

## **Preparing the Funeral Mass/Memorial Mass for the Deceased**

**Presider:** If a Mass is to be held for the Funeral Rites, the Presider must be a priest. If a Funeral Service is being held without a Mass, the Presider can be a Priest or a Deacon. If there are family friends or relatives who are clergy, they are invited to participate. Please check with the Presider about this.

**Place:** If the Funeral celebration is going to be a Mass, it must be in the Church. If the Funeral celebration is going to be a Service without a Mass, it can be held either in the funeral home or the Church, whichever the family prefers.

**Altar Servers:** The parish can provide altar servers from our parish volunteers. If the family wishes to have their own servers, please inform the priest as soon as possible.

**Time:** Generally, the time for the Funeral Mass is 10:00 or 10:30 AM. Other times are possible. Please check with the priest before making final arrangements.

**Placing the Pall:** The Pall is the white cloth that covers the casket. It recalls the day of baptism when the deceased was wrapped in a white cloth and given a challenge to bring their Christian Dignity unstained into the Kingdom of Heaven. It is most fitting for family members to place the pall on the casket, if they are willing to do so.

**Other Symbolic Items:** If the family would like to bring forward items that are indicative or symbolic of the deceased, please let the Presider know and work out the logistics with him. These may be carried in the Entrance procession and placed on a table near the casket.

**Readings:** There are usually three readings: one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and one from the Gospels. The Old Testament Readings are found on **pages 9 – 10**;

the New Testament Readings are found on **pages 10 – 14**; the Gospel Readings are found on **pages 14 – 20**. If there is someone among your family members or friends who can be a Lector and read the readings, there is a space provided to write their names. If there is no one who can do this, the Presider will find one for you or the Presider will read the readings himself. The Gospel is always read by a Priest or a Deacon.

The **Responsorial Psalm** is **SUNG** and is included in the musical choices (**page 6**).

**Homily Ideas:** The Presider may or may not know the deceased very well. Therefore, it is always welcomed to have input as to what would be important to be shared at the Mass or Service. This could be interesting stories, anecdotes, favorite things -- however the deceased would like to be remembered. The Presider will interlace these stories with the scripture chosen to put together a Homily that will celebrate the life of the deceased in the context of our faith.

**Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions):** Two forms are provided for the Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions). Please choose Form #1 or Form #2, which can be found on **pages 27 – 28**. Please fill in the blanks that are provided. If there is someone among your family members or friends who can read the Petitions, there is a space provided to write their name. If there is no one who can do this, the Presider will read them.

**Gift Bearers:** There are gifts of bread and wine that are used during the Eucharist. If the family has family members or friends whom they wish to bring the gifts forward, please write their name on the Preparation Sheet.

**Eucharistic Ministers (EMHC's):** Usually, the parish provides a person to serve as a Eucharistic Minister at the Funeral Mass or Memorial Mass. However, if you have an EMHC among your family members or friends who would like to assist with this ministry, please write their name on the Preparation Sheet.

**Music:** For the most part, music should be chosen from the list of music suggestions on **pages 6 – 7**. If you have other music that you would like included in the Mass, please discuss these selections with our Director of Music, Chris Wolf.

Normally, the organist/pianist and cantor (singer) are St. Agnes music ministers. Although only St. Agnes keyboardists may play the organ, if you have family members or friends who would like to be involved in the music for the funeral, that is possible. Please discuss this with Chris Wolf.

Parish music ministers, who provide music for a Funeral or Memorial Mass, should be compensated for their services. Usually these arrangements are made through the funeral home, with the present customary stipend being \$100 per person. If you do not arrange for the funeral home to pay the music ministers, please arrange for someone to take care of this for you on the day of the funeral.

**Special Instructions:** If there are any other details that have not been covered, please provide them in the space provided

### **Important Contact Information**

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