

**Ss. Peter & Paul
Funeral Resource &
Planning Book**

*I AM THE RESURRECTION
AND THE LIFE.*

*WHOEVER BELIEVES IN
ME WILL NEVER DIE.*

We offer you our prayers and sympathy.

The people of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish offer you our prayerful support and deepest sympathy at this time of loss in your life. We wish to share with you our hope in the Lord Jesus and the Life He has promised to those who believe. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Hope will bring you comfort and peace in this difficult time.

As a parish family, we at Ss. Peter & Paul constantly pray for our beloved dead and minister to those who are bereaved. If we can be of any assistance to your family now or in the future please call us at the Church Office at 216-429-1515.

This booklet is meant to assist you as you make your plans for the Mass of Christian Burial for your loved one. Please read it carefully and feel free to contact a Parish Staff member with any questions.

The Priests and Staff of Ss. Peter & Paul Parish

THE RITES OF THE CHURCH

You and your family will experience the Rite of Christian Burial in three distinct and important parts.

1) THE WAKE SERVICE. This will take place during the visiting hours at the funeral home. A Priest, Deacon or qualified lay person will lead this service of prayer and Scripture. *If desired, it would be most appropriate at this time for a member of the family or a friend to remember the deceased by sharing personal memories as in a eulogy.*

2) THE FUNERAL LITURGY. This is the centerpiece of the celebration of Christian Burial. This is almost always celebrated within a Mass. The bodily remains are honored by being brought to the Church. We celebrate the life of the deceased in the whole context of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

3) THE COMMITTAL. A member of the Parish Staff, normally the Priest celebrant, will accompany the remains and the family to the cemetery where the Rite of Christian Burial will conclude with a brief graveside service.

THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE FUNERAL LITURGY

A funeral may be celebrated on any day of the week except Sundays and Holy Days. There are also some restrictions concerning funerals during Holy Week. The priest will discuss these restrictions as they apply. The normal time for funerals is 10:00 AM but may also be as late as 11:30 AM.

All funeral liturgies are to be celebrated in the parish church. If cremation is to take place, it is preferred that it be done **after** the funeral liturgy. In the event a funeral liturgy outside of the context of Mass would be more appropriate for your circumstances, this should be discussed with the parish priest.

Some Advice We Like to Share

In recent years many families have chosen to reduce the Funeral Rites for a variety of reasons. In the midst of their grief, they have upon occasion eliminated the wake or chosen to have a Funeral Outside of Mass instead of a Funeral Mass. We must caution against this attitude of reduction, especially with regards to the wake. Grieving is a process that requires time and company. Eliminating the visiting hours or not celebrating a Mass is more likely to make your family's grief more difficult to bear in the long run due to a lack of closure. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the traditional rites be observed. Just as we come to the church for Baptism, we come to the church to commend our loved ones to God. If you are in doubt about what to do, please consult with us. We are more than happy to discuss your particular circumstances.

Of late we have also encountered a greater desire for eulogies during Mass. The proper place for the eulogy is at the wake or the committal. In these more intimate circumstances, we find that family and friends are more comfortable sharing stories about the deceased. A eulogy following the Communion Rite may occur only with the priest celebrant's explicit consent. Moreover, there may be only one such eulogy as per diocesan liturgical directives.

Recently, cremating the remains has become a more common practice. Although the Church does allow cremation, she strongly encourages that it happen after the wake and funeral liturgy. Upon occasion circumstances do occur that prohibit this, e.g. when the body is being transported a long distance. Nevertheless, cremation is not a reason to reduce or omit the Funeral Rites. Lastly, all the cremated remains ought to be buried promptly once the funeral liturgy is complete.

PLANNING THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The funeral liturgy is one of the most beautiful and meaningful celebrations of the Church. Your family has the option of personalizing the Mass by choosing the Scripture readings and by requesting specific hymns. Readings must always be from Sacred Scripture and hymns selected must be consistent with the Diocese of Cleveland liturgical guidelines. Secular music is strictly prohibited within the context of the Rite of Christian Burial.

