

Funeral Planning Guide



Saint Matthias the Apostle Church

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Church and Rectory 440-888-8220

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PLANNING THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

This booklet has been prepared by the parish community of St. Matthias to assist your family in planning the Mass of Christian Burial for your loved one. We hope that by choosing your own readings, music, and ritual movements, you and your family might share more fully in the liturgy, and express your care and love for the deceased. Please look over the readings and choices provided and call the Parish Office (Dianne Laheta 440.888.8220) to set a time to complete the liturgy planning process. Be assured of the prayers and concern of our parish during this time of sorrow.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Catholic Funerals

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, broke the chains of sin and death that bound humanity. The Order of Christian Funerals is divided into three groups of rites that correspond to the three ritual movements in the funeral of Christians. These three movements form one procession from the funeral home to the church and to the cemetery and include: the Vigil service (wake), Funeral Liturgy and Rite of Committal. It is the usual custom that the funeral of Christians includes these three movements. Although this is customary, other options may be available.

Cremation

In recent years, the Catholic Church has lifted the prohibition against the practice of cremation and has revised the rites for services with cremated remains. While the church favors cremation *after* the funeral liturgy, it realizes that financial constraints or other circumstances may result in the desire for cremation before the funeral service. The cremated remains can be brought into the church for the Funeral Mass. Typically, a minister will accompany the cremated remains to the cemetery for committal after the funeral. The ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority. The church prohibits the practice of dividing or scattering cremated remains. When the deceased notoriously has requested cremation and the scattering of their ashes for reasons contrary to the Christian faith, a Christian funeral must be denied to the person according to the norms of the law. It is possible to have a picture of the deceased placed in the entrance of the church or near the cremains.

Times for Funeral Masses

According to diocesan guidelines, funeral Masses can be held on any day of the year except a Sunday, a Holy Day or during the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday). The usual time for funerals at St. Matthias is 10:00 a.m.

Mass Program Booklets

Funeral programs are provide by St. Matthias which include readings, proclaimers, and music hymnal numbers. We ask that you take a Gather book upon entering the church for the funeral liturgy.

Ministers

- **Readers:** Family members or friends are encouraged to proclaim the readings at the funeral Mass and to read the General Intercessions (petitions). Please try to choose individuals with clear speaking voices, as the Word proclaimed is meant to bring comfort to those who have gathered to pray. We will provide you with a copy of the readings at the planning meeting. A copy will also be provided on the main ambo in the church during the liturgy.
- **Musician and Servers:** Our pastoral staff will contact both the musicians and altar servers.
- **Visiting Priests:** Visiting priests are welcome to concelebrate and take part in the Mass at the discretion of the presiding priest from St. Matthias. Priests from outside the diocese must have a letter of suitability from their bishop.

Stipends

All parishioners are entitled to our ministries without charge. Also, we would not exclude anyone who is not formally registered or has not been able to contribute financially to the parish. However you may make arrangements with your funeral director for the customary offerings if you so desire.

Memorial Offerings

If you would like to honor your loved one by donations to the parish in lieu of flowers, please ask that contributions be made to the St. Matthias Endowment fund. Please contact our Business Manager for more information. We discourage individual purchases of memorial vessels and vestments.

Mass Intentions

Masses for the intention of the deceased may be requested through our Parish Office. The usual stipend is \$10.

The Mass of Christian Burial

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting

The priest, ministers and the assembly greet the body at the entrance of the Church.

Sprinkling with Holy Water, the Pall and the Placing of Symbols

After the body has been greeted at the entrance to the church and processed to the baptismal font, blessed holy water is placed on the coffin. The holy water reminds us of the saving waters of baptism. Its use calls to mind the deceased's baptism and initiation into the community and the newness of life into which he or she is now called. Immediately following, a white cloth or "pall" is placed on top of the casket. This cloth symbolizes the baptismal garment of our Catholic faith. Family members are encouraged to take part in this ritual at the liturgy. Family members may choose to place Christian symbols on top of the casket during the Mass. A favorite cross, rosary or prayer book of the deceased would be most appropriate. The casket is then processed to the front of the church near the Paschal Candle, the sign of the light of Christ and the eternal life into which we are born.

Opening Song

The following is a list of suggested Opening Songs. These selections have been chosen from the *Gather* hymnal used at St. Matthias. (Other songs are acceptable, but please make every effort to make sure that they can be found in our music book to assure active participation by all present. You are most welcome to borrow a copy of the hymnal from the Parish Office. Please remember to return the hymnal.) Note that seasonal music is appropriate during the liturgical seasons of the year, i.e. Easter music during the Easter season, Christmas carols during the Christmas season, etc. Note: all texts with Alleluias are inappropriate during the Lenten season.

Amazing Grace #612

Be Not Afraid #608

On Eagle's Wings #611

Sing With All the Saints in Glory (Ode to Joy) #442

Here I Am Lord #686

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

The first reading is taken from the *Hebrew Scriptures* or the “*Old Testament*.” (Except during the Easter season. Contact the rectory for approved Easter season readings) Please choose one of the following readings and indicate your choice on the planning form. (You may choose a reading not listed here, as long as it can be found in the Old Testament.)

