



### Planning the Funeral Liturgy

Our **Volunteer Pastoral Care Team** will guide you through the planning process as simply as possible. For example, during Ordinary Time you will be asked to choose a reading from the Old Testament and a reading from the New Testament from a booklet prepared by the CCCB. The Gospel reading will be chosen and read by the priest. During the Easter Season, the first reading is chosen from particular readings that highlight the Easter Season. The Team will guide you with the process. The readings you choose can be a reflection of your life, commitments, joys and values. Next, you will be asked to choose one of the CCCB's Prayers of the Faithful from our Bereavement Book. From the information above, you now realize you will need to choose **2** people to proclaim the Scripture readings, **1** person to read the Prayers of the Faithful, and **2** people to bring up the gifts of bread and wine. We encourage the participation of many close friends and relatives in the Funeral Liturgy. Alternately, you may choose to have a Funeral Liturgy in the Church Outside Mass. Discuss all your options with the Funeral Home and a Team Member.

### Information for those individuals who have agreed to participate

- § The First Reading is proclaimed immediately after the priest says the opening prayer.
- § Next the Responsorial Psalm is sung.

- § The Second Reading follows the Psalm.
- § The Gospel Acclamation is intoned.
- § The Priest reads the Gospel.
- § Following the Gospel there is a brief homily.
- § There is no Creed after the homily.
- § The Prayers of the Faithful are read after the priest has returned to the Presider's Chair. As he is reciting the short introductory prayer, the reader should go to the pulpit.
- § The individuals bringing up the gifts of bread and wine should go to the back of the church immediately after the Prayers of the Faithful. The Cross Bearer will meet them at the back of the church. The Cross Bearer and gift bearers will process towards the altar together stopping at the Sanctuary step. The priest will greet them and take the gifts. The gift bearers will then return to their seats.

### Where do I keep my advance liturgy plan and a copy of this brochure once a member of the Volunteer Pastoral Care Team says everything is in order?

- ☉ Keep a copy for yourself and put a business card in your wallet stating you have an advance liturgy prepared.
- ☉ Give a copy to the person who will be responsible for your funeral arrangements.
- ☉ If you have planned your funeral with a funeral home, ask that a copy be placed in your file.

### St. Teresa's Parish Fees for all Funerals

The total fee is \$400 including: \$100 Cantor; \$100 Organist; \$100 Priest; and \$100 Church Maintenance. Additional instrumentalists are available at additional cost. The Music Director should be contacted if you require further information, 749-8206.

### Donations in Memoriam

Please consider including **St. Teresa's Parish** or **St. Teresa's St. Vincent de Paul Society** as your donation of choice. This is a beautiful way to contribute to the life of the parish after you are gone and for family and friends to honour your memory.



### Parish Contact Information

St. Teresa's Parish, 579-0065

### OR

Margie Janson, 579-3547

Volunteer Pastoral Care Coordinator

*(The information contained in this brochure is directly from or based on CCCB guidelines for funerals.)*

### Why Should I Plan My Catholic Funeral in Advance?



St. Teresa's Parish  
120 Mundy Pond Rd,  
St. John's, NL  
A1E 1V1  
t 709-579-0065  
f 709-579-3804  
[www.stteresa.ca](http://www.stteresa.ca)

### Why Should I Plan My Catholic Funeral in Advance?

- To ♦ lessen the stress placed upon family members at a very difficult time;
- ♦ provide you with peace of mind knowing that you have taken care of something important for your family; and
- ♦ have input into the Funeral Liturgy so that it reflects your life and wishes.

*This brochure has been created to assist you in planning your Catholic funeral at St. Teresa's Parish. It is our hope that the Funeral Liturgy to celebrate your life will offer comfort to your family and friends.*

## Basics

The *Order of Christian Funerals* provides for

- ✠ the Vigil for the Deceased;
- ✠ the Funeral Liturgy (Mass); and
- ✠ the Rite of Committal / Farewell.

The *Vigil* takes place between the time of death and the Funeral Mass. It is usually held in a funeral home the day or evening before the funeral and is presided over by a priest or prepared layperson. This service consists of prayers and Scripture readings. It is a time when family and friends gather to reflect upon the person's life, to express their feelings and to remember their loved one.

The *Funeral Liturgy* is the principal celebration of the *Order of Christian Funerals*. Some of the symbols incorporated in the liturgy include draping a white pall over the casket signifying the person's baptism, placing the Easter Candle at the foot of the casket reminding us that Christ is our light, sprinkling holy water as a further reminder of baptism and reverencing the body with incense signifying our prayers rising to God.

The *Rite of Committal* is the last part of the *Order of Christian Funerals*. This Rite consists of a Scripture reading and short prayers lead by a priest or prepared layperson. The Committal Service is celebrated at the final resting place of the deceased person.

## Traditional Funeral vs Cremation

The Church has always expressed its belief in life after death and in the resurrection through its care in preparing the body for burial. The prayers and gestures used in the liturgy show its reverence for the deceased Christian's body, which the Church considers sacred because it has been a temple of the Holy Spirit and has shared in the Eucharistic food of Jesus himself. It is for these reasons that the Church still prefers the traditional burial in a grave or tomb in memory of Jesus' body being placed in a tomb. When cremation is chosen, the Church will celebrate the funeral rites, unless there is evidence that cremation was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian belief. When the Funeral Liturgy is celebrated in the presence of ashes, the Signs of Reverence, the sprinkling of holy water and the use of incense, may be used. Ashes should always be buried to show proper reverence for the body and to provide a place to mourn the person.

## Death of a Child

*Baptized, Unbaptized, Miscarriage and Stillbirth*  
The death of a child is a very special kind of grief. The church provides special readings and prayers in those circumstances.

## Catholic Teaching on Organ Donation

Pope John Paul II sums up the position of the Church in these words: The Gospel of life is to be celebrated above all in daily living, which should be filled with self-giving love for others. . . . Over and

above such outstanding moments, there is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life. A particularly praiseworthy example of such gestures is the donation of organs, performed in an ethically acceptable manner, with a view to offering a chance of health and even of life itself to the sick who sometimes have no other hope (*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 86).

## The Pall

To emphasize the importance of the person's baptism, the Church encourages the use of a pall at the Funeral Liturgy. A pall is the white cloth that is placed on the coffin during the rite of reception of the body by family members, friends, parish ministers or a representative of the funeral home.

## The Flag

To honour an individual who is or was in the military the church provides that the flag

- be put on a standard and placed near the entrance, where it will be visible to all as they enter; or
- be placed on the coffin while in transit to and from the church, removed and folded with appropriate ceremony and respect just before the pall is placed on the coffin during the welcoming of the body and be placed on the coffin again as it is being transported out of the church.

## Eulogies and Non Biblical Readings

The Vigil is a time when family and friends gather to reflect upon a person's life, share their memories and express their grief. It is the perfect time for eulogizing the person, for reading poems, emails and other messages of condolence. These expressions can help us with the grieving process.

## Music

Music enhances every celebration. This is also true of the celebration of life at the Funeral Liturgy. For your convenience, the Music Director and our parish's music ministers would be pleased to choose music appropriate for your funeral. If you have a favourite hymn, they would be happy to include it. For your information, the following music selections will be chosen from the Gather Hymnal:

- ♪ Entrance;
- ♪ Responsorial Psalm;
- ♪ Offertory;
- ♪ Communion;
- ♪ Last Farewell; and
- ♪ Departure from the Church.

## Rosary

At St. Teresa's Parish the *Legion of Mary* will recite the rosary at the funeral home the first afternoon of the wake unless you specifically indicate otherwise.