

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Funeral Rites Information

Date of Funeral _____

Name of Deceased _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

Name of person who will be in charge of arrangements: _____

Phone number: _____

I. RITE OF THE VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED (WAKE)

Vigil Date and Time: _____ (Invite everyone; publish the time)

Name and location of Funeral Home _____

Phone number? _____

II. RITE OF THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Time: 10:00AM _____ 10:30 AM _____ or 11:00 AM _____ Monday-Saturday _____ Other

Choice of readings: *Lectors must be practicing Catholics. *If lectors are requested by the family, please list names and contact info below.*

Old Testament Reading (1st): _____ Read by: _____

Responsorial Psalm: *Sung by provided cantor, you may suggest a psalm*

New Testament Reading (2nd): _____ Read by: _____

Gospel reading: _____ Read by the deacon or priest

Celebrant: _____

Gift bearers - two at least, no more than four
(2-4): _____

**Lector(s)*

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

III. RITE OF COMMITAL

In accord with Christian tradition, the remains of our loved ones are burned or interned as a sign of our being laid to rest in the tomb with Christ. Those who die with Christ shall also rise with Him.

Name and location of cemetery: _____

Name and location of Funeral Home: _____

Sacred Scriptures for the Mass of Christian Burials

Old Testament Reading: Must be read by a practicing Catholic

1. Job 19: 1, 23-27 - I know that my Redeemer lives.
2. Wisdom 3:1-9 - The souls of the just are in the hand of God - He accepted them as a holocaust
3. Wisdom 4: 7-15 - A blameless life is a ripe old age.
4. Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9 - On this mountain, the Lord will provide. The Lord God will destroy death forever.
5. Lamentations 3: 17-26 - It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.
6. Daniel 12: 1-3 - Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake.
7. 2 Maccabees 12: 43-46 - It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.

Psalms: (sung by the parish cantor – you may suggest a Psalm)

New Testament Readings: Must be read by a practicing Catholic

1. Acts 10: 34-43 - God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.
2. Romans 5: 5-11 - Hope does not disappoint; Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.
3. Romans 5: 17-21 - Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.
4. Romans 6: 3-9 - Let us walk in newness of life.
5. Romans 8: 14-23 - We grow while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.
6. Romans 8: 31b-39 - Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?
7. Romans 14: 7-9, 10b-12 - Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord
8. 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28 - All people will be brought to life in Christ.
9. 1 Corinthians 15: 51-57 - Death is swallowed up in victory.
10. 2 Corinthians 4: 14- 5:1 - What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.
11. 2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10 - We have an everlasting home in heaven.
12. Philippians 3: 20-21 - Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours to be like His glorious body.
13. 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 - We shall stay with the Lord for ever.
14. 2 Timothy 2: 8-13 - If we have died with him, we shall live with him.
15. 1 John 3: 1-2 - We shall see God as He really is.
16. 1 John 3: 14-16 - We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.
17. Revelation 14: 13 - Happy are those who die in the Lord.
18. Revelation 20: 11- 21: 1 - The dead have been judged according to their works.
19. Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7 - There will be no more death.

Gospel Readings: Read by Deacon or Priest

1. Matthew 5: 1-12 - The Beatitudes - Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.
2. Mathew 11: 25-30 - Come to me and I will give your rest.
3. Matthew 25: 1-13 - Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.
4. Matthew 25: 31-46 - Come, you whom my Father has blessed.
5. Mark 15: 33-39 - Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed His last.
6. Luke 7: 11-17 - Young one, I say to you, arise.
7. Luke 12: 35-40 - Be prepared.
8. Luke 23: 33, 39-43 - Today you will be with me in paradise. (The death on the cross)
9. Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a - Father, I put my life in your hands.
10. Luke 24: 13-35 - The Emmaus Story - Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into His glory?
11. John 5: 24-29 - Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.
12. John 6: 37-40 - All who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day.
13. John 6: 51-58 - All who eat this bread will live for ever; and I will raise them up on the last day.
14. John 11: 17-27 - I am the resurrection and the life.
15. John 11: 32-45 - Lazarus, come out.
16. John 12: 23-28 - If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.
17. John 14: 1-6 - There are many rooms in my Father's house.
18. John 17: 24-26 - Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am.
19. John 19: 17-18, 25-30 - Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

During the Easter season New Testament readings #1, 17, 18, or 19 is used as the first reading instead of an Old Testament reading.

MUSIC at the FUNERAL MASS

The sacred rites of the Church are the safeguards of our faith and a great consolation at the loss of a loved one. Even at times of emotional distress, it is essential to choose music appropriate to the holiness of the Mass. The best sources for these are the lovely hymns, chants, and sacred music of our Church's tradition. As such, we rarely use sacred songs of a "contemporary/folk" nature at the funeral Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas. These, secular songs, and other family favorites are best used at the wake service.

Although the list below does not exhaust the sacred music of our Church's tradition, it is a start. We would kindly ask you to consider these. Hymn and music suggestions not listed may be discussed with the church staff musician. Also discuss your request for any Latin hymns not listed, or your request for Latin Mass parts (Ordinary).

Music Choices: All music is provided by parish musicians. Hymns suggestions are listed.
PLEASE NOTE: We do not use recorded music at Holy Mass.

Processional hymn: _____

Offertory hymn: _____

Communion hymn: _____

Recessional hymn: _____

Hymn Suggestions

PROCESSIONALS

*Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
O God Our Help in Ages Past

OFFERTORY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Harken, Shepherd of the Sheep

COMMUNION

At That First Eucharist
I Received the Living God
Let All Mortal Flesh
O Lord, I Am Not Worthy
O Sacrament Most Holy

RECESSIONAL

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
In Paradisum
For All the Saints
All Creatures of Our God and King
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*May not be used during the season of Lent.

Fees and Offerings

We appreciate you allowing us to provide this funeral mass for your loved one. Fees and offerings for the funeral staff are as follows:

Musician's fees:

Cantor -- \$100 to sing funeral Mass
 \$ 75 to sing Communion Service
Organist-- \$150 to play
 \$200 to play and sing (cantor)

Choral Music

At times of loss, the great choral music and Gregorian chant of the Church is an immense source of beauty and consolation. This can be provided by the addition of a small choir, often with as few as four singers. The cost is most reasonable. Please consult the Director of Sacred Music if you would be interested in this possibility.

Guest Musicians

Competent musicians, family members or friends of the family, are most welcome to minister at the funeral Mass. If you desire to use musicians other than the Director of Sacred Music, please note the following:

- [1] Please have them read these music guidelines and abide by them.
- [2] All music selections need to be approved by the Director of Sacred Music
- [3] Whether he plays or not, the Director of Music receives his normal organist fee of \$150.

Optional Offerings

A frequently asked question pertains to honorariums, otherwise known as offerings. The local custom is an amount similar to that which is given to the organist.

CONTACTS

Music Contact: Thomas Savoy, 704-549-1607, Ext. 205

Email: tomsavoy@savoymusic.net

Readings Contact: Fr. Winslow or Fr. Christian & Marie Aymar Watkinson, 704-549-1607, Ext. 210

Email: pjwinslow@charlottediocese.org; frchristian@stacharlotte.com & maymar@stacharlotte.com

Bereavement Luncheons

Our Bereavement Luncheon Ministry offers an opportunity for family and friends to share a meal and gather together following the funeral of a loved one. The meals are offered at no cost to anyone who has experienced the loss of a family member. (Some people do make a donation to the church in thanksgiving.) If you would like to have a luncheon, please let the office know.