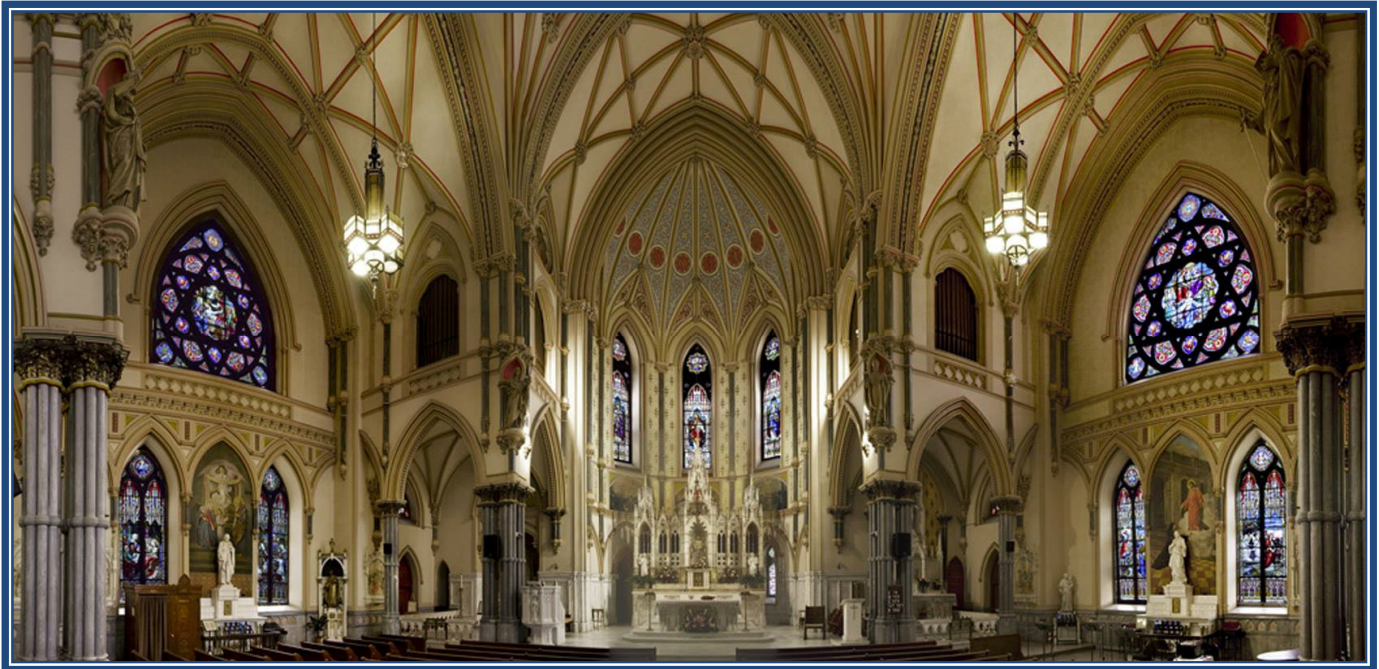


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Celebrating Christian Burial

In the name of the Community of Faith here at Saint John the Baptist, please be assured of our prayers and sympathy at this time of loss. May the peace of Christ and the promise of Resurrection be a comfort to you and your family. The following information is provided to assist in the preparation of the Mass of Christian Burial at Saint John the Baptist Church and the worship sites of Saint Josaphat and Saint Mary of the Assumption.

The Rites of the Church: All the baptized are entitled to the full Rite of Christian Burial. You and your family will experience the Rite of Christian Burial in three distinct and important parts:

- **The Wake Service:** This will take place during the visiting hours at the funeral home you have chosen or at the church. A member of the Parish Staff will lead this service of prayer and Scripture. At this time someone from the family, or a friend, may wish to remember the deceased by sharing personal memories, as in a eulogy.
- **The Funeral Liturgy:** This is the most important part 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.
- **The Committal:** A parish priest or deacon will accompany the remains and the family to the cemetery, where the Rite of Christian Burial will conclude with the prayers of Committal and Final Commendation. Should one wish to speak in memory of the deceased, as in a eulogy or a remembrance, the Funeral Rite allows for such to usually take place as part of the Prayer of Commendation that will be prayed at the cemetery.

The Time and Place of the Funeral Liturgy at Saint John the Baptist Parish: 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 parish priest will discuss these restrictions as they apply. The funeral liturgy is ordinarily celebrated in the parish church of Saint John the Baptist. Request for funerals at the parish worship sites of Saint Josaphat and Saint Mary of the Assumption, will only be considered for those who were former parishioners of Saint Josaphat and Saint Mary of the Assumption at the time of the parish's merger and who are now current members of Saint John the Baptist. Baptized Catholics are expected to be buried from the parish church they were registered in at the time of death. Other request will be consider at the pastor's discretion.

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 hymns.

Scripture Readings and Readers: There are generally three readings: one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and a Gospel reading. Although you can choose other appropriate scripture readings from the Bible, the texts contained within the attached document are especially appropriate and recommended by the Church. Readers can be family members. They should be practicing Catholics with the ability to read in public. The parish can provide Readers if necessary.

Music at the Funeral Liturgy: Saint John the Baptist parish will provide an organist and cantor for the funeral liturgy at the Church. Family members are welcome to request specific Sacred Hymns or Music. The priest or music minister can help guide you in selecting appropriate hymns. A list of hymns and their recommend placement in the liturgy is included with this information. Hymn and Psalm selections should be communicated to the rectory office or the parish priest, who will in turn, inform the organist. The parish will arrange for a cantor.

Musical Offerings: Please be aware that only Sacred Music may be used at a Funeral Liturgy. As liturgical music magnifies the spoken word, music is a beautiful offering within the Mass of Christian Burial. Music brings comfort and peace to the loved ones attending the Funeral Mass. It is *not* incumbent upon the loved ones of the deceased to choose music for the liturgy. If no particular music is requested, the music ministers will choose appropriate music based on the liturgical season, readings, and theme for the liturgy. Sometimes a particular hymn, perhaps a favorite of the deceased, will be requested. If you have any preferences, please indicate them. Additionally, because Mass is a living celebration of faith, pre-recorded or secular music is not used permitted.

Eulogies: Catholic liturgical norms do not permit a eulogy during the funeral Mass. The funeral rites of the Church suggest better times for eulogizing the deceased than during the sacred liturgy – for example, during the vigil or wake service, or at the graveside, or at the social event that follows the liturgy where family and friends will gather for a reception.

However, the funeral rite of the Church makes provisions in the liturgy to speak of the deceased “life of faith” and relationship with God. If a family desires to offer “**Words of Remembrance,**” we ask that families respect the following guidelines: Words of Remembrance must confined to (1) speaker, three minutes in duration with a written copy of the text to be shared with the priest who will celebrate the funeral Mass a day before the Mass.

Other Considerations for Planning a Funeral Mass / Memorial Mass

- Placement of the Pall on the coffin: It's an option to have family members place the Pall
- Offertory Gifts: Two people bring up the offertory gifts of bread and wine. If there are more than two people, others can accompany the first two who will present the gifts.

Liturgy Planning Form: The Liturgy Planning Form can assist your planning and follows the parish guidelines.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD;

AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE ON THEM FOREVER!

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. AMEN.