

# FUNERAL INFORMATION

Saint Daniel Church – 630-384-0123 – [www.StDaniel.org](http://www.StDaniel.org)  
101 West Loop Road, Wheaton, Illinois 60189-2004

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## Funeral Arrangements

- Our heartfelt condolences to you on the death of your loved one! May our Catholic Christian faith bring you consolation during this difficult time!
- Please meet with our priest right before or right after you confirm the date and time of the funeral liturgy with the funeral home of your choice.
- Our priest will pray with you, and will go over all the details about the wake prayer service, the Catholic funeral liturgy, and the cemetery rites.
- Requests for outside clergy and musicians are decided on a case-by-case basis by our priest, according to our parish and diocesan standards.
- St. Daniel Church does not charge any fees for funerals. We appreciate any contributions that you may choose to give us at any time.

## Three Parts of a Funeral

- There are three parts to a funeral: the wake, the church liturgy, and the family gathering afterward. Each of these parts has a special character.
- The Wake at the funeral home is a celebration of the life of your loved one. It is a time for people to gather and share both memories and eulogies.
- The Liturgy at church is a celebration of eternal life in Jesus Christ. It is a time for people to pray for their loved one and to renew their faith.
- The family gathering after the cemetery prayers is a celebration of all the lives that continue in gratitude for the many memories to be cherished.
- By reflecting on these three parts of a funeral, we can appreciate the spiritual character of what is done in the church at the Funeral Liturgy.

## Four Funeral Symbols

- Through four traditional sacred symbols, the funeral liturgy in church is a celebration of the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our God and Savior.
- **Water:** recalls the waters of baptism in which we are cleansed of sin and are immersed in the life of God's grace as a new creation in Jesus Christ.
- **Pall:** recalls the baptismal garment in which we were clothed with the holiness of Christ and are prepared for the robe of glory in the life to come.
- **Candle:** recalls the light of Christ which we received at the time of our baptism, as a guiding light throughout our mortal lives upon this earth.
- **Incense:** recalls the baptismal anointing with sacred Chrism, because of which we are called Christians, that is, anointed ones, like Christ.
- Each of these four religious symbols invite us to dedicate our lives to Christ, so that we may be ready for him, whenever he calls us to himself.

## Thoughts for Prayer

- We loved them in life, let us not forget them in death, until by our prayers we bring them to the very gates of heaven itself. – St. Ambrose
- It is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be released from their sins. - II Maccabees 12
- I go before you to prepare a place for you, that where I am, one day you may be. – John 14
- Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them forever. May they rest in peace! Amen. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace! Amen.

# STEP BY STEP THROUGH THE FUNERAL LITURGY

- The priest may come for prayers at the funeral home during the wake, to prepare for the funeral liturgy at church. If anyone needs to go to Confession in preparation for Communion, the priest is available for this purpose.
- The Funeral Liturgy begins in the narthex with the blessing of the coffin or the urn. After being covered with a special funeral pall, the coffin or the urn is brought in procession to the Easter Candle at the altar steps.
- Two floral arrangements may be brought into church beforehand. Other pictures, decorations, and personal memorabilia are for use at the funeral home but are not part of the Funeral Liturgy in the church.
- The church provides participation pamphlets for the Funeral Liturgy. The Scripture readings are selected from the official church ritual book for funerals. Trained lectors may assist with the first two readings.
- The homily is given by the priest, who includes personal information about the person who has died. During the liturgy, there are no other speakers. Sometimes, personal remarks may be given after the liturgy is over.
- If there is a Mass, people may bring up the bread and wine at the Offertory. At a Mass, Catholics who are spiritually prepared by traditional penance and fasting may come forward to worthily receive Holy Communion.
- In the final prayers of the liturgy, the coffin or urn is blessed with incense. The priest usually accompanies the people to the cemetery for the Rite of Christian Burial. Otherwise, the cemetery prayers are said at church.
- Approved sacred music accompanies the funeral liturgy as part of our prayer. Music always serves the liturgy, and never delays the liturgical action. There may be a congregational hymn at the offertory and at Communion.
- If there happen to be any photographers and video personnel (which is rare), there are special protocols for them to follow in our church. The church staff will instruct them where they may record the funeral liturgy.
- Our church does not charge for the celebration of the sacraments. We are grateful for whatever donation you choose to give us for the support of our parish and its spiritual, educational, and charitable programs.
- Unfortunately, we are unable to host any wakes, luncheons, food, or beverages at our church for funerals. Please consult your funeral director for practical options that may be readily available to you in our local area.
- Our parish staff can recommend bereavement groups to assist you in the time of transition after the death of your loved one. Your local funeral director also has a list of bereavement groups in our area as well.
- Your loved ones are enrolled in our parish prayer list. We pray for all the faithful departed throughout the year, but especially on All Souls Day, November 2, each year. May they rest in peace!
- Each time you come to Holy Communion, please remember your departed loved one in prayer. On special days of remembrance, you may also want to enroll them in our parish prayer list as well.