(C-3) A reading from the book of Wisdom (Wisdom 3: 1-9)

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 same 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 his elect.

(C-4) A reading from the Book of Wisdom (Wisdom 4: 7-14)

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 the 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.

(C-5) A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 25: 6,7-9)

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 saved us!”

(Isaiah Alternate) A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 49: 8-15)

Thus says the Lord: in a time of favor I answered you, on the day of salvation I help you; and I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to restore the land and allot the desolate heritages, saying to the prisoners: come out! To those in the darkness: show yourselves!

Along the ways they shall find pasture, on every bare height shall their pastures be. They shall not hunger or thirst, nor shall the scorching wind or the sun strike them; For he who pities them leads them and guides them beside springs of water. I will cut a road through all my mountains, and make my highways level. See, some shall come from afar, others from the north and the west, and some from the land of Syene.

Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth, break forth into song, you mountains. For the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted. But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

(C-6) A reading from the Book of Lamentations (Lam. 3:17-26)

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the Lord. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; Remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me.

But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: the favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the Lord, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Good is the Lord, says my soul; to the soul that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

(Alternate) A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (Ec. 3:1-12)

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for everything 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 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 that God has appointed for the sons of men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without man's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done

(Alternate Selection) A reading from the book of Proverbs (Prov. 31:10-12,20,25-31)

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.

She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all." Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting, the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

(Alternate Selection) A reading from the book of Sirach (Sirach 6:5-15)

A kind mouth multiplies friends and appeases enemies, and gracious lips prompt friendly greetings. Let your acquaintances be many, but one in a thousand your confidant. When you gain a friend, first test him, and be not too ready to trust him. For one sort is a friend when it suits him, but he will not be with you in time of distress. Another is a friend, a boon companion, who will not be with you when sorrow comes. When things go well, he is your other self, and lords it over your servants;

But if you are brought low, he turns against you and avoids meeting you. Keep away from your enemies; be on your guard with your friends. A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance his worth. A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as he who fears God finds; For he who fears God behaves accordingly and his friend will be like himself.

Responsorial Psalm

The psalm is always sung at the funeral liturgy. Please choose one of the following selections and the musician will lead the assembly in singing the response.

#	Psalm	Text	
R-1	Psalm 23	The Lord is My Shepherd #32	
R-2	Psalm 23	Shepherd Me, O God beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life. #31	
R-3	Psalm 25	To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul, my God. #36	
R-4	Psalm 27	The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom should I be afraid? #39	

The Second Reading

The second reading is always taken from the *Christian Scriptures* or the *New Testament* (not a *Gospel reading*). Please choose one of the following readings and indicate your selection on the planning form. (You may choose a reading not listed here, as long as it can be found in the New Testament.)

(Alternate Acts) A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 10:34-43)

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all people, but to us, the witness chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one who appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

(E-1) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Romans 5:5-11)

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

(E-3) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Romans 6:3-9)

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 the Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him

(E-4) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Romans 8:14-23)

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, "Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits, eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

(E-5) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Romans 8:31-35, 37-39)

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.

(E-6) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (Romans 14:7-9)

None of us 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. 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 account of himself to God.

(E-8) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:51-57)

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victor through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Alternate) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:8)

Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it does not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

(E-10) A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 5:6-10)

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

(E-11) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (Philippians 3:20-21)

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, 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.

(E-12) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, 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.

(E-13) A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:8-13)

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

(Alternate-Timothy) A reading from the letter of Paul to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:1-8)

Beloved:

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.

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.

(E-14) A reading from the first letter of John (1 John 3:1-2)

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.

(C-9 may be 1st or 2nd reading) A reading from the book of Revelation (Revelation 14:13)

I heard a voice from the heaven say, "Write this: blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

(C-11 may be 1st or 2nd reading) A reading from the book of Revelation (Revelation 21:1-7)

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. 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."

GOSPEL

The Gospel is always proclaimed by the priest or deacon. Please choose one of the following Gospel readings and mark your selection on the planning form. (These are only suggested Gospel readings, please feel free to choose another which might better express the faith of those gathered.)

(G-1) A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 5:1-12)

When he 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.

(G-2) A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 11: 25-30)

At that time Jesus exclaimed: "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 little ones. 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 to 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.”

(G-4) A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 25: 31-46)

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the King will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

(G-10) A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (Luke 24: 13-16, 28-35)

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?” So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

(Alternate) A reading from the holy gospel according to John (John 10:11-18)

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

(G-12) A reading from the holy gospel according to John (John 6: 37-40)

Jesus said to the crowd: "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."

(G-13) A reading from the holy gospel according to John (John 6: 51-58)

Jesus said to the crowd: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

(G-14) A reading from the holy gospel according to John (John 11: 21-27)

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 Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

(G-15) A reading from the holy gospel according to John (John 11: 32-45)

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and see what he had done began to believe in him.

