

# 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.
- It is the duty of the parish priest to conduct the funerals in our church. It is the responsibility of our parish music director to provide the music.
- St. Daniel Church does not charge any fees for funerals. We appreciate any contributions that you may freely choose to donate to the church.

## 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 its own distinct 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 holy faith.
- The family gathering after the cemetery prayers is a celebration of all the lives that continue in a new way in memory of their departed loved one.
- By reflecting on these three parts of a funeral, we can appreciate the spiritual character of what is celebrated 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 upon 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."

# PRAYERFUL, SIMPLE, TRADITIONAL FUNERALS

**Funeral Liturgies.** At Saint Daniel Church, our funeral liturgies are prayerful, simple, and traditional. Here are three distinguishing features of Catholic Funeral Rites which give hope in the midst of sorrow, and comfort during a time of farewell to those whom we love so dearly. It is especially a time for renewed faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

- First, a funeral is primarily for the deceased person. “It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead.” We pray for the repose of the soul of our departed loved one as they come into the presence of God. We hope that, someday, our loved ones will remember us in prayerful intercession as well.
- Second, a funeral is also for the sake of those who mourn the loss of their loved one. Many happy memories are called to mind. Both tears of sorrow and expressions of gratitude console broken hearts at such a time as this. May our faith in Jesus Christ be renewed through the sharing of the holy Gospel.
- Third, a funeral is an opportunity to proclaim that Jesus Christ has conquered death through his own death, and especially by his resurrection. Because there is life after death with Jesus, there is also abundant life even before death. To live as a Christian is to anticipate already the joy of eternal life.

By reflecting on these values, we hope you will be able to understand and appreciate why a Catholic Funeral is so much more than just a celebration of life. A Catholic Funeral is a Celebration of Eternal Life in Jesus Christ! The priest will discuss these matters with you in more detail when you meet with him to plan the funeral liturgy together.

## Sacred Rites Reverently Celebrated

- We faithfully follow the instructions in the liturgical books for the celebration of all the sacraments at our church.
- We do not add anything to the liturgy or leave anything out of the liturgy, regardless of what is done elsewhere.
- You can always do at the funeral home or at your luncheon what is not part of the Sacred Liturgy of the Church.
- Eulogies are permitted in church after the conclusion of the liturgy, at a microphone next to the coffin or the urn.

## Church Decorations and Decorum

- We regret that we cannot host wakes or visitations at our church. Several local funeral homes can assist you.
- We do permit two floral arrangements for the altar, although we can simply use our own parish flowers as well.
- In the narthex, you may have some pictures and other flowers, etc., but not in the worship space of the church.
- If there is an urn, it is placed on a memorial pillar at the base of the altar steps, near where a coffin would be.

**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 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 lives. Catholic Funerals are a celebration of the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord! If you would like to explore these profound spiritual matters more fully, please contact us, your own pastor, or your own parish community.



We recommend the following spiritual message for your personal prayer and reflection, not just at the time of a funeral, but in the context of our own journey of faith throughout the time allotted to us in this passing world.

# 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 live a new life.  
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.  
Thank you, Lord. 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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