



**THE CATHOLIC
FUNERAL
A Celebration of Life**

**ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

715 E. Orange Street
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689
727-937-4050 ext. 201
Fax 727-943-0676

(Revised 9/1/2013)

SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Funeral: A Celebration of Life

Introduction

In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity.

We here at St. Ignatius of Antioch wish to extend our deepest condolences for your loss. Please know that we as your brothers and sisters in Christ grieve and pray with you. We also want to give you the opportunity to personalize this celebration of your loved one's life. For this reason we have established this booklet to help you plan the funeral celebration. You are encouraged to select symbols, scriptural readings, and music to best express your love and prayers.

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 Funeral Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral. The Catholic Funeral Rites also include the Vigil (Wake) Service and the Rite of Committal. The Vigil Service is typically a gathering of family and friends at the funeral home on the eve to the Funeral Mass with a simple prayer service or Rosary. The Rite of Committal is the conclusion of the Funeral Rites which consist of blessing the final resting place of the deceased.

The central theme of the Catholic Funeral Rites is our faith in the Resurrection. We believe that we too will share in the Resurrection of the Jesus and our bodies will be glorified like Jesus. For this reason, the remains of our loved ones are always present during a funeral. The remains can be present in the form of a body or cremains. In either form, the Church always treats the remains with the respect and dignity that comes from our faith in the Resurrection. For this reason, the Church asks that if your loved one has been cremated that all the remains are put together in one urn and given a final place of rest; buried, in a mausoleum, in a columbarium, or even at sea, but never divided or scattered.

To further assist you in this process we have an online video for planning and understanding the Catholic Funeral Rites. This can be accessed at our website: www.st.ignatius.net or by scanning the QR code:



You are welcome to make as many or few choices as you wish for the funeral. Just fill out your wishes on page 13, the last page. Please deliver this form to the church the day before the funeral. You may also fax it to the church at 727-943-0676.

Symbols

Upon entrance into the church the family and friends are greeted, the coffin is sprinkled with Holy Water, and a white Pall is placed over the coffin. This large white cloth is a symbol of the white garment received at Baptism. The Pall may be placed by the family members. Otherwise it was be placed by others.

Christian symbol of special meaning to the deceased or family may be placed on top the coffin. These may include: a favorite crucifix; a favorite Bible; a picture or statue of a revered saint; your loved one's Rosary; a special prayer book. The coffin is placed in front of the altar and the family may place these symbols on the coffin. The priest will be present to assist.

In the case of cremation, the Pall is not used. The urn will be placed on a small table before the altar. The symbols may be placed with the Urn. A picture of the deceased may be placed with the urn.

Music

Families are encouraged to make selections of music for the funeral. The music must first be appropriate for any Mass and then specifically for a funeral. Then the music is selected which best reflects the belief and attitude of the family and deceased. All of this is done within the confines of the musician who is providing the music and the amount of time available for preparation. Often the musician will not see the list you select until the day before the funeral and at times even the morning of the funeral. The musician will not be able prepare music which is not in their repertoire for this event.

On page 4 you will find a list of appropriate hymns and songs from the repertoire of St. Ignatius Parish. Perhaps a few of these have particular meaning to you or your loved one. You may pick up to four hymns. Should you have another hymn from our hymnal in mind please contact the parish office. If it is appropriate, and the musician can comfortably prepare for it by the time of the funeral, they will be happy to accommodate your selections.

The musician will always be responsible for the final selection of music. If something you select cannot or should not be sung they will make another appropriate selection.

All music is directed by Miss Anne Harman. If a friend or relative wishes to sing or play an instrument during the funeral, Miss Harman will be happy to work with him or her. Miss Harman is also available to speak with the family before the funeral to discuss music. She may be reached by calling the parish office, 727-937-4050 ext. 206

Holy Scripture

The Mass includes a reading from the Old Testament, a reading from the New Testament, and a Gospel Reading. Pages 5-9 offer some suggestions. Pages 10-13 offer additional options. You are welcome to have a relative or friend (Catholic or Non-Catholic) proclaim the first two readings. The priest will proclaim the Gospel Reading. Large print versions of the chosen readings will be on the ambo (lecturn). Those proclaiming the readings are requested to arrive 20 minutes prior to the funeral mass to prepare with the priest on the readings.

Priest and Music Stipends

A stipend is a payment to offset the cost of the funeral services. The priest receives a minimal stipend of \$150 for whatever services are requested by the family. This includes the use of the church. The musician/cantor receives a minimum of \$100 stipend for her/his services. It is normal for this to be included your payment to your funeral director. He or she will make you aware this is included. If not, this will be the family's responsibility.

PLEASE NOTE: No one will ever be denied the full services of the parish for financial reasons. If a family cannot afford either the priest's stipend or the Music stipend, this money will be taken from our *Aid to Parishioners in Need Fund*.

Eulogies

Up to two people may be chosen to give eulogies. These are to be prepared in writing prior to the Funeral Mass and between 3 and 5 minutes. Eulogies are not an occasion of preaching but are reflections on the life of the deceased. They are opportunities for the family or friends to share memories or qualities which they cherish with their loved one. The priest will call the eulogist(s) up after the prayer after communion, that is, towards the end of the Mass.

Music Selections

Please select one piece from each section and indicate on the form on page 13, the last page.

