

Through Death to Life

Celebrating Funerals at Saint Mark Catholic Church

We at St. Mark want to express our sympathy at the loss of your loved one. Our faith reminds us that our Lord is *the God of all consolation!* He comforts us in all our afflictions and enables us to comfort those who grieve with the same consolation we have received from him. May our compassionate Lord be with you in a special way during this time of grief.

The Church through its funeral rites commends the faithful departed to God's merciful love. During our 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. 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.

The *Order of Christian Funerals* is divided into three groups of rites that correspond in general to the three principal ritual moments in the funerals of Christians: *Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, and Rite of Committal*. It is the Catholic Church's preference that the funeral Mass be celebrated with the body of the deceased present. It may either be buried or cremated after the funeral Mass. In the event that cremation occurs first, the cremated remains may be brought to the church for the funeral Mass. If neither the body nor the cremated remains are present, a Memorial Mass may be celebrated.

The Vigil. The Vigil for the deceased is the principal rite celebrated by the Christian community in the time following death and before the funeral liturgy, or if there is no funeral liturgy, before the rite of committal. The vigil, normally celebrated in the funeral home, may be celebrated in the home of the deceased or in the church.

The vigil is normally celebrated the evening before the *Funeral Liturgy* and is a time for prayer and remembrances by family and friends. This is the most opportune time for eulogies and sharing stories of the deceased. Traditional prayers during the *Vigil* include the rosary and the Lord's Prayer.

The Funeral is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased. We celebrate the funeral as either a *Funeral Mass* or *Funeral Liturgy outside Mass* with the major differences being the Liturgy of the Eucharist. At Saint Mark the funeral liturgy is celebrated in either the church or chapel.

Family members are encouraged to assist in the readings and song selection. We have a list of songs, sacred scripture and *Funeral Planning Worksheet* to assist the family with that planning. Saint Mark will also prepare the worship aid for the *Funeral*. It is most helpful if the family can provide the church with an estimate of the number of copies needed.

The Funeral consists of the gathering of the faithful and receiving the casket (urn) of the deceased. The family and the deceased are normally greeted at the church entrance and then proceed into the church for the liturgy. The liturgy consists of: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, (Liturgy of the Eucharist), Final Commendation and Procession to the Place of

Committal. Eulogies are not a part of our Catholic Funeral Liturgy and are best included at either the Vigil service, at the site of Committal, or during a gathering (luncheon) after the rite of Committal.

The Order of Christian Funerals & The General Norms for the Celebration of Roman Catholic Funerals In the Diocese of Raleigh (dated May 2008) states that a eulogy is not to be given where the Homily is prescribed (OCF 27 & page 6 no 13). The Vigil for the Deceased is a more fitting time for individuals for a eulogy to share remembrances of the deceased. The remarks are to be simple, brief, and prepared, with the tone remaining one of faith and hope (page 6 no. 14). Although more ample opportunities are possible at the Vigil for the Deceased, a eulogy may also be given at the place of Committal (burial or interment), after the concluding prayers.

The parish will assist the family in arranging for the organist and cantor. For your information, those providing music for funeral liturgies **do not** receive payment from the church. The only remuneration they receive for their services come from the family. **The standard fee for organist/pianist is \$100; the standard fee for cantor is \$100.** As a convenience, these fees are normally included in the funeral home fee, and are customarily paid on the day of the funeral. The parish also accepts memorial gifts in memory of the deceased. If desired, the donor may specify the purpose for the gift. A gift or donation to the priest is NOT expected or required.

The Rite of Committal. The Rite of Committal is normally conducted immediately following the funeral liturgy. The rite consists of: The Prayer over the Place of Committal, Committal, Lord's Prayer and Prayer for the People. The rite usually takes about fifteen minutes. If the body is cremated, the Church's expectation is that the cremated remains will be interred in the ground or in a columbarium (niche).

With Those Who Mourn. We hope this Funeral Planning Packet is of assistance during your time of grief. *Risen Lord, pattern of our life for ever: bring us safely home.*

Sincerely in Christ,
The pastor and parish staff of St. Mark

To assist in the funeral liturgy planning for both immediate and future concerns we are including

1. A list of Old and New Testament readings (pages 3-15)
2. Liturgy Planning Worksheet for Vigil, Funeral Liturgy and Rite of Committal (pg 16)
3. Music Planning Guide (pg 17)
4. Reception Planning Assistance through our parish "Comfort Committee" (pg 18)

Old Testament Readings

OT ONE ~ 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

Judas, the ruler of Israel, then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.



