

The Order of the Mass of Christian Burial

Introductory Rites

Greeting - The priest, ministers and the assembly greet the body at the entrance (vestibule) of the Church.

Sprinkling with Holy Water - After all have gathered, the body is blessed with holy water that reminds us of the saving waters of baptism.

Placing of the Pall -A white cloth or "pall " is unfolded and laid over the casket at the beginning of Mass. This cloth symbolizes the baptismal garment of our Catholic faith. Family members are encouraged to take part in this ritual at the liturgy.

Entrance Procession and Song - While the processional song is played, the casket is then processed to the front of the church near the Paschal Candle, the sign of the light of Christ and the eternal life into which we are born and die with him.

Opening Prayer

Words of Remembrance - There are times when a family member or friend may wish to speak in memory of the deceased. This option is always possible, but not necessary. This would usually be done by one person and be no longer than 2 to 4 minutes in length. If you wish to include words of remembrance at Mass, please note this on the planning form and check with the presiding priest.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading - The first reading is always taken from the Hebrew' Scriptures or the "Old Testament". Please choose one of the readings on pages 1-3 of Funeral Readings and indicate your choice on the attached planning form. During the Easter season (from Easter Monday through Pentecost); please choose one of the readings on pages 4 and 5 to be used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament.

Responsorial Psalm - The psalm is always sung at the funeral liturgy. Please choose a psalm from one of the selections on pages 6-11 and the music minister will lead the assembly in singing the response.

Second Reading - The second reading is always taken from the "New Testament". Please choose one of the readings on pages 12-17 and indicate your choice on the

attached planning form.

Gospel - The Gospel is always proclaimed by the priest or deacon. Please choose one of the Gospel readings on pages 18-27 and mark your selection on the planning form.

Homily - The homily breaks open the Word of God and helps relate it to the life of the deceased. Family members may wish to write down some notes about the deceased to share with the priest.

General Intercessions These prayers may be offered by a family member or friend.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts and Song - Family members or friends are strongly encouraged to present the gifts of bread and wine at Mass. Please choose two or three individuals to bring up the gifts.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Distribution of Communion and Song

Prayer after Communion

Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell - A song is sung as the casket is being incensed; a sign of our prayers, thoughts and petitions rising-up to God and an acknowledgement of the sacred nature of the body.

Prayer of Commendation

Procession to the Place of Committal and Closing Song - The casket is processed to the back of church with the family following, while closing song is played. The priest can accompany the family to the cemetery or place of committal.

Funeral Mass Planning Form (side A)

Please return this form to the Parish Office or presiding minister at least 24 hours before the Funeral Mass. You may fax (440-398-8043) or email this form to office@saintadalbertparish.org. Families may meet with the priest to plan the liturgy.

We ask your family to use the Funeral Liturgy Planning Guide to assist you in preparing your loved one's funeral liturgy. Please also give copies of the Scripture readings to those who will proclaim them so that they can practice. The presiding minister can also give you a copy of the readings.

Name of Deceased _____

Birth Date _____ Date of Death _____

Next of Kin _____ Phone No. _____

Words of Remembrance If someone will speak on behalf of the family, please list the name of the person.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

A **white cloth**, called a pall, is unfolded and laid over the casket at the beginning of Mass (omitted with an urn/cremains). Please tell the funeral director if your family would like to do this.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Songs: Please see Funeral Music on the parish website, under Funeral Information, for a selection of religious music. Please choose three songs and list them on the attached form. If there is another song that you would like; please list it, and we will try our best. The musician(s) will determine a proper order, but if you want a specific song at a specific time (entrance, communion, recessional, etc), please list your preferences on the back please.

Musicians: Organist/pianist and cantor are required at every funeral service or Mass in the church. In hardship cases the fee can be waived or reduced. To inquire about an extra instrumentalist, call the parish office, 440-234-6830.

For a printed copy of this information please contact the church office.

Funeral Mass Planning Form (side B)

Introductory Rites

Opening Song: _____

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading # _____

Read by: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

(this can be chosen by organist unless family has a favorite)

Second Reading # _____

Read by: Gospel # _____ Read by Celebrant

General Intercessions Read by: _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation Hymn: Instrumental

Gift Bearers: (2-3 people)

Communion Rite

Communion Song: _____

Final Commendation

Closing Song: _____

Notes of interest, qualities or memories of your loved one
