

# Funerals at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Ypsilanti, MI



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

-John 14:1

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Please accept, on behalf of our whole parish family, and for myself, our most sincere condolences as you experience this time of loss. Know that the prayers of our entire community are with you as you grieve for your loved one who has passed from this life. At the same time, be sure that God is near to you at this difficult period and will sustain you with his grace and mercy.

In the Church's Rite for a *Vigil for the Deceased* we are reminded that "*we believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death.*" As you pass through this necessary period of mourning, be comforted by the hope that we have as Christians that our friends and family who have gone before us are not lost to us inasmuch as all of us have faith in the Lord Jesus. Let us take this opportunity to renew our faith in him. This is a faith that will sustain you in your grief and console you as you pray for the repose of the soul of your loved one.

This brief manual is intended to assist you as you prepare for the liturgy in which we will pray together for your loved one and it is my hope that you will find comfort in the Church's beautiful and powerful prayers. If I, or any member of the parish staff, can be of any further assistance as you plan and as you remember your deceased loved one, please call upon us as it seems best to you. Again, be sure of our prayers and sympathy for you in this time of grief.

May God grant eternal rest to your loved one and to all of our dearly departed brothers and sisters.

I remain, yours in Christ,

Fr. Bob Roggenbuck  
Pastor

“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 on any day of the week except for Sundays and other special liturgical days in the Church calendar (Holy Days of Obligation) and are normally celebrated during business hours.
- Funeral Masses may be celebrated by a priest for any baptized Catholic. 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. ***If the services of a funeral home are not utilized, you are required to use the services of St. John's funeral coordinator – additional fees apply.***
- 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. 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.
- Vigil services are normally arranged by the funeral director. They may contact parish clergy to participate in vigils as availability permits. 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 mass may be selected by the family or provided by the parish at the request of the family.
- Family and friends of the deceased are encouraged to share personal stories or remarks at the vigil service. One brief address may be delivered at the end of mass at the request of the family. However, given the emotional nature of funeral services and the difficulty that many have speaking at such an occasion, these remarks should be kept very brief and be written out ahead of time. Extemporaneous remarks or multiple speakers are discouraged 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, apart from a funeral luncheon, should be managed with the funeral director and not a member of the parish staff. It is normally the responsibility of a funeral director to arrange for the payment of stipends and fees and to see to their proper distribution.

#### 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 \$150. If you wish to have a fuller ensemble (with string players, additional vocals, etc.), please notify the parish secretary 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 below. Please make four selections and include one alternate selection. This list includes our most popularly requested hymns and songs for funerals. If there is a hymn you are attached to that is not on this list, please contact the funeral coordinator as soon as possible. All special requests must be received at least 48 hours in advance of the liturgy, and must be cleared by the music director as liturgically appropriate, and learnable within the given time window.
- Once you have made your selections, please enter them into the **Liturgy Plan form** on page 7.

### Funeral Luncheons:

- Funeral luncheons may be available for those who have been registered and active members of the parish.
- As volunteer members of the parish community provide funeral luncheons, availability rests completely upon their ability to provide for the meal and cannot be guaranteed in every instance.
- The volunteer committee asks for no less than 48 hours to prepare and gather the resources for funeral luncheons.
- There is a small cost associated with funeral luncheons and the parish staff can help arrange for its payment.
- 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, outside food and beverages are not permitted for funeral celebrations at the parish.
- If a funeral luncheon cannot be arranged, parish staff can direct those planning a funeral celebration to contact a local restaurant, or similar venue, to arrange for a meal to be provided at that location.

Liturgy Plan:

1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

Read by:

Psalm:

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:

Read by:

Gospel:

Hymns

1)

2)

3)

4)

Alternate Hymn



### Suggested Readings:

#### *1<sup>st</sup> Reading (Old Testament):*

Job 19:1, 23-27

*I know that my Redeemer lives.*

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

*He accepted them.*

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

*The Lord will destroy death forever.*

Lamentations 3: 17-26

*It is good to wait for the Lord to save.*

#### *Psalm:*

23

*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

25

*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

27

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

63

*My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

103

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

130

*Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.*

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (New Testament):*

Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

*God has appointed Jesus to judge.*

Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

*Let us walk in newness of life.*

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

*Who can come between us and Christ.*

Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12

*Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:20-23

*All people will be brought to life in Christ.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

*We have a home in heaven.*

1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1-2

*We shall see God as he is.*

1<sup>st</sup> John 3:14-16

*We passed from death to life, because we love.*

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

*There will be no more death.*

#### *Gospel:*

Matthew 5:1-12a

*Your reward will be great in heaven.*

Matthew 11:25-30

*Come to me, and I will give you rest.*

Luke 7:11-17

*Young man, I say to you, arise.*

John 6:37-40

*All who believe in the Son will have eternal life.*

John 6:51-58

*All who eat this bread will live forever.*

John 11:21-27

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

John 14:1-6

*There are many rooms in my Father's house.*



### 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