**A Celebration of Eternal Life!** When we gather in church for a funeral, we give thanks to God for the life of our loved one, and for the many memories which we will cherish for the rest of our days. We gather as well to pray for the repose of their souls, as they embark on the final phase of their journey to heaven. But when we gather to pay our last respects to our departed loved ones, we are also reminded of our own mortality as well. So, where are we at right now in our relationship with God? And where is God calling us to be in our relationship with Him as we live out the remaining days of our mortal lives? A funeral provides us with an opportunity to discover or deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ as our God and Savior. When we know him, love him, and serve him in this world, we prepare ourselves to live happily ever after with God for all eternity. From the perspective of our Catholic Christian Faith, eternal life begins here and now, in a life lived for God. This is the spiritual life that continues on even after the death of our bodies, as we await our resurrection from the dead. Thus, our Catholic Christian funeral rites are not simply a celebration of our past life. They are a celebration of our eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord! If you would like to explore these profound spiritual matters more fully, please contact your pastor or your parish.



## **ABOUT ALTAR FLOWERS**

A church is a place of beauty for the worship of God. Noble simplicity is the key to understanding our parish customs and protocols in regard to funeral flowers at our church.

For the sake of proper decorum, two floral arrangements may be placed at the sides of Easter Candle, or at the sides of the altar, at a Funeral or Memorial Mass held at our church.

Our flower containers hold eight-inch memorial buckets, as they are called by many florists. We have silk flowers for you to use, if you do not bring your own flowers to the church.

Other flowers, pictures, displays, and other items remain in the narthex during the Funeral or Memorial Mass. Thank you for taking all of these things home with you afterwards.

The church is open about thirty minutes before a funeral. We regret that we cannot host wakes, visitations, or luncheons in our parish facilities. Please consult your funeral director.

## **ABOUT FUNERAL URNS**

Please note that the Urn rests on a memorial pillar, located where a coffin would be positioned in front of the altar steps. Since the Urn is covered with a Funeral Pall, there is no room for anything but the Urn on top of this memorial pillar. Before it is brought into church at the beginning of the Funeral, the Urn may be surrounded by flowers and pictures in the narthex. Thank you for your understanding in this regard.

## **ABOUT FUNERAL WAKES, VISITATIONS, AND LUNCHEONS**

Many years ago, people used to hold wakes and visitations in their own homes. As an alternative to this older custom, funeral homes began to host wakes and visitations for the convenience of the family of the deceased.

We truly appreciate the professional services provided by our local funeral homes in this regard. Due to insurance issues and the size of our staff, we regret that we cannot provide these kinds of services at our church. Please consult your Funeral Director concerning wakes and visitations, and possible places for holding funeral luncheons.

## **ABOUT BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS**

Our local funeral homes have helpful information about Bereavement Support Groups in our local area. In addition, we recommend the professional services of the Central DuPage Counselling Center in Carol Stream ([cdpcc.org](http://cdpcc.org)).

Your ongoing participation in parish life, attendance at Mass, and devout reception of the Sacraments, may also be of great spiritual consolation to you as well. Every time you devoutly receive Holy Communion, you should keep your departed loved ones prayerfully in mind. "It is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead!"

