



**Saint Teresa of Avila
Parish
Funeral Resource &
Planning Book**

***I AM THE
RESURRECTION
AND THE LIFE.
WHOEVER
BELIEVES IN ME
WILL NEVER
DIE....***

We offer you our prayers and sympathy...

The people of Saint Teresa Parish offer you our prayerful support and deepest sympathy at this time of loss in your life. We wish to share with you our hope in the Lord Jesus and the Life He has promised to those who believe. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Hope will bring you comfort and peace in this difficult time.

As a parish family, we at Saint Teresa constantly pray for our beloved dead and minister to those who are bereaved. If we can be of any assistance to your family now or in the future please call us at the Church Office at 440-934-4227.

This booklet is meant to assist you as you make your plans for the Mass of Christian Burial for your loved one. Please read it carefully and feel free to contact a Parish Staff member with any questions.

Rev. Edward J. Smith, Pastor

You and your family will experience the Rite of Christian Burial in three distinct and important parts.

1) THE WAKE SERVICE. This will take place during the visiting hours at the funeral home. A Priest, Deacon or qualified lay person will lead this service of prayer and Scripture. *If desired, it would be most appropriate at this time for a member of the family or a friend to remember the deceased by sharing personal memories as in a eulogy.*

2) THE FUNERAL LITURGY. This is the centerpiece of the celebration of Christian Burial. This is almost always celebrated within a Mass. The bodily remains are honored by being brought to the Church. We celebrate the life of the deceased in the whole context of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

3) THE COMMITTAL. A member of the Parish Staff, normally the Priest celebrant, will accompany the remains and the family to the cemetery where the Rite of Christian Burial will conclude with a brief graveside service.

THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE FUNERAL LITURGY

A funeral may be celebrated on any day of the week except Sundays and Holy Days. There are also some restrictions concerning funerals during Holy Week. The priest will discuss these restrictions as they apply. The normal time for funerals is 10:00 AM or 12:00 PM. For exceptional circumstances 9:30 AM could be acceptable.

All funeral liturgies are to be celebrated in the parish church. If cremation is to take place, it is preferred that it be done **after** the funeral liturgy. In the event a funeral liturgy outside of the context of Mass would be more appropriate for your circumstances, this should be discussed with the parish priest.

OFFERING FOR FUNERALS AT SAINT TERESA PARISH

The normal offerings for a funeral include separate payments to: **Celebrant - \$175.00 musician (cost determined at time of funeral).** Additionally, a family may make donations to the Building Fund of St. Teresa Parish. In any case, inability to meet the funeral offering is **never** a determining factor for burial in the Catholic Church.

PLANNING THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The funeral liturgy is one of the most beautiful and meaningful celebrations of the Church. Your family has the option of personalizing the Mass by choosing the Scripture readings and by requesting specific Church hymns. Readings must always be from Sacred Scripture and hymns selected must be consistent with Diocese of Cleveland liturgical guidelines. Secular music is strictly prohibited within the context of the Rite of Christian Burial.

When choosing, there should be one reading from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and a Gospel reading. Below you will find some especially appropriate passages. If you prefer, the Parish Staff can make the choices for you.

1st READING

Wisdom 3: 1-9

Wisdom 4: 7-15

Job 19: 1, 23-27

Isaiah 25: 6-9

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

2nd READING

Romans 6: 3-9

Romans 8: 31-37

1 John 3: 1-2

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Revelations 21: 1-7

The Director of Music will choose and sing the Responsorial Psalm unless the family has a specific request. The priest who will celebrate the Funeral Mass will choose the Gospel.

SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS:

Below are some of the Scripture verses that are popularly used at Funeral liturgies. You may choose another Scripture reading not found among these choices if you so desire.

FIRST READING SELECTIONS:

Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom:

But 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. 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...

Wisdom 4: 7-15

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom:

For the just man, though he should 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 perverts his mind or deceit beguiles 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...

Job 19: 1, 23-27

A Reading from the Book of Job:

Job answered and said:

Oh would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: that with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that He will at last stand forth upon the dust; whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold Him, and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord...

Isaiah 25: 6-9

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

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

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes:

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord...

