

Funerals at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Ypsilanti, Michigan



“Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You have faith in God; have faith also in me.”

- John 14:1

“Although the mystery of death utterly beggars the imagination, the Church has been taught by divine revelation and firmly teaches that man has been created by God for a blissful purpose beyond the reach of earthly misery. In addition, that bodily death from which man would have been immune had he not sinned will be vanquished, according to the Christian faith, when man who was ruined by his own doing is restored to wholeness by an almighty and merciful Saviour. For God has called man and still calls him so that with his entire being he might be joined to Him in an endless sharing of a divine life beyond all corruption. Christ won this victory when He rose to life, for by His death He freed man from death. Hence to every thoughtful man a solidly established faith provides the answer to his anxiety about what the future holds for him. At the same time faith gives him the power to be united in Christ with his loved ones who have already been snatched away by death; faith arouses the hope that they have found true life with God.” - *Gaudium et Spes*



Policies for Funerals:

- Funerals may be celebrated Mondays through Fridays. We do not schedule funerals on weekends or on other special liturgical days in the Church calendar (Holy Days of Obligation). Funerals are celebrated during normal office hours and in consideration of the availability of clergy.
- Funeral Masses may be celebrated by a priest for any baptized Catholic and member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. A funeral service outside of Mass is celebrated by either a deacon or priest from the parish. The stipend for the priest or deacon celebrant is \$200.
- A visiting member of the Catholic clergy would be welcome to participate in funerals at the parish provided that he is in good standing with his own diocese/religious community. Any visiting member of the Catholic clergy who wishes to participate should contact the pastor directly. In addition, clergy from outside of the Diocese of Lansing should contact their bishop or superior who will communicate to the Bishop of Lansing their suitability for participation in the funeral.
- During a funeral Mass, all practicing Catholics are invited to receive Holy Communion. Normally, the Precious Blood is not distributed to the congregation. All non-practicing Catholics and guests of other faith traditions are welcome at mass but are extended a special blessing during the distribution of Holy Communion rather than reception of the Body of Christ.
- Funeral celebrations for a non-Catholic adult are not normally celebrated at the parish but rather a funeral home. Parish clergy may be contacted to inquire as to their availability to help with such a celebration.
- The parish clergy and staff do not act as replacements for a funeral director. All arrangements for a funeral at St. John the Baptist should begin by contacting a local funeral home that has the ability to assist in properly planning a funeral. Those inquiring about funeral planning at the parish will be referred to a funeral home. A funeral director would normally be responsible for contacting the parish to arrange for any assistance with a funeral service by a member of the clergy or staff.
- Music for funeral celebrations must be sacred in nature. Secular music is best reserved for private celebrations or remembrances. Any questions or concerns about music selections should be directed to the parish Music Director at music@ypsicatholic.org. A list of recommend hymns is provided in this policy manual.
- Musicians apart from those provided by the parish should be arranged with the parish Music Director well in advance of the funeral celebration.
- Due to scheduling and facility limitations, vigils cannot be celebrated at the parish and should be arranged to take place at a funeral home.
- Readers for a Mass are selected by the family. Remembrance Mass Cards are also supplied by the family.
- Family and friends of the deceased are encouraged to share personal stories or remarks at the vigil service or during the visitation time. *Given the emotional nature of funeral services and the difficulty that many have speaking at such an occasion, we do not allow for a Eulogy during or after a funeral as they often distract from the solemn celebration of the liturgy and the sacred remembrance of the deceased.*
- All stipends and fees for any part of the funeral celebration will be managed/arranged with the funeral director and not a member of the parish staff. It is the responsibility of a funeral director to arrange for the payment of stipends and fees and to see to their proper distribution on the day of the funeral. All stipends and fees must be paid for ahead of the funeral.

Music for Funeral Liturgies at St. John the Baptist

- The music team of St. John the Baptist offers our sincere condolences to you and your loved ones. We are committed to providing all funeral liturgies with reverent, beautifully delivered music.
- A typical funeral liturgy has one music minister, leading the songs from voice and guitar or piano. The stipend for this music minister is \$200. If you wish to have a fuller ensemble (with string players, additional vocals, etc.), please notify the parish office as soon as possible, to allow the music director ample time to schedule these players. An additional stipend of \$100 per added musician will apply.
- At funeral liturgies, some families ask that a musical friend or family member be included on the music team. Such requests must be approved by and coordinated with the music director.
- Please select your music from the songs provided in the following page. Please make four selections and include one alternate selection. This list includes our most requested hymns and songs for funerals
- Once you have made your selections, please enter them into the **Liturgy Plan form** on the last page.

