.
Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6	Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.
Luke 7:11-17	Young man, I tell you, arise!
Luke 12:35-40	You also must be prepared.
Luke 23:33, 39-43	Today you will be with me in Paradise.
Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a	Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
Luke 24:13-35	Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?
John 5:24-49	Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.
John 6:37-40	Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day.
John 6:51-59	Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.
John 11:17-27	I am the resurrection and the life.
John 11:32-45	Lazarus, come out!
John 12:23-28	If it dies, it produces much fruit.
John 14:1-6	In my Father's house there are many dwellings.
John 17:24-26	I wish that where I am they also may be with me.
John 19:17-18, 25-39	And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit.

## Suggested Music



Amazing Grace	Now We Remain
Ave Maria	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Be Not Afraid	On Eagle's Wings
Bread of Life	One Bread, One Body
Christ, Be Our Light	One Spirit, One Church
City of God	Only in God
Eat This Bread	Only This I Want
Eye Has Not Seen	Panis Angelicus
Faith of Our Fathers	Praise to the Lord
Gather Us In	Prayer of St. Francis
Gift of Finest Wheat	Salve Regina
Here I Am, Lord	Seek Ye First
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	Shepherd Me, O God
How Great Thou Art	Sing of the Lord's Goodness
I Am the Bread of Life	Sing to the Mountains
I Have Loved You	Song of the Body of Christ
I Heard the Voice of Jesus	Soon and Very Soon
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	Taste and See
Immaculate Mary	The Cry of the Poor
In the Day of the Lord	The Servant Song
Jesus Christ is Risen Today	The Summons
Jesus, Come to Us	They'll Know We Are Christians
Jesus, Remember Me	This Day God Gives Me
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	Though the Mountains May Fall
Lead Me, Guide Me	Ubi Caritas
Lead Me, Lord	We Have Been Told
Life High the Cross	We Remember
Morning Has Broken	Your Words Are Spirit and Life

**Please Note: Your choices for music are not limited to those listed above.**

# Funeral Plans for

\_\_\_\_\_ (full name as you want it published)

***Feel free to attach extra pages of funeral wishes, if necessary***

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's First & Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased relatives: \_\_\_\_\_

Surviving relatives: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment history: \_\_\_\_\_

Groups to which I belonged: \_\_\_\_\_

What other sorts of things do I want in my obituary? \_\_\_\_\_

In what newspapers do I want my obituary published? \_\_\_\_\_

Church I belong to now: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral home to be used: \_\_\_\_\_ Is the funeral prearranged? \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of tomb? in ground or mausoleum? \_\_\_\_\_

Grave marker details: \_\_\_\_\_

Casket: What kind? \_\_\_\_\_

Cremation or not? What happens to the ashes? \_\_\_\_\_

My will is located: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish from which I am to be buried: \_\_\_\_\_

Priest I want to be main celebrant my funeral: \_\_\_\_\_

Priest I want to preach my funeral: \_\_\_\_\_

Other priests I want to be invited to concelebrate: \_\_\_\_\_

Pallbearers: \_\_\_\_\_

Altar server/s \_\_\_\_\_ or have the church provide servers

Do I want flowers sent or do I want something else instead? \_\_\_\_\_

Visitation: where \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ rosary or scripture \_\_\_\_\_

Photographs at the visitation: yes / no Where to find photographs/ \_\_\_\_\_

Do I want holy cards? Any special saint? \_\_\_\_\_

Cards out at wake to have Masses said for my soul: yes / no \_\_\_\_\_ by funeral home yes / no

What do I want in my hand/s or otherwise placed in the casket with my body? \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Mass in church with burial at the cemetery or "Funeral Outside Mass" at funeral home and or graveside : \_\_\_\_\_

On the day of the funeral Mass, meet at funeral home or just meet at church? \_\_\_\_\_

At the funeral Mass, who puts on the funeral pall? \_\_\_\_\_

Do I have any Christian symbol to place over the pall? If yes, what? \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer, poem, reading, etc. I would like on back of Mass program \_\_\_\_\_

At the funeral Mass, what will be the Old Testament Reading and why was it chosen?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who will read the Old Testament Reading? \_\_\_\_\_

What will be the Responsorial Psalm? \_\_\_\_\_ or have choir choose

At the funeral Mass, what will be the New Testament Reading and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who will read the New Testament Reading? \_\_\_\_\_

What will be the Gospel Reading and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What important things do I want the priest to say about me in the homily? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What message would I want the priest to say to my family and friends on my behalf?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will someone give a eulogy at vigil service or in narthex prior to funeral? yes/no: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, who? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes on the eulogy, what kinds of things would I want them to say that the priest does not say in his homily? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Processional Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Offertory Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Post-communion Meditation Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Song of Farewell: \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather permitting, do I want the cemetery service to be graveside or in a chapel? \_\_\_\_\_

Limousine? yes or no If yes, who rides in the limo? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Motorcycle escort: yes or no \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Meal location? \_\_\_\_\_

About how many people would I expect to be at the funeral meal? \_\_\_\_\_

Other Details: *Feel free to attach extra pages of funeral wishes if necessary*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_