



SAINT THEODORE

FUNERAL MASS INFORMATION

The Reception of the Body at the Church

The family and friends gather with the body at the door of the church. It is here that the departed was first received into the Church on the day of baptism. The priest greets the assembly and sprinkles holy water on the casket. If cremation precedes the Funeral Mass, the remains are placed on a table near the altar. The priest will also greet the assembly and sprinkle holy water on the casket.

After the body is presented, a white pall is placed on the casket as a reminder the white baptismal garment. The pall may be placed either by the funeral director or by a couple of family members. If cremation has taken place, this rite is omitted.

The assembly will then process behind the casket into the Church. During this time, a hymn is sung. After the hymn is sung and the family is in their pew, the Opening Prayer or “Collect” of the Mass is said by the priest.

The Liturgy of the Word

Generally, a member of the family or friend will proclaim the reading from Scripture. We encourage the participation of family, but also recognize that this might prove to be difficult for someone who is close to the deceased and so we are prepared to provide a lector if the family is unable to proclaim the readings.

There may be one or two readings before the Gospel. The Responsorial Psalm is always sung by the cantor and assembly. The Gospel is always proclaimed by either the priest or deacon. You can find potential scripture readings on our website <https://www.sainttheodore.org/christian-burial> . If you choose to have one reading before the Gospel, it may be taken from either the Old or New Testament. If you prefer to have two readings before the Gospel, the first reading is taken from the Old Testament and the second from the New Testament. During the Easter Season (from Easter Sunday through Pentecost Sunday), the first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. Please note that since the Funeral Mass is an official rite of the Church, we are permitted to use only readings from Sacred Scripture.

Following the Gospel, the priest will offer a short homily. Please be prepared when you meet with him to speak about your loved one so he can craft a homily that is personal for your family.

General Intercessions

Following the homily, the general intercessions are read either by a deacon or by a lector. We will work with you, when we meet, to craft general intercessions that are unique to your situation.

Preparation of the Gifts

Following the general intercessions, the gifts of bread and wine, which will become for us the Body and Blood of Christ, may be presented to the priest by members of the family or by friends of the family. Bread and wine are the only gifts that are presented, but we recognize that more than two family members may want to participate in this procession. We recommend that if more members wish to participate the family consider offering flowers to the Blessed Mother at this time.

Music Selections

The use of music at the Funeral Mass is normative because it can help us express our belief in the resurrection of the dead, offer comfort to those who are grieving, and make the significant moments of the Mass, such as the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, Eucharistic Prayer Acclamations (Holy, Memorial Acclamation and Great Amen) and during the Lamb of God. A hymn is also sung during the Rite of Final Commendation during the time the priest reverences the body of the deceased with incense.

Because Mass is a sacred rite of the Church, only sacred music is used. Special requests such as “Danny Boy,” “When Irish Eyes are Smiling,” or other such melodies, although they may be meaningful to the family, are better incorporated after the Vigil Service at the Funeral Home or at the cemetery after the Rite of Committal. To find a list of suitable songs, please visit our website <https://www.sainttheodore.org/christian-burial> where you will find YouTube links to the songs. Dr. Kuhler, our coordinator of liturgical music, can also be contacted with any music questions you have.