Please contact the parish office with the Liturgy Plan and selections as soon as this is available. The readings will be printed off and available on the ambo for the readers ahead of the service.

Funeral Luncheons

- Funeral luncheons are not provided by the parish.
- Use of the Annex space to bring in a catered lunch is available for those who have been registered and active members of the parish. There is a minimal cleaning charge of \$100. Please contact the parish office to find out more and the availability for a luncheon. Should a luncheon be available, please note that the fee for the space is collected, along with stipends, by the funeral director ahead of time.
- The parish requires a minimum of 48 hours to prepare the space for funeral luncheons.
- Due to scheduling and facility limitations, luncheons are restricted to funeral celebrations occurring during business hours on Monday through Friday of a normal week. Weekends and holidays do not allow for a funeral luncheon to be planned, even if the funeral celebration were to occur on such a day.
- Due to health codes and policies, use of the parish kitchen is prohibited.

Suggested Readings



First Reading (Old Testament):

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| Job 19:1, 23-27 | <i>I know that my Redeemer lives.</i> |
| Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 | <i>He accepted them.</i> |
| Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 | <i>The Lord will destroy death forever.</i> |
| Lamentations 3: 17-26 | <i>It is good to wait for the Lord to save.</i> |

Psalm (Sung by Musician):

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| 23 | <i>The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</i> |
| 25 | <i>To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.</i> |
| 27 | <i>The Lord is my light and my salvation.</i> |
| 63 | <i>My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.</i> |
| 103 | <i>The Lord is kind and merciful.</i> |
| 130 | <i>Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.</i> |

Second Reading (New Testament):

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 | <i>God has appointed Jesus to judge.</i> |
| Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 | <i>Let us walk in newness of life.</i> |
| Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 | <i>Who can come between us and Christ.</i> |
| Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12 | <i>Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.</i> |
| 1 st Corinthians 15:20-23 | <i>All people will be brought to life in Christ.</i> |
| 2 nd Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 | <i>We have a home in heaven.</i> |
| 1 st John 3:1-2 | <i>We shall see God as he is.</i> |
| 1 st John 3:14-16 | <i>We passed from death to life, because we love.</i> |
| Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 | <i>There will be no more death.</i> |

Gospel:

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| Matthew 5:1-12a | <i>Your reward will be great in heaven.</i> |
| Matthew 11:25-30 | <i>Come to me, and I will give you rest.</i> |
| Luke 7:11-17 | <i>Young man, I say to you, arise.</i> |
| John 6:37-40 | <i>All who believe in the Son will have eternal life.</i> |
| John 6:51-58 | <i>All who eat this bread will live forever.</i> |
| John 11:21-27 | <i>I am the resurrection and the life.</i> |
| John 14:1-6 | <i>There are many rooms in my Father's house.</i> |

Recommended Hymns:

Amazing Grace
As the Deer
Ave Maria
Be Not Afraid
Be Thou My Vision
Before the Throne of God Above
Christ Is Risen
Come Thou Fount
Come, Holy Ghost
Crown Him with Many Crowns
Depth of Mercy
Down in Adoration / Tantum Ergo
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Holy is His Name
Holy, Holy, Holy
How Great Thou Art
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
I Lift My Eyes Up
I Will Exalt You
In Christ Alone
Jesus Messiah
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Lord, I Need You
My Soul Finds Rest
Nothing but the Blood
O God, Beyond All Praising
On Eagle's Wings
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Prayer of Augustine
Psalm 23 / The Lord's My Shepherd (Townend)
Seek Ye First
Take My Life (Tomlin)
Take My Life And Let it Be (Malan)
The King of Love
The Wonderful Cross
This is Jesus
What Wondrous Love Is This
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Whom Shall I Fear

Liturgy Plan for Funerals

1st Reading:

Read by:

Psalm Response (sung by musician):

2nd Reading:

Read by:

Gospel Reading (read by clergy):

General Intercessions Read by:

Hymns

1)

2)

3)

4)

Alternate Hymn (optional):