Gathering Hymn: _____

Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
I Am the Bread of Life
On Eagle's Wings
Shall We Gather at the River

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Psalm 23 – You Are My Shepherd
Psalm 23- Shepherd Me, O God
Psalm 23 – Because the Lord Is My Shepherd
Psalm 91: On Eagle's Wings
Psalm 91: Be With Me, Lord
Psalm 131 – My Soul Is Still
Psalm 131 – In You Lord, I Have Found My Peace

Preparation of the Gifts: _____

Be Not Afraid
Eye Has Not Seen
Hosea
Peace Is Flowing Like a River
Prayer of St. Francis
These Alone Are Enough
Whatever You Do
You Are Mine
All is Well with My Soul

Communion: _____

Be Not Afraid
Blest Are They
Eye Has Not Seen
Hosea
I Am the Bread of Life
Peace Is Flowing Like a River
Prayer of St. Francis
These Alone Are Enough
Whatever You Do
You Are Mine
Ave Maria*

Ave Maria* - can be used as long as the musician is comfortable singing this piece. Not all cantors will have it in their repertoire. If they cannot perform the piece they will make another selection.

Recessional: _____

Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
How Great Thou Art
I Am the Bread of Life
Jesus Remember Me
On Eagle's Wings

Scripture Readings

Please select a First Reading, a Second Reading, and a Gospel and indicate by letter and number on the form on page 13, the last page.

_____ **First Readings:** _____

A-3L Wisdom 3: 1-9

(A-3S) Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9 (Short Version)

“As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.”

(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.)

A-4 Wisdom 4: 7-15

“An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.”

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.

A-5 Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

“He will destroy death forever.”

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!”

During Easter Time: New Testament Readings for the First Reading:

A-9 Revelation 14: 13

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”

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.”

A-11 Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7

“There shall be no more death.”

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.”

_____ *Second Readings:* _____

B-3L Romans 6: 3-9

(B-3S) Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9 (Short Version)

“We too might live in newness of life.”

(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.)

B-5 Romans 8: 3 1b-35, 37-39

“What will separate us from the love of Christ?”

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.

B-14 1 John 3: 1-2

“We shall see him as he is.”

Beloved:

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.

_____ *Gospel Readings:* _____

C-1 Matthew 5: 1-12a

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

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 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.”

C-13 John 6: 51-58

“Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.”

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.”

C-14L John 11: 17-27

(C-14S) John 11: 21-27 (Short Version)

“I am the resurrection and the life.”

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 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?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”)

C-17 John 14: 1-6

“In my Father’s house there are many dwellings.”

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 also may 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.”

Appendix of Additional Readings

First Readings:

A-1 2 Maccabees 12: 43-46

“He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.”

A-2 Job 19:1, 23-27a

“I know that my Vindicator lives.”

A-6 Lamentations 3: 17-26

“It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.”

A-7 Daniel 12: 1-3

“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.”

During Easter Time: New Testament Readings for the First Reading:

A-8L Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-43

A-8S Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-36, 42-43 (Short Version)

“He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.”

A-10 Revelation 20: 11- 21: 1

“The dead were judged according to their deeds.”

Second Readings:

B-1 Romans 5: 5-11

“Since we are now justified by his blood we will be saved through him from the wrath.”

B-2 Romans 5: 17-21

“Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.”

B-4 Romans 8: 14-23

“We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”

B-6 Romans 14: 7-9, 10c-12

“Whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”

B-7L 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28

B-7S 1 Corinthians 15: 20-23 (Short Version)

“So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.”

B-8 1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

B-9 2 Corinthians 4: 14- 5:1
“What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.”

B-10 2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10
“We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.”

B-11 Philippians 3:20-21
“He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.”

B-12 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
“Thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

B-13 2 Timothy 2: 8-13
“If we have died with him we shall also live with him.”

B-15 1 John 3: 14-16
“We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.”

Gospel Readings:

C-2 Matthew 11: 25-30
“Come to me and I will give you rest.”

C-3 Matthew 25: 1-13
“Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!”

C-4 Matthew 25: 31-46
“Come, you who are blessed by my Father.”

C-5L Mark 15: 33-39; 16: 1-6

C-5S Mark 15: 33-39 (Short Version)
“Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.”

C-6 Luke: 7: 11-17
“Young man, I tell you, arise!”

C-7 Luke 12: 35-40
“You also must be prepared”

C-8 Luke 23: 33; 39-43
“Today you will be with me in Paradise.”

C-9L Luke 23: 44-46; 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a

C-9S Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53 (Short Version)
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

C-10L Luke 24: 13-35

C-10S Luke 24: 13-16, 28-35 (Short Version)
“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

C- 11 John 5: 24-29
“Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.”

C-12 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.”

C-15 John 11: 32-45

“Lazarus, come out!”

C-16L John 12: 23-28

C-16S John 12: 23-26 (Short Version)

“If it dies, it produces much fruit.”

C-18 John 17: 24-26

“I wish that where I am they also may be with me.”

C-19 John 19: 17-18, 25-39

“And bowing his head he handed over the spirit.”

FORM FOR A PERSONALIZED FUNERAL

Name of Deceased: _____

Date and Time of Funeral: _____

Family Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

I. The Pall will be placed on the coffin by: _____

II. We would like the following symbol be placed on the coffin:

The symbols will be placed on the coffin by: _____

III. We would like the following hymns to be included

1) Gathering Hymn: _____

2) Psalm: _____

3) Preparation of Gifts: _____

4) Communion: _____

5) Recessional: _____

III. We would like the following readings:

First Reading (**A1 – A11**): _____

Read by _____

Second Reading (**B1 – B15**): _____

Read by _____

Gospel Reading (**C1 – C19**): _____

IV. If you wish a Eulogy, a maximum of two people may speak provided that their eulogy is written out. The celebrant will call them up after communion.

Eulogies 1) _____

2) _____

Please return or fax (727-943-0676) to the church office by the day prior to the funeral.

Thank you.