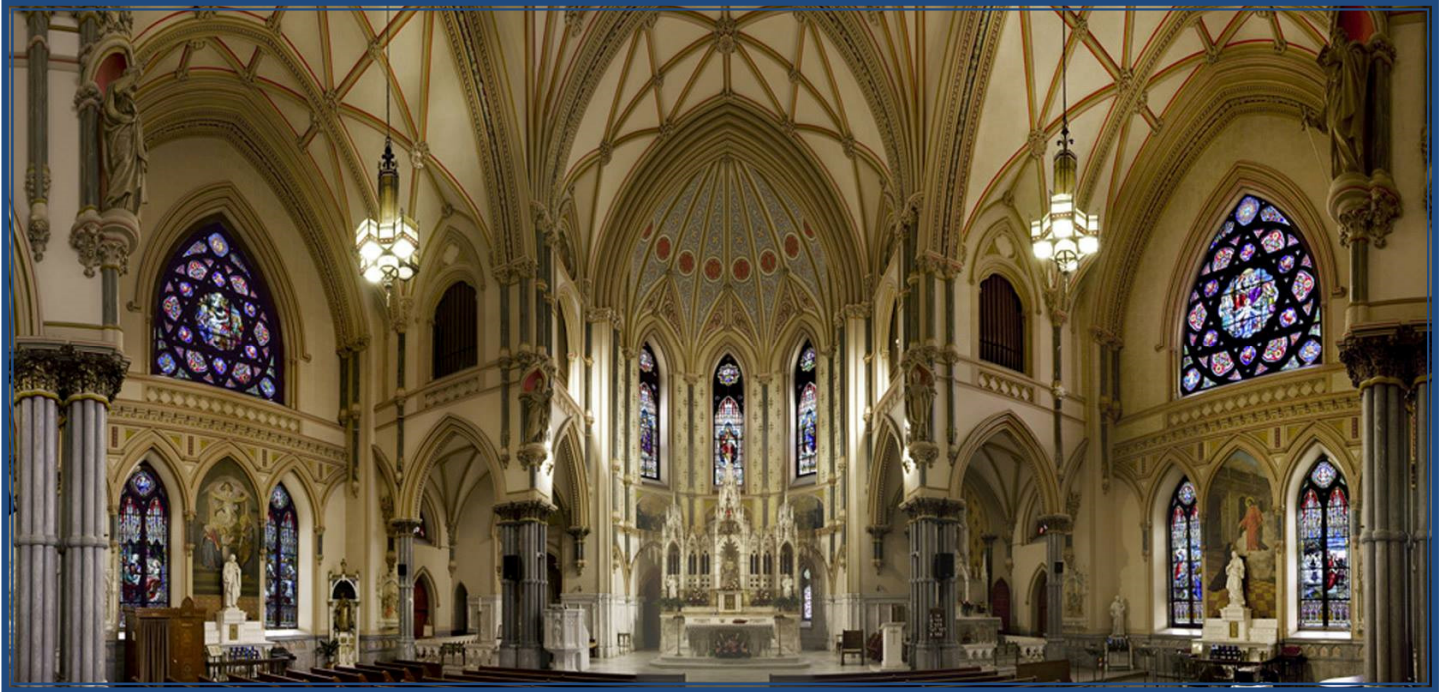


SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
GUIDELINES FOR FUNERAL VIEWINGS &
THE CELEBRATION OF A MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

RECTORY & PARISH OFFICES: 146 RECTOR STREET
CHURCH: 119 RECTOR STREET (RECTOR & CRESSON STREETS)
MANAYUNK, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19127

Phone: 215-482-4600 Email: secretary@stjohnmanayunk.org



*“May our farewell express our affection for our deceased loved one;
may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope.”*

The Church ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the Rite of Christian Burial and celebration of the Funeral Mass with the comforting Word of God and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The faith community celebrates the Funeral Rite to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life that is now returned to God.

In our prayer we confidently proclaim that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of death and sin. At the death of a Christian whose life of faith began in the waters of baptism and was strengthened at the Eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of the confident belief that death is not an end nor does it break the bonds of love forged in life between God, the deceased and their loved ones.