# **ABOUT SACRED MUSIC AND WORSHIP PROGRAMS AT OUR CHURCH**

## **General Principles**

- Our heartfelt condolences to you on the death of your loved one! May our Catholic Christian faith bring you consolation during this difficult time!
- Conversations regarding music for the funeral liturgy should only be held after the priest has already met with the family of the deceased.
- At Saint Daniel Church, we observe the norms for liturgical music that are found in the official church documents of the Roman Catholic Church.
- At funeral liturgies, the music is a form of sung prayer. It is not a musical performance, but a way of offering praise to God during the sacred rites.
- Our parish music director will make all the final decisions about the appropriateness of the music and its placement during the sacred liturgy.
- Our parish music director also routinely serves as both the cantor and the accompanist for all the funeral liturgies celebrated in our parish church.
- At the discretion of our parish music director, other musicians may assist in helping lead the sacred music for funeral liturgies at our church.
- If there is another cantor, they lead all the singing from the podium that is located next to the organ, including the chanting of the responsorial psalm.
- Although we do not charge fees for sacraments at our church, you are not prohibited from giving a voluntary honorarium to our music director.
- There should not be any need for rehearsals for funeral music. If rehearsals are needed, they are charged at professional rates for music lessons.

## **Specific Protocols**

- **Worship Program:** The parish provides a worship program since it has all the legal permissions to reprint the sacred music and the liturgical texts.
- **Processional Music:** a congregational hymn or an entrance antiphon may be sung while the people process into the church from the narthex.
- **Responsorial Psalm:** only the official lectionary texts may be used for chanting the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation.
- **Offertory Music:** either a congregational hymn, an offertory antiphon, or appropriate liturgical or classical music may be done at this time.
- **Mass Parts:** the regular parish music is used for the singing of the Holy-Holy-Holy, the Mystery of Faith, the Great Amen, and the Lamb of God.
- **Communion Music:** a congregational hymn, a Communion antiphon, or appropriate liturgical or classical music may be done at this time.
- **Rite of Commendation:** only the official ritual texts may be used for the responsorial chant during the final incensation at the end of the funeral liturgy.
- **Recessional Music:** a congregational hymn, an antiphon from the ritual book, or instrumental music may be done as the people process out.
- If there are remarks after the funeral liturgy, the people do not process out during the recessional music. When the people do leave, the bells toll.
- A church funeral is a celebration of eternal life in Jesus Christ. All the liturgical music at funerals reflects this sacred and spiritual understanding.

**The purpose of the music ministry is to enable the congregation to worship God through prayerful song.**

**A church funeral is a celebration of eternal life, in which we commend our loved one to our Risen Savior.**

**As a form of sung prayer, liturgical music lifts our hearts and minds to God in adoration and praise.**

**May the beauty of the music, and the inspiration of its words, bring you comfort and consolation.**

**Thank you for asking us to pray with you as you commend the soul of your loved one to God!**

# NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

**The basic message of salvation can be shared in four points:  
purpose, problem, provision, and pathway!**

- **God's Purpose:** God created us to be good, with the purpose of sharing his love and his happiness with us forever.
- **Our Problem:** We rejected God's plan through sin, and thus we lost our way both in this world and in the life to come.
- **God's Provision:** God provided a sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Our Pathway:** We are on the way to heaven when we personally commit our lives to Jesus Christ in the community of his Church.



*Once you understand and embrace this basic message of salvation,  
you can begin to act upon it wholeheartedly in three important ways!*

**First, make a personal commitment of your life to Jesus Christ as God.  
Use these or similar heartfelt words for your prayer!**

***Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.  
Fill me with your Spirit, so that I may give glory to your Father.  
Help me to know you, to love you, and to serve you in this world,  
so that I may be happy with you both now and for all eternity. Amen.***

*Thank you for sincerely reciting this powerful prayer. Your new life in Christ has begun.  
Please let us help you make your new life in Christ grow and develop well!*

**Second, start following through today on your commitment to Christ  
with your fellow forgiven sinners in the community of his Church!**