When choosing, there should be one reading from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. Below you will find some especially appropriate passages. If you prefer, the Parish Staff can make the choices for you.

1st READING

Job 19: 1, 23-27
Wisdom 3: 1-9
Wisdom 4: 7-15
Isaiah 25: 6-9
Lamentations 3: 17-26
Daniel 12:1-3
2 Maccabees 12: 43-46
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11
Sirach 2: 1-11

2nd READING

Acts 10: 34-43
Romans 6: 3-9
Romans 8: 31-37
1 Corinthians 15: 20-28
2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
1 John 3: 1-2
Revelation 20:11- 21:1
Revelation 21: 1-7

MUSIC AT THE FUNERAL LITURGY

Ss. Peter & Paul Parish will provide an organist for the funeral liturgy at the church. Family members are welcome to request specific hymns, especially if they were favorites of the deceased. Secular music should not be played at a funeral liturgy; also prerecorded music is forbidden by Church law. If you have questions about music, please feel free to ask us.

The Director of Music will choose and sing the Responsorial Psalm unless the family has a specific request. If your family would prefer sacred music not listed below, please contact our organist through the parish office. Below are some suggested hymns.

Funeral Music Suggestions

Abide With Me: R	Lord of the Dance: O
All Is Well With My Soul: O	Lord, You Have Come to the Seashore: O
Amazing Grace: P, O, R	O God, Our Help in Ages Past: P, R
As the Deer Longs O	O God, You Search Me: O
Ave Maria: O	O Sacrament Most Holy: C
Be Not Afraid: P, O, R	Oh Loving God: R
Be Still My Soul: P, O, R	On Eagles Wings: P, O, C, R
Blest Are They: O, C	One Bread, One Body: C
Center of My Life O, C	Panis Angelicus: C
Come to Me O, C	Parable O
Eat This Bread: C	Prayer of St. Francis: O
Eye Has Not Seen: O	Precious Lord, Take My Hand: O
Fly Like a Bird O	See Us, Lord, About Your Altar: C
For All the Saints: P, R	Shelter Me, O God P, O
Gift of Finest Wheat: C	Shepherd Me, O God O
Here I Am, Lord: P, O	Sing With All the Saints in Glory R
Hosea: O	Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling: O
How Great Thou Art: R	Taste and See: C
How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place: O	The King of Love My Shepherd Is: O
I Am the Bread of Life: C	The Lord is My Light: O
I Have Loved You: O	The Strife is O'er: P, R
I Heard the Voice of Jesus: P	The Supper of the Lord: C
I Know That My Redeemer Lived: P, R	To Be Your Bread: C
I Received the Living God: C	Unless a Grain of Wheat: C
I, the Lord O	We Will Rise Again P, R
In Every Age: O	We Remember: C
Jesus, Remember Me	What Wondrous Love is This: O
Let There Be Peace on Earth: R	You Are Mine: O, C
Lord of All Hopefulness: P, O, R	You Are Near: O, C

The Following Symbols Denote the Proper Use of the Song in the Liturgy

P – Processional

O – Offertory

C – Communion

R - Recessional

SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS:

Below are some of the Scripture verses that are popularly used at Funeral liturgies. The priest who will celebrate the Funeral Mass will choose the Gospel unless the family has a particular request. You may choose another Scripture reading not found among these choices if you so desire.

FIRST READING SELECTIONS:

Job 19: 1, 23-27

A Reading from the Book of Job:

Job answered 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 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.

The Word of the Lord

Wisdom 3: 1-9

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom:

But 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.

The Word of the Lord

Wisdom 4: 7-15

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom:

For the just man, though he should 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 perverts his mind or deceit beguiles 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

Isaiah 25: 6-9

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 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

Lamentations 3: 17-26

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations

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.

The Word of the Lord

Daniel 12: 1-3

A Reading from the Book of Daniel

[I, Daniel, mourned and I heard the 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.

The Word the Lord

2 Maccabees 12: 43-46

A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees

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.

The Word of the Lord

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

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.