Introduction: The enclosed information is meant to make you aware of what you will need to do to plan a Mass of Christian Burial and help you to do so with the assistance of the parish. The priest and ministers of the parish will assist you in the development of these plans and make this journey of hope and thanksgiving with you.

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 or Viewing:** This will take place during the visiting hours at the funeral home you have chosen or at the church. Often a member of the parish pastoral staff will lead this service if it takes place the night before a funeral Mass.
- **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. Together we celebrate the life of the deceased in the context of the Paschal Mystery, that is, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- **The Committal:** A parish priest or deacon will accompany the remains and the family to a local cemetery, where the Rite of Christian Burial will conclude with the prayers of Committal and Final Commendation.

The Time and Place of the Funeral Liturgy at Saint John the Baptist Parish: A funeral Mass 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 funeral liturgy is ordinarily celebrated in the parish church of Saint John the Baptist. Request for funerals at the parish worship site of Saint Josaphat, will be considered for those who were former parishioners of Saint Josaphat at the time of the parish's merger with St. John the Baptist and who are now current members of the parish. **Schedule permitting, a funeral Mass can be celebrated at 9:30AM, 10:30AM or 11:00AM. A viewing / wake in the church can begin at 9:30AM followed by a Mass at 10:30 or 11:00 AM.** Other requests will be considered at the pastor's discretion.

Planning the Funeral Liturgy: The funeral liturgy is one of the most beautiful and meaningful celebrations of the Church. A family has the option of personalizing the Mass by choosing the scripture readings and appropriate hymns. The priest of the parish will meet with each family and completely plan the funeral liturgy with them.

- **Scripture Readings and Readers:** There are generally three scripture readings: one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and a Gospel reading. Although you can choose other appropriate scripture readings, the texts contained within the Rite of Christian Burial are especially appropriate and recommended by the Church. Readers at the Mass can be family members or friends. They should be people of faith who are actively practicing and have 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 recommended placement in the liturgy can be found on the parish website. Only Sacred Music, that is, music written and composed for Church use, may be sung at a Mass. Since liturgical music magnifies the spoken word, music is a beautiful offering within the Mass of Christian Burial and is necessary. Music brings comfort and peace to those 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 parish music ministers will choose appropriate hymns. Finally, because Mass is a living celebration of faith, pre-recorded music is not used or permitted during the liturgy.
- **Words of Remembrance:** Catholic liturgical norms do not permit eulogies 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 a vigil or wake service outside of the church, 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:
 - a. Words of Remembrance must be confined to (1) speaker,
 - b. be three minutes in duration
 - c. with a written copy shared with the priest a day before the Mass.

Funeral Stipend: The stipends for a viewing and/or Funeral Mass help the parish to meet its operational cost and provide remuneration to musicians, sacristans and other staff who assist at the funeral. Celebrating a funeral Mass in the church at Saint John the Baptist is not dependent on a family's ability to offer the stipend. At the discretion of the pastor, families experiencing financial hardships may be exempt from the stipends.

- **Active Parishioner or Alumni :** \$600.00 (With a Viewing in Church: \$700.00 Total)
- **Inactive or Former or Non Parishioner :** \$800.00 (With Viewing in Church: \$900.00 Total)

Funeral Mass Preparation Material: The complete list of items to help a family prepare for a funeral Mass is available at the parish website: **www.stjohnmanayunk.org** Once at the website, click on the word "Sacraments" and then click on "Mass of Christian Burial." You can also go directly to this page by typing the following in the search window:
www.stjohnmanayunk.org/sacraments/mass-of-christian-burial/

Once there you will find a copy of these guidelines along with:

- The Funeral Preparation Format and the Form to provide biographical information about the deceased.
- Scripture Readings Selection options for the Old Testament, New Testament and the Gospel Readings.
- Options for the General Intercessions or Prayer of the Faithful.
- Music Suggestions for a Mass of Christian Burial.

Contact the Parish Office: Once you have contacted the funeral director and confirmed the arrangements for the date, time and place of the viewing and Funeral Mass with the parish, a member of the parish staff will call the primary contact for the family of the deceased to arrange a meeting with the parish priest to plan the Mass of Christian Burial.