OT TWO ~ Job 19:1, 23-27

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him, and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.



OT THREE ~ Wisdom 3:1-9

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.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever.

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 his elect.



OT FOUR ~ Wisdom 4:7-15

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. Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones and his care is with his elect.



OT FIVE ~ Isaiah 25:6, 7-9

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!"



OT SIX ~ Lamentations 3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the Lord.

The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the Lord, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the Lord to one, who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.



OT SEVEN ~ Daniel 12:1-3

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and heard this word of the Lord:

At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.



New Testament Readings

NT ONE ~ Romans 5:5-11

Brothers and sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.



NT TWO ~ Romans 5:17-21

Brothers and sisters: If, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through disobedience of one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



NT THREE ~ Romans 6:3-9

Brothers and sisters: 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.



NT FOUR ~ Romans 8:14-23

Brothers and sisters: Those who are led by the Spirit of God, are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “*Abba, Father!*” The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from

slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.



NT FIVE ~ Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, 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.



NT SIX ~ Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

Brothers and sisters: No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.



NT SEVEN ~ 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through a man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.



NT EIGHT ~ 1 Corinthians 15:51-5

Brothers and sisters: Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility, and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: *Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?* The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



NT NINE ~ 2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1

Brothers and sisters: Knowing 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.



NT TEN ~ 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

Brothers and sisters: 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.

We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.



NT ELEVEN ~ Philippians 3:20-21

Brothers and sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.



NT TWELVE ~ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, 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.



NT THIRTEEN ~ 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendent of David: such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal.. But the word of God is not chained.

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Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

NT FOURTEEN ~ 1 John 3:1-2

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we maybe 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.



NT FIFTEEN ~ 1 John 3:14-16

Beloved: We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.



Easter Season New Testament Readings

The following four readings are used only during the Easter Season

Easter NT ONE ~ Acts 10:34-43

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."



Easter NT TWO ~ Revelation 14:13

I John, 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."

Easter NT THREE ~ Revelation 20:11 – 21:1

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.

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.



Easter NT FOUR ~ Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

I, John, 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. 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."



Gospel Readings

Gospel ONE Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."



Gospel TWO ~ Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus answered: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."



Gospel THREE ~ Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold; the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you; I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."



Gospel FOUR ~ Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then

the king will say to those on his right; 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of the least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."



Gospel FIVE ~ Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi lema sabachthani?*" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe; and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him."



Gospel SIX ~ Luke 7:11-17

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.



Gospel SEVEN ~ Luke 12:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples: "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes, and knocks. Blessed are those

servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch; and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."



Gospel EIGHT ~ Luke 23:33, 39-43

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other man, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."



Gospel NINE ~ Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus. After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

At daybreak on the first day of the week the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."



Gospel TEN ~ Luke 24:13-35

That very day, the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his Body; and they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them, who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.



Gospel ELEVEN ~ John 5:24-29

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who has sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.



Gospel TWELVE ~ John 6:37-40

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."



Gospel THIRTEEN ~ John 6:51-59

Jesus said to the crowds:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who

feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."



Gospel FOURTEEN ~ John 11:17-27

When Jesus arrived in Bethany he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."



Gospel FIFTEEN ~ John 11:32-45

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews, said "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you have sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to crowd, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.



Gospel SIXTEEN ~ John 12:23-28

Jesus told his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life will lose it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me." "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

Gospel SEVENTEEN ~ John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you may also be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”



Gospel EIGHTEEN John 17:24-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"Father, those whom you gave me are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."



GS NINETEEN--John 19:17-18, 25-39

So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the Spirit.

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, for the Sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken. And again another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.



Scripture readings are taken from: *The New American Bible with Revised New Testament*. © 1986, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. Revised 12/06

Liturgy Planning Worksheet for Funerals

Funeral Home & Address: _____

Phone #: _____

VIGIL SERVICE

Location: _____ Date & Time: _____

The Vigil Liturgy usually consists of a Greeting & Opening Prayer, Scripture Readings, and Prayers of Intercession.

It then concludes with The Lord's Prayer and Final Blessing.

Following the Vigil Liturgy, family and friends are invited to offer eulogies, sharing of stories and the praying of the rosary if customary.

