

SAINTE BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH

*600 Clifford Avenue
Loves Park, IL. 61111
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*Preparing for a
Funeral Liturgy*



*“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one
comes to the Father except through me.”*

John 14:6

The Funeral Liturgy

Dear family and friends,

On behalf of the priests of St. Bridget's parish, we offer our sincere condolences to your whole family at this time of loss. The funeral liturgy is a time of prayer and worship which will certainly help you in the grieving process. It is always a difficult time to say goodbye to someone we love, but at the heart of our faith is the reality "that life is changed, not ended." This hope comes from the unending love God has for each of us as He freely gave His life on the Cross for our salvation. He has put an end to death through the Cross and His glorious resurrection, and in turn has opened the gates of Heaven, preparing a place for all those who love Him. The funeral Mass is an opportunity for us to pray together commending your loved one to the mercy and love of Jesus Christ and furthermore, for family and friends who remain it is an opportunity to experience God's love through His Word and His Sacraments.

The following pages will help you in your preparations for the Funeral Liturgy. Please spend some time going over the materials and then choose the readings and songs you would like for the Funeral Mass. The last page in this packet is to be filled out as best as you can prior to meeting with the priest who will arrange and celebrate the Funeral Mass for your loved one.

Please know of our continual prayers and support for you and your family during this time of grief. As we thank God for the gift of your loved ones life and all the blessings they shared with you on earth, we are also reminded that in this moment of sadness we look to Jesus for light, hope, and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Msgr. Knox, Fr. John, and Fr. Grismer



ST. BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Guidelines for Cremation & Burial

Currently approximately one half of Americans select cremation at the time of a funeral. For many years the Church prohibited cremation because there was a concern that those who were choosing that option were prompted to do so by a denial of our belief in the resurrection of the body. The Church now permits cremation, but with some reservations.

Although it is permissible to be cremated, it is the Church's preference that the body of the deceased be present for funeral rites. ***Why is respect for the human body and the presence of the human body such a high value?*** The Order of Christian Funerals (OFC) states: "The body of the deceased Catholic Christian is also the body once washed in Baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the Bread of Life. The body of the deceased brings forcefully to mind the Church's conviction that the human body is in Christ a temple of the Holy Spirit and is destined for future glory at the resurrection of the dead" (412).

If the deceased is to be cremated, it is usually best to have the cremation after the funeral rites so that the body is present for the wake and the funeral Mass. Although it is permissible to have the cremated remains at the funeral Mass, the presence of the body is preferable because it helps mourners face the reality of a person's death and allows the Church to express the fullness of its belief during the funeral rites.

What about the place of final disposition for cremated remains? "The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. ***The cremated remains must be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium.*** The practice of scattering cremated remains (or a portion of the cremated remains) on the water, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased is to be avoided at all times. It is also not permitted to "split" the bodily remains of the deceased into different vessels or pieces of jewelry. Whenever possible, appropriate means for recording with dignity the memory of the deceased should be adopted, such as a plaque or headstone which records the name of the deceased" (OCF, 417).

The Catholic funeral rites can bring great consolation to the family and friends of the deceased, because "In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity."

As we pray at the grave side: "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

Holy Communion Guidelines

As Catholics, we believe that Jesus Christ becomes truly present body, blood, soul, and divinity in a mystical, yet real way at every Holy Mass. It is not just a symbol, but the real presence of Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit, normal bread and wine are transformed into Jesus' body and blood. What still looks like bread and wine is really Jesus under sacramental signs. As St. Paul reminds us, *"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the chalice, after supper, saying, "This chalice is the new covenant in my blood." Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"* (1 Cor 11:23-25).

At the Funeral Mass we certainly welcome everyone in attendance as we are uniting together in prayer for our brother or sister in the Lord. **By receiving Holy Communion at Mass we are essentially saying two things:** *First*, I'm in "union with" the Pope, therefore, a member of the Catholic Church. *Secondly*, we are saying that our moral life is in "union with" Jesus and His Church; this is manifest by following what Jesus and the Church teach regarding faith and morals.

We encourage all who are Catholic, practicing their faith, and in union with Church teachings to receive Holy Communion at the Mass. If you need to receive the sacrament of Confession, please do so prior to receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. As St. Paul continues in 1 Corinthians, *"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord"* (1 Cor 11:27). **The Eucharist is the central mystery of our Catholic faith and it is vitally important to be respectful of so great a gift.** Any gift received properly is received with love, and that's why receiving Jesus in Holy Communion with love presupposes a way of life that is striving to live in "union with" our Lord and His Church.

If you are a non-Catholic it is normally not permitted to receive Holy Communion at Mass, but we do invite you to either come forward during distribution of Holy Communion for a blessing or to remain in the pew praying for the deceased and seeking a deeper union with the Lord. You can indicate your desire to receive a blessing from the priest by crossing your arms over your chest when you come forward.