- **Mind:** When your mind is filled with the truth of Christ, your whole perspective on life changes!
  - MyCatholic.Life – This is an online summary of the truth that will truly set you free for excellence.
  - CatholicsComeHome.org – This is an encyclopedia of information and inspiration for daily living.
  - ChristLife course at our church – Please contact the parish office to enroll in this exciting course.
- **Heart:** With the renewal of your mind, there comes a profound change within your heart as well!
  - Personal Prayer – Christ is someone who really understands and truly cares for you.
  - Scriptural Reflection – The words and deeds of Christ inspire you to respond in kind.
  - Sacramental Lifestyle – The sacraments keep you connected to Christ until he returns.
- **Life:** Become an active member of our parish community! Please check out StDaniel.org for information.
  - We are looking upward in faith to the God who saves us! – Come and look upward with us!
  - We are moving forward in hope toward our heavenly goal! – Come and move forward with us!
  - We are leading onward in love to new life in Christ! – Come and lead onward with us today!

*We are a faith community of prayer, learning, and service.  
Please come and join us as Intentional Disciples of Christ!*

### **Third, here are some ways to tell that you are on the path of Intentional Discipleship as a faithful Catholic Christian!**

- **First**, you are starting to do things Jesus' way because, with his love and his grace, you can! Your personal relationship with Jesus changes everything in your whole life. Repentance means a change of mind and heart in how you live out your life according to the truth of Christ's Teachings and with the grace of his Sacraments.
- **Second**, you are starting to avoid evil because you no longer feel okay about sinning! Because Jesus died on the cross for you, you are experiencing life in a whole new way. With your increasing desire to please Christ in every way, you are overcoming vice and are growing in virtue, within the supportive community of his Church.
- **Third**, you are starting to give your life totally to Christ, in a personal and communal relationship with Christ and his Church. Because of your deepening commitment to Christ and his Church, you are starting to pray like this: "Lord Jesus, I want what you want, because you want it, as you want it, when you want it!" Amen!

*Please contact us at [Prayer@StDaniel.org](mailto:Prayer@StDaniel.org) for prayer, guidance, and support in leading your new life in Christ. Your prayer requests are welcome too!*

### **In conclusion, here are some further thoughts for you to prayerfully consider about your new life in Jesus Christ!**

- **How do you know that you need a Savior?** Consider the good, the bad, and the ugly. 1) The Good: the best that you have is just never good enough. 2) The Bad: your own solutions don't really work out that well. 3) The Ugly: in the end, you know that you are going to die anyway. You need Christ because only he can replace the good, the bad, and the ugly, with all that is really true, good, and beautiful.
- **Jesus Christ invites you to experience all that is true, good, and beautiful!** 1) The True: there is a reason and purpose to life, which you discover through faith in Jesus Christ. 2) The Good: there are values that endure forever, which you encounter through the love of Jesus Christ. 3) The Beautiful: you realize that the only life really worth living is one in which Jesus Christ is at the center of it.
- **Isn't it enough to be spiritual, instead of being religious?** The short answer is "no." Here is the long answer. 1) Being religious without being spiritual is like going through the motions, but without having faith. 2) Being spiritual without being religious is like talking the talk, but without walking the walk. 3) Being religious is the lifestyle that spiritually transforms your everyday existence for the better in Christ.
- **The opposite of spiritual is not religious – the opposite of spiritual is worldly.** 1) Being Worldly is acting as if this life were all that there is. 2) Being Spiritual is realizing that there is so much more to life. 3) Being Religious is living spiritually within a broken world. Religion is what connects your highest aspirations with your everyday lived experience. Religion is thus the bridge from this life to the next in Christ!
- **The Christian Religion, founded by Jesus Christ, holds your life together in three ways.** 1) Creed: you understand life more fully through the teachings of Christ's Church. 2) Code: you get along with others better because you realize how much Christ loves you in the community of his Church. 3) Culture: you connect with Christ spiritually through the sacraments of Christ's Church.
- **Why should you be a Catholic Christian?** Because the Church that Jesus founded is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Everything that Christ intended for his faithful followers from the very beginning, continues faithfully even now in the Catholic Church, through Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterium, until Christ returns in glory at the end of time. So, come and join us as Intentional Disciples of Christ in the Catholic Church today!

*For prayer, guidance, and support in all these important spiritual matters, please contact us today at [Prayer@StDaniel.org](mailto:Prayer@StDaniel.org). God bless you!*

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