FUNERAL LITURGY

Date, Time & Location: _____

Introductory Rites – We begin the Liturgy in the Vestibule of the Church with the immediate family

Greeting

Sprinkling with Holy Water & placing of the Pall (when casket is present)

Processional Hymn

** Music coordinated with Music Ministry

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

Readings

1st Reading: _____ Reader: _____

The 23rd Psalm will be sung by our cantor

2nd Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Gospel: _____

Homily

General Intercessions

Reader: _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Bring the Gifts to the Altar: (Family Members):

Music during Preparation of the Gifts

Communion Hymn(s)

Song of Farewell

Prayer of Commendation (if Committal will be delayed)

Recessional: Hymn or Instrumental

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

Location of Cemetery: _____

RITE OF COMMITTAL WITH FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation (Gathering and Greeting)

Scripture Verse

Prayer over the Place of Committal

Invitation to Prayer

Prayer of Commendation

Committal

Prayer over the People

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CHURCH SO WE CAN PREPARE THE WORSHIP AID.

Music Planning Worksheet for Funerals

The Music Ministry at St. Mark Catholic Church extends to you our deepest sympathy. We realize that at such a time it may be difficult to think about music for the Funeral Liturgy. To assist you with the funeral service music we have developed the following guide.

Below is a list of suggested hymns that our parish community knows and frequently sings at funerals. You may use this list as a guide. If you care to make other selections, if there is a specific song you would like included, or if you need other help with the funeral music please discuss this with me. You may choose up to four selections. If the liturgy has been preplanned we will do our best to accommodate those music selections. If you have no specific music preferences I will gladly make the selections for you.

If you would like music at the Funeral Mass **the fee** for the organist/pianist is \$100 and **the fee** for the cantor is \$100. As a convenience, these fees are often included in the funeral home fees. If you are not using funeral home services, you may write checks for these musicians on your own.

Suggested Hymns or Solos for the Funeral Liturgy (numbers from the “St. Michael Hymnal”):

Grant Them Eternal Rest	Amazing Grace #430
How Great Thou Art #569	In Paradisum #581
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #601	Be Still My Soul #451
I Heard the Voice of Jesus #572	Prayer of St. Francis #724
I Know That My Redeemer Lives #573	Panis Angelicus #710
The King of Love #784	My Shepherd Will Supply My Need #634

The following songs and hymns may be selected for a soloist or small choir to sing alone:

Ave Maria (Offertory).....	Franz Schubert
Ave Maria (Offertory).....	J. S. Bach / Charles Gounod
Panis Angelicus (Communion)	Cesar Franck
Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring.....	J. S. Bach

We also have a choice of several settings of Psalm 23 (“The Lord is my shepherd”) for the Responsorial Psalm, or Psalm 27 (“The Lord is my light and my salvation”) may be selected.

During the final commendation, we will sing a short refrain of “May the choirs of angels come to greet you.” The Latin plainchant “In Paradisum” may also be sung during the commendation.

We will provide a worship aid which will include song numbers for congregational singing. If you would like a specific song to be instrumental please inform me. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to plan your music. We are here to help in any way we can.

Alex Hill, Director of Music and Liturgy
Email: music@stmarkcatholicchurch.com
Phone: 910-398-6514

Reception Planning – St. Mark “Comfort Committee”

The “Comfort Committee” is a ministry made up of parishioners who are interested in helping families in their time of need – providing a reception for the friends and family of the deceased after a funeral Mass. Parishioners in this ministry are called upon to provide one of the following items for a funeral reception scheduled around the usual lunchtime of 12:00 pm (following an 11:00 am funeral): sandwiches; deviled eggs; fruit; vegetable platter; or dessert. If a funeral Mass is scheduled for 1:00 or 2:00 pm, the Comfort Committee” will provide mostly desserts, or cheese and cracker trays and desserts if requested. We will need an approximate number of expected guests to determine the amount of food needed. ***Our committee does not provide food if the funeral Mass is scheduled for 3:00 pm or later.***

Representatives of our committee are assigned to prepare the reception tables and staff the food and beverage stations during the reception. If a family prefers to have a reception catered by an outside service, members of the Comfort Committee are available to assist with set-up and serving if requested during the regular hours.

If you would like our ministry to assist you in this manner on the day of the funeral for your deceased loved one, please inform the Pastoral Secretary (or whichever staff member you are working with) at the time you schedule the funeral. A member of our committee will contact you to confirm arrangements for the reception. It is our hope to offer some comfort to the grieving family by offering this service.