(G-16) A reading from the holy gospel according to John (John 12:23-26)

Jesus told his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will be my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me."

(G-17) A reading from the holy gospel according to John (John 14: 1-6)

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 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."

(G-18) A reading from the holy gospel according to John (John 17: 24-26)

Jesus raised his eyes to the heaven and said: "Father, my disciples are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

HOMILY

The homily breaks open the Word of God and helps relate it to the life of the deceased. Family members are encouraged to write down some notes about the deceased to share with the priest. These notes may be written on the reverse side of the planning form.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

These prayers may be offered by a family member or friend.

Suggested petitions are listed below. The traditional response to the general intercession is “Lord, hear our prayer.” The priest will introduce and conclude the intercessions with a prayer.

- A. For _____ who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of saints. We pray to the Lord.
- B. For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she is raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.
- C. Many friends and family have gone before us in faith. Grant them an everlasting home in paradise. We pray to the Lord.
- D. For deceased relatives, especially those in the _____ and _____ families, that they have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.
- E. For all those that care for the sick and the suffering, especially, the staff at _____ (hospital /nursing home/etc.) who provided _____ with loving and comforting care. We pray to the Lord.
- F. For those who have fallen asleep with the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.
- G. For all of us gathered here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God’s kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation song: Please choose either a short hymn or piano instrumental.

Amazing Grace #612

Seek Ye First #615

Prayer of St. Francis #726

You Are Mine #649

We Have Been Told #699

We Remember #593

Gift Bearers: Family members or friends are strongly encouraged to present the gifts of bread and wine at Mass. Please choose two or four individuals to bring up the gifts.

Holy, Holy, Holy

All of these will be sung, with the musical arrangement

Memorial Acclamation

chosen by the musician

Great Amen

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer:

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Eucharistic Ministers: Family members or friends who are commissioned Eucharistic Ministers are welcome to serve at this time. Please make the priest aware of the number of ministers available. (Usually one or two are needed. If none is available, the parish will provide them.)

Communion Song: Please choose one of the following songs to be sung during the sharing in Communion. Other songs are permitted, as long as they have a reference to the Eucharist being shared.

Be Not Afraid #608

I Am the Bread of Life #828

Blest Are They #659

On Eagle's Wings #611

Bread of Life #821

Look Beyond #843

Eye Has Not Seen #638

Remarks of Remembrance: Personal stories within the context of faith do much to help bring about healing and consolation. The Vigil (Wake) with its more intimate setting is the most appropriate place for family members and friends to engage in this kind of sharing.

Prayer after Communion

FINAL COMMENDATION

Final Prayer

(choose one)

Song of Farewell Jesus Remember Me #404

The Hand of God #859

A song is sung as the casket is being incensed as a sign of our prayers, thoughts and petitions rising up to God and an acknowledgment of the sacred nature of the body.

Prayer of Commendation

In Paradisum

The Presider prays that the angels lead the deceased into paradise and that the martyrs come to welcome them and take them to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

Processional Song: Please choose one of the following selections for the closing hymn.

Amazing Grace #612

Be Not Afraid #608

City of God #678

How Great Thou Art #494

On Eagle's Wings #611

Joyful, Joyful #528

Holy God, We Praise thy Name #524

We Shall Rise Again #772



The members of the Parish Staff extend their prayers and sympathy to you and your family during this time of sorrow.

In the days and months that follow, please know that the Stephen Ministry is available to walk with you in your grief.

Your loved one will be remembered in our All Souls Day Mass on November 2.

As we go forward on our journey of life, may we comfort one another with our faith in Jesus Christ.

St. Matthias Funeral Information Sheet

Funeral Home Name

Contact Person Name and Number

Funeral Home Address

Funeral Home Phone Number

Name and Address of Deceased

Family Contact

Family Contact Relationship to Deceased

Family Contact Address

Family Contact Phone Number

Family Contact Cell Phone or e-mail address

Date of Death

Age of Death

Date of Funeral Mass

Time of Funeral Mass

Visiting Hours of Funeral Home

Cemetery to be used

Were Last Sacraments given?

By Whom?

Name _____ Funeral Date _____ Time _____

Music for transition (if there is a wake): _____

Introductory Rites

Greeting and Sprinkling With Holy Water

Placing of the Pall: _____

Placing of Christian Symbols: Yes No

Opening Song (page 5): _____

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading _____ Read by _____

Responsorial Psalm (Page 8) _____ (Sung by cantor)

Second Reading _____ Read by _____

Gospel Reading _____ (Read by priest or deacon)

Homily

General Intercessions: __, __, __, __, __, __ Read by _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation Song (page 18): _____

Gift Bearers: _____

Eucharistic Ministers: _ No Yes __ # of Ministers Names _____

Communion Song (page 18): _____

Final Commendation

Jesus Remember Me #404 or The Hand of God #859

Processional Song (page 19): _____

Memories/Notes about the Deceased