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING SELECTIONS:

Acts 10: 34-43

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words,
“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 Israelites 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.”

The Word of the Lord

Romans 6: 3-9

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and Sisters,

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Through baptism into His death we were buried with Him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with Him through likeness to His death, so shall we be through a like resurrection. This we know: our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer. A man who is dead has been freed from sin. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with Him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over Him.

The Word of the Lord.

Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and Sisters,

If God is for us, who can be against us? Is it possible that He who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for the sake of us all will not grant us all things besides? Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones? God, who justifies? Who shall condemn them? Christ Jesus, who died or rather was raised up, who is at the right hand of God and who intercedes for us?

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Trial, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or danger, or the sword? Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of Him who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death, nor life, neither angels, nor principalities, neither the present, nor the future, nor powers, neither height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord...

1 Corinthians 15: 20-28

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters,

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. 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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. 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.

The Word of the Lord

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians
Brothers and Sisters,

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. So 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 one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:

We would have you be clear about those who sleep in death, brothers; otherwise you might yield to grief, like those who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with Him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in Him. We say to you, as if the Lord Himself had said it, that we who live, who survive until His coming, will in no way have an advantage of those who have fallen asleep. No, the Lord Himself will come down from heaven at the word of command, at the sound of the archangel's voice and God's trumpet; and those who died in Christ will rise first. Then we, the living, the survivors, will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thenceforth we shall be with the Lord unceasingly. Console one another with this message.

The Word of the Lord

1 John 3: 1-2

A Reading from the First Letter of John:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God. Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized the Son. Dearly beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

The Word of the Lord

Revelation 20:11- 20:1

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I 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.

The Word of the Lord

Revelation 21: 1-7

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 Lord¹

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FAMILY PARTICIPATION

During the ceremony the family and friends are encouraged to participate to the degree to which they feel comfortable. Members of the family are encouraged to place the funeral pall on the casket, a gesture which recalls the deceased's Baptism.

Family members or friends who are practicing Roman Catholics may proclaim the readings, if doing so would not be an emotional burden. Family is also asked to have two to four people bring up the gifts of bread and wine for the Mass.

The priest who gives the homily will not give a eulogy since this is not a part of our tradition or the funeral liturgy. If desired, **during the context of the wake service**, one member of the family or a friend of the deceased may wish to say a few words to remember the faith and love of the deceased. This should be no longer than 3 to 5 minutes.

If you have any questions concerning your involvement in the funeral, please ask the Funeral Director or a member of the Parish Staff.



MASS OFFERINGS FOR THE DECEASED

Mass cards for the intention of the deceased may be presented to the parish office or any Catholic church.

In the case when there have been a substantial number of contributions, you may wish to consider a more lasting memorial to your loved one. A Parish Staff member can assist you in choosing an appropriate memorial for use at the church. We discourage the purchasing of memorial vestments simply because the Parish already has so many. Instead, please consider donating to the parish vestment fund, which will be used to purchase vestments that will be used throughout the year.

CREMATION

In recent years the Church has modified its objection to the practice of cremation, now allowing the practice for the faithful departed. However, the Church does place certain restrictions on the final resting place of the cremains. Please consult with a Priest or Deacon if you have specific questions.



LITURGY PLAN FORM

We ask your family to take a few moments to review this brochure carefully and complete this form. Please give it to the priest or to the funeral director that you have been working with. Someone will contact you if there are any questions concerning your requests.

First Reading: _____

Read By: _____

Responsorial Psalm: The organist will choose and sing the Response unless you have a special request.

Special request: _____

Second Reading: _____

Read By: _____

Gospel: The priest will choose this unless you have a special request.
The priest will read the Gospel.

Special request if any: _____

Gift Bearers: _____

Placing of the Paul Y/N _____

Hymn Requests:

[NOTE: If desired by the family, the organist will choose the hymns.]

Other Special Items:

**If you have any questions whatsoever, please call
Ss. Peter & Paul Parish at 216-429-1515.
Fax at 216-429-1889.**