SECOND READING SELECTIONS:

Romans 6: 3-9

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Through baptism into His death we were buried with Him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with Him through likeness to His death, so shall we be through a like resurrection. This we know: our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer. A man who is dead has been freed from sin. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with Him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over Him.

The Word of the Lord.

Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

If God is for us, who can be against us? Is it possible that He who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for the sake of us all will not grant us all things besides? Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones? God, who justifies? Who shall condemn them? Christ Jesus, who died or rather was raised up, who is at the right hand of God and who intercedes for us?

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Trial, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or danger, or the sword? Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of Him who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death, nor life, neither angels, nor principalities, neither the present, nor the future, nor powers, neither height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord...

1 John 3: 1-2

A Reading from the First Letter of John:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God. Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized the Son. Dearly beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

The Word of the Lord...

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:

We would have you be clear about those who sleep in death, brothers; otherwise you might yield to grief, like those who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth with Him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in Him. We say to you, as if the Lord Himself had said it, that we who live, who survive until His coming, will in no way have an advantage of those who have fallen asleep. No, the Lord Himself will come down from heaven at the word of command, at the sound of the archangel's voice and God's trumpet; and those who died in Christ will rise first. Then we, the living, the survivors, will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thenceforth we shall be with the Lord unceasingly. Console one another with this message.

The Word of the Lord...

Revelation 21: 1-7

A Reading from the Book of Revelation:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." He said to me, "They are accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.

The Word of the Lord...

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FAMILY PARTICIPATION

During the ceremony the family and friends are encouraged to participate to the degree to which they feel comfortable. Members of the family are encouraged to place the white funeral pall on the casket, a gesture which recalls the deceased's Baptism.

Family members or friends who are practicing Roman Catholics may proclaim the readings, if doing so would not be an emotional burden. Family is also asked to have two to four people bring up the gifts of bread and wine for the Mass.

A group from our parish usher and hand out Funeral Mass booklets.

If there is something that is a symbol of your deceased loved one's life that you would like to present and have placed by the Paschal Candle when the gifts are brought up please make that known when the funeral arrangements are being made.

If you have any questions concerning your involvement in the funeral please ask the Funeral Director or a member of the Parish Staff.



MUSIC AT THE FUNERAL LITURGY

Saint Teresa Parish will provide an organist and funeral choir for the funeral liturgy at the church. Family members are welcome to request specific hymns, especially if they were favorites of the deceased. **Secular music should not be played at a funeral liturgy.** We ask that you speak to a Priest about the hymns so that we can be sure the organist can meet your requests.

MASS OFFERINGS FOR THE DECEASED

Mass cards for the intention of the deceased are available from the Parish Office. Donations for the specific purpose of Masses for the deceased may be presented to the parish office during normal business hours.

We discourage bereaved families from purchasing memorial vestments due to an already large quantity of vestments. The parish, however, would accept donations for the future purchase of vestments based on the decision of the Administrator/Pastor.

CREMATION

In recent years the Church has modified her objection to the practice of cremation, now allowing the practice for the faithful departed. However, the Church does place certain restrictions on the final resting place of the remains. Please consult with a Priest or Deacon if you have specific questions.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

We at Saint Teresa want to help you through your loss not just now but also as time progresses. Our Funeral Luncheon Committee offers a luncheon after the burial service. There are also other bereavement ministries available throughout the Diocese in case you or your loved ones need professional grief counseling. Please contact a Parish Staff member for more information as to time and location of these opportunities.



LITURGY PLAN FORM

We ask your family to take a few moments to review this brochure carefully and complete this form. Please give it to the priest who will have the funeral or to another Parish Staff member as soon as possible. Someone will contact you if there are any questions concerning your requests.

First Reading: _____

Read By: _____

Responsorial Psalm: The organist will choose and sing the Response unless you have a special request.

Special request: _____

Second Reading: _____

Read By: _____

Gospel: The priest celebrating the funeral will choose the Gospel.

Intentions of the Faithful – Read by: _____

Gift Bearers: _____

Hymn Requests:

[NOTE: If desired by the family, the organist will choose the hymns.]

Other Special Items:

**If you have any questions whatsoever, please call
Saint Teresa Parish at 440-934-4227.
Fax at 440-934-4500**