



## FUNERAL GUIDELINES

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These guidelines are intended to clarify how funerals are conducted at St. John Paul II, Scioto Catholic Parish, and to answer any questions the family of the deceased may have regarding a funeral liturgy.

### **General Procedures:**

Normally, after news of a death, the family contacts a local funeral home of their choice. Suggestions are available from the parish office by request.

The funeral home will contact St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish to determine clergy availability and dates for the Funeral Mass, then confirm these with the family.

Funeral directors are very helpful to both the parish and the family. They assist in arranging the visitation; coordinating the interment; and assisting with guest books, memory displays and many other details.

Funeral Directors will provide St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish clergy with the next of kin's contact information, and you will be contacted by a member of the clergy within 24 hours to begin the planning process. Please note, a funeral liturgy should not be scheduled prior to speaking with a member of the parish clergy.

Many common questions about funerals at St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish are addressed below. If you have additional questions, please contact the parish office.

### **Time:**

Funerals will be scheduled at times that do not conflict with other scheduled church functions.

Funerals may be scheduled Monday-Saturday at 10:30am. The funeral director will contact the parish clergy and determine a time for a funeral liturgy and the campus at which the liturgy will occur.

St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish consists of 4 church campuses:

St. Mary Campus  
Holy Redeemer Campus  
St. Peter Campus  
Holy Trinity Campus

**Vigil Service:**

St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic clergy are available for a rosary vigil service the evening before the Funeral Mass. This is normally conducted at the funeral home and can be scheduled through the Funeral director. Visitations and viewings are permitted in the Church for 1-hour before the Funeral Mass. This must, however, be approved by the officiating clergy.

**Celebrant:**

A priest or deacon currently assigned to the parish will normally preside at all funeral liturgies taking place at St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish.

Exceptions to this rule will be made at the discretion of the pastor. Please do not invite a guest priest or deacon without first obtaining permission from St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic clergy.

**Planning:**

Following an initial meeting with the family of the deceased and the Funeral director, a phone call or meeting should be scheduled with the family and the presiding member of the clergy. The clergy will walk through the options for music, readings and answer any questions. Options for music and readings can be found on our parish website by clicking the “support” tab.

**Live Streaming:**

St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish is able to live stream funeral liturgies to our Facebook and YouTube page. Only St. Mary and St. Peter Campus’ are able to livestream liturgies.

## **Bereavement Meal:**

Through the generosity of our bereavement team, St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish is able to provide, at no cost to the family, a meal following the service for up to 80 people. Please call the parish office if you desire to have a bereavement meal.

## **Readings:**

Normally at all Catholic Funeral Masses, three readings will be used. A reading from the Old Testament, a reading from the New Testament and a Reading from the Gospels.

All readings must be taken from an approved version of Sacred Scripture, normally the New American Bible, as approved by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. No words or pronouns, whatsoever, are to be changed in Sacred Scripture.

If you prefer that the parish select the readings and music, please inform the presiding clergy.

## **Additional Ministers:**

Friends and relatives of the deceased may participate in the liturgy as readers, servers, or in other functions, if they so desire, provided that they are competent in the function they are to fulfill and they must be approved by the presiding clergy. The Gospel must be proclaimed by a priest or deacon.

Please see the attached options for readings.

## **Music:**

Music contributes a great deal to the celebration of the Catholic funeral liturgy and should express and support the fundamental understanding of the Catholic Rite of Christian Burial.

Music should be chosen that is **liturgical** (appropriate to the nature of the Roman Catholic liturgy), **musically aesthetic** (expressive & technically pleasing), and

**pastoral** (helping the gathered community to pray & give expression to faith). Given these guidelines, the following music is inappropriate and therefore not permitted for funerals at St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish:

--Any music that is secular in nature such that it neglects, obscures, or trivializes the sacred purpose of the liturgy.

--Pop music, music from movies or musical theatre music.

--Music that would recall sentimental/personal connections. Within a public worship service, such exclusive/limited references are inappropriate.

--Pre-recorded music is not permitted in any Roman Catholic liturgies as the liturgy is the living prayer of a particular assembly of the Church.

Please see the attached list of Hymn options for funeral masses at St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish.

### **Guest Musicians:**

Normally, all funeral liturgies will be played by our Director of Sacred Music or one of our volunteer musicians.

Only currently active musicians at St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish who are trained cantors in Catholic liturgy are permitted to cantor funerals at funeral liturgies. Relatives or friends of the deceased are permitted to sing 1 or 2 prelude pieces prior to the liturgy **only** if they are pre-approved by the Director of Sacred Music.

### **Eulogies:**

The grieving process includes time to share memories of a loved one. In the Catholic rite, this is most appropriately done during the visitation or visitation (wake) service.

Because the Funeral Mass is primarily the time for praise and thanks for God's gift of eternal life in Jesus, we do not permit the inclusion of Words of Remembrance (eulogies) at the Mass.

### **Flowers:**

In current Catholic theology, the altar is the most sacred part of the church, reserved for the celebration of the memorial of the Last Supper. Only the needed bread, wine, vessels and ceremonial books are placed there. No flowers or other

decorations of any kind may be put on the altar, nor impede its view or the flow of movement around it. No flowers may rise higher than the altar if placed next to it.

The following are some appropriate options:

On either side of the altar

In front of the ambo (lectern)

On the far end comers of the steps leading up to the sanctuary space

In the narthex, by the doors to the church proper

If any existing plants or flowers around the altar are moved for the funeral, it is required that they be returned to their original location, since they are the floral environment for the celebration of the weekend liturgies.

### **Graveside Service:**

Normally, following a funeral liturgy, a procession will take place from the Church to the cemetery for burial. St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic clergy will be available for local graveside services.

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

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**

### **A reading from the book of Wisdom**

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.

**The word of the Lord**



**A reading from the book of the prophet Isiah**

On this mountain the Lord of hosts  
will provide for all people.

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!"

**The word of the Lord**

**A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

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.

**The word of the Lord**

**A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

will he not also give us everything 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.

**The word of the Lord**

**A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

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 judgement 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**

**A reading from the first letter of Saint John**

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.

**The word of the Lord**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

When he saw the crowds, Jesus 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."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

Gospel G 2

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

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."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

Gospel G 13

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

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 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."

**The Gospel of the Lord**



**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to 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 the 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 trouble 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."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

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 truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

**The Gospel of the Lord**