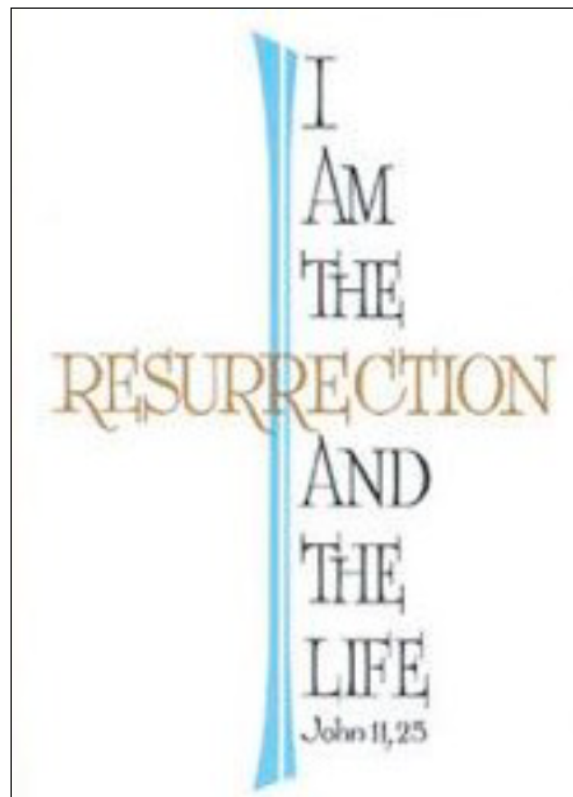


Mass of Christian Burial
Planning Guide

Christ Our Savior Parish
(Formerly St. Cyril, Holy Wisdom,
St. Peter, and Risen Lord parishes)



Celebrating a Life in Prayer & Ritual

Death is time for the ministry of consolation. The Order of Christian Funerals provides the moments and the means to express the sadness of loss and the hope of faith.

The rituals are a journey... spiritual, physical and emotional... from the deathbed to the place of burial.

A priest, deacon or pastoral minister from the parish will help plan the funeral rites. These three major moments must be considered: The Vigil, The Mass of Christian Burial and The Committal Rite.

Most important and expressive is the Funeral Mass — the Mass of Christian Burial. It is a celebration of Christ's Resurrection; it is a Banquet of Eternal Life in the face and presence of death. By the Word of Scripture and the Sacrament of the Altar, the People of God are renewed in hope to continue living as Christ's followers. At the end of a person's life, the promises made in Baptism are recalled and called upon for the deceased and for the living.

The ritual uses all the senses, all the talents, all the capabilities of the human person. Active participation is the way of expressing hope in the resurrection... the living cannot capitulate to death. So the living express their hope and love... in the face of death.

A Funeral Mass cannot be celebrated on Sundays, on the Solemnity of a Holy Day, or during the Triduum which is Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Be sure to check with your parish before scheduling a Funeral Mass.

The rituals of the Catholic Church offer a witness of faith, a comfort to the bereaved and a solidarity between the living and the dead.

The Vigil is held before the Funeral Mass and the Rite of Committal takes place at the cemetery afterward.

Preparation and Information

Should the body be present for the funeral Mass?

The church assumes that unless there are specific circumstances which prohibit it, the body will be present. The presence of the body serves as a reminder of the reality of death. Also, during the funeral, the body is honored as the sacred vessel which has held the spirit of life, the Holy Gift of God. If the body has been cremated, the remains will be present at the Mass on a table in front of the altar.

A Mass in which the body or remains are not present is regarded as a Memorial Mass, not a Funeral Mass.

Can family and friends be included in the funeral Mass?

Definitely! We always encourage those who wish to participate in special ways:

Family members may place the pall (a large white cloth symbolizing the Baptismal garment) on the casket at the beginning of the funeral Mass. You may also place a crucifix on the casket before Mass begins.

The family can provide readers for the one/two Scripture readings and prayer intercessions at the funeral Mass. These persons must be practicing Catholics. The parish will provide readers if none are available from the family.

You may select family/friends to bring up the gifts of bread and wine at the offertory, and young people may serve as altar servers.

Special music at the funeral provided by the family or friends may be used, and should be coordinated with the organist. Any such music must be approved for Sacred Liturgy. Secular music is not permitted.