The priest at Mass will also make a general reminder for all present at the funeral mass on the guidelines for receiving Holy Communion. Thank you for respecting this amazing gift as we offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for your loved one.

Scripture Readings

In the funeral liturgy a total of three readings are recommended.

You will need to select one Old Testament reading, one New Testament reading, and one Gospel reading. Family members or friends of the deceased are encouraged to proclaim the first two readings. Generally, it is good to select a person to proclaim the Scriptures who has some public speaking experience. The priest will always proclaim the Gospel reading.

Note: If you have a favorite scripture reading you wish to use, but it is not listed here, the reading must first be approved by the priest celebrating the Mass, and the translation **must** be taken from the Catholic “New American Bible”.



1.

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.

2.

Wisdom 3:1-9

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 the elect.

The word of the Lord.

3.

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

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 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.

4.

Jeremiah 29:11-14a

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

5.

Wisdom 4:7-15

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.



1.

Romans 6:3-9

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.

2.

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

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, how will he not also give us everything else 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.

3.

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written:

As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God. So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

4.

2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For 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.

The word of the Lord.

5.

2 Cor. 5:1, 6-10

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 all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

6.

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one Body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

7.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

8.

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 18b

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

9.

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of John

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.

10.

Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.



1.

Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he 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.

2.

Matthew 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

3.

Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus said in reply:

"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.

4.

John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:

"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

5.

John 11:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Martha said to Jesus,

"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

6.

John 14:1-6

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 the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Music for the Funeral Liturgy

“Music is integral to the funeral rites. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love.” (OCF, 30)

Non-liturgical or secular music is not allowed in the Church. Thus, such music as “The Prayer”, “Wind Beneath My Wings”, “I Will Remember You”, “From a Distance”, “Candle In The Wind” and “Danny Boy”, etc. may not be used before, during, or after the funeral rites in Church. Any music from stage or screen is not allowed during Catholic liturgy. If you have a non-liturgical or secular song that is special to you, we suggest that you speak with the funeral director about playing a CD of this song during the visitation at the funeral home, or at the funeral luncheon. Recorded music cannot be used as part of the funeral liturgy at the church.

A parish cantor and organist will be assigned for your liturgy. The members of St. Bridget Music Ministry are the preferred musicians/vocalists for all liturgies here at St. Bridget, and bring many years of experience and liturgical expertise. “Outside musicians” are not typically used for a funeral liturgy. If you wish to have a guest vocalist, they may sing the Offertory and/or the second Communion song at the discretion of the Director of Music Ministry. The parish cantor will lead the assembly on all other music.

The Psalm and Song of Farewell (during the incensing of the body) will be chosen by the Music Director.

In the funeral liturgy there are five places for your choice of songs:

- The Entrance Song
- The Song during the Preparation of the Altar and Presentation of the Gifts
- The Communion Song
- Optional Meditation Song following Holy Communion (Ave Maria, Panis Angelicus)
- The Recessional Song

Music List for Funeral Liturgies

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

Amazing Grace

Ave Maria (*Schubert*) - *sung as a solo – Communion Meditation*

Be Not Afraid

Blest Are They

Come Home

Eye Has Not Seen

Fly like a Bird

Gift of Finest Wheat

Here I Am, Lord

Holy God We Praise Thy Name

How Great Thou Art

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

I Am the Bread of Life

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

In the Day of the Lord

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

O God, You Search Me

On Eagle's Wings

Panis Angelicus - *sung as a solo – Communion Meditation*

Prayer of Saint Francis

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Sing with All the Saints in Glory

Taste and See

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

You Are Mine

You Are Near

What Wondrous Love Is This



Funeral Liturgy Plan

(Please return this sheet to the parish office no later than twenty-four hours prior to the funeral)

(Please Print Neatly)

Name of Deceased: _____

Date of Funeral: _____ Time: _____

Will there be a visitation here at the church? Yes No If yes, what time? _____

Please provide the name and phone number of a contact person:

Name of Priest/Deacon who is officiating: _____

Name of Funeral Home: _____

Please check the appropriate box below:

- Casket will be present Cremation (Urn will be present) No casket/urn

Scripture Selections

(Please list the # of the reading, and Book, Chapter & Verse - example: # 2 - Wisdom 3:1-9)

First Reading (Old Testament): _____

Read by: _____

Second Reading (New Testament): _____

Read by: _____

Gospel Reading (Read by priest or deacon): _____

Other Information

Names of Gift Bearers: ***(only 2 people are needed; preferably not small children)***

Music Selections

You'll need to select **5 songs** from the song list and then write the names of the songs on the lines below. Unless you have a specific preference on where each hymn is sung in the liturgy, the music director will select the proper place within the Mass.

Thank You!

During the incensing of the casket / urn a Song of Farewell will be sung by the cantor.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the funeral liturgy, please do not hesitate to contact:

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