Bereavement Ministry

Bereavement Ministry consists of Pastoral Staff and/or parish volunteer ministers who may help the family plan the funeral Mass, as well as volunteer ministers, known as

Arimatheans, who attend and assist, as needed, at the funeral Mass.

Financial Arrangements

There are a few expenses associated with the funeral Mass which are usually handled through the Funeral Director. The details are: \$100 for the musician, \$25 for the cantor, \$100 for the priest, and an optional offering for the parish (Christ Our Savior). If there are any concerns regarding financial arrangements, please let the Funeral Director know and we can work to meet your needs.

THE FUNERAL MASS

Readings

The following are readings suggested for the funeral Mass. You should select one reading from the Old Testament (will be read first), and one reading from the New Testament (will be read second, after the Responsorial Psalm). The priest will select the Gospel passage, unless otherwise requested. Please indicate your choices on the included Mass planning sheet.

Old Testament Readings (choose one)

1) Sirach 2:1-11 A blameless life is a ripe old age.

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

My child, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials. Be sincere of heart and steadfast, and do not be impetuous in time of adversity. Cling to him, do not leave him, that you may prosper in your last days. Accept whatever happens to you; in periods of humiliation be patient. For in fire gold is tested, and the chosen, in the crucible of humiliation.

Trust in God, and he will help you; make your ways straight and hope in him.

You that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy, do not stray lest

you fall. You that fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not be lost. You that fear the Lord, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.

Consider the generations long past and see: has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed? Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken? Has anyone called upon him and been ignored?

For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; forgives sins and saves in time of trouble. The Word of the Lord.

2) Wisdom 3: 1-9 He accepted them as a holocaust.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality. Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect. The Word of the Lord.

3) Wisdom: 4: 7-15 A blameless life is a ripe old age.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time,

nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported – snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; for the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account. The Word of the Lord.

4) Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9 The Lord God will destroy death forever.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" The Word of the Lord.

5) Ecclesiastes 3:1-12 There is a time for everything under the heavens.

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes:

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for

every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life. The Word of the Lord.

6) Proverbs: 31: 10-31 She works with loving hands.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs:

Who can find a woman of worth? Far beyond jewels is her value.

Her husband trusts her judgment, he does not lack income. She brings him profit, not loss, all the days of her life. She seeks out wool and flax, and weaves with skillful hands.

Like a merchant fleet, she secures her provisions from afar.. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household, a portion to her maidservants.

She picks out a field and acquires it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength; she

exerts her arms with vigor. She enjoys the profit from her dealings; her lamp is never extinguished at night.. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.

She is not concerned for her household when it snows—all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing.. Her husband is prominent at the city gates, as he sits with the elders of the land. She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts.

She is clothed with strength and dignity, and laughs at the days to come.. She opens her mouth in wisdom; kindly instruction is on her tongue.. She watches over the affairs of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed.

“Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.” Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Acclaim her for the work of her hands, and let her deeds praise her at the city gates. The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings (choose one)

1) Romans 6: 3-9 Let us walk in the newness of life.

A Reading from a Letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death

like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. The Word of the Lord.

2) Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39 Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

A Reading from a Letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and Sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us?^x

He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will

be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Word of the Lord.

3) 2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1 What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. The Word of the Lord.

4) 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 - We shall stay with the Lord forever.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians:

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will

surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words. The Word of the Lord.

5) 1 John 3:1-2 We shall see God as he really is.

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint John:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. The Word of the Lord.

6) 1 John 4:7-16 Whoever remains in love remains in God

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint John:

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us,

that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. The Word of the Lord.

7) Revelation 14:13 Happy are those who die in the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation.

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them." The Word of the Lord.

8) Revelation 21: 1-5, 6-7 There will be no more death.

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God). He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for

they are trustworthy and true." He said to me, "They are accomplished. I (am) the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son. The Word of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful

These prayers intentions are made for the deceased and those grieving. They are said after the priest's homily, and are often led by a family member or friend of the deceased.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our brother/sister, (name), who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life; that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord.

For our brother/sister who ate the Body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again; that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.

For the family and friends of our brother/sister, (name), that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord.

And for all of us assembled here to worship in faith; that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

Christ Our Savior Parish Office

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Churches

St. Boniface

2208 East St.
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St. Cyril of Alexandria

3854 Brighton Rd
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St. Peter

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