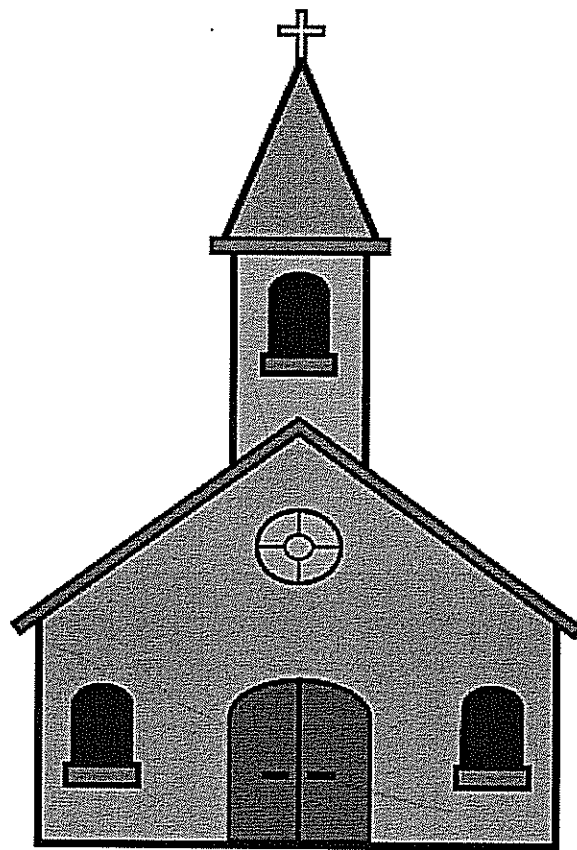


St. Francis Xavier Church

108 Main St.

Raywick KY, 40060

Funeral Planning Guide



This booklet has been prepared for the parish community to assist your family in planning the Mass of Christian Burial for your loved one. We hope that by choosing your own readings and music, you and your family might share more fully in the liturgy, and express your care and love for the deceased. A representative of St. Francis Xavier Church will contact the family to set up a meeting to help prepare for the Funeral Mass. Please return this booklet to our parish representative or the funeral home.

The Order of Christian Funerals: Planning Information

The final gift Catholics give a loved one who has died is the Christian Funeral. It begins with the vigil for the deceased in the funeral home, continues with the Funeral Mass at the parish church, and is completed by The Rite of Committal in the parish cemetery or other sacred ground. The following pages show options that will help you and your family do this sacred duty (canons #1176, 1177 & 1180) with care and dignity. A meeting with the priest or parish representative is necessary to finalize liturgy planning.

THE VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED normally takes place in the funeral home. A priest, deacon or if needed, a layperson may lead the Vigil Service.

1. **Opening Song:** After the minister greets those present, the celebration continues with a hymn.
2. **Lector:** The parish will provide a lector and a cantor unless the family would like to select these ministers. Both of these liturgical roles require some training and experience.
3. **Words of Remembrance (Eulogy):** After the concluding prayer, an invitation may be given for family or friends to speak in remembrance of the deceased if they wish to do so.
4. **Concluding Song:** The vigil concludes with a hymn/sacred song or a few moments of silent prayer or both.

THE FUNERAL MASS always takes place in the parish church or in a chapel where the celebration of the sacraments may legitimately take place. The priests of the parish are the ordinary celebrants of the Funeral Mass. For a Funeral Liturgy of the Word (without the Liturgy of the Eucharist), the parish deacon may also preside.

1. **The Funeral Pall:** the body of the deceased is received into the Church. After the casket is sprinkled with holy water the funeral pall (a white cloth symbolizing the baptismal garment) may be placed on the casket by family members.
2. **Eulogy:** After remains are brought to the front of the altar and entrance song has ended. Assembly asked to be seated, so that the family member/friend may share some words of remembrance about their deceased loved one. A written copy of the words of remembrance, no more than one page, must be submitted one day in advance to the presiding clergy for final approval.
3. **Scripture Readings:** The family may select a reading from the Old Testament and/or the New Testament. The family may also select the readings for the liturgy. Readings are included in the planning guide.

4. Liturgical Ministers: The parish will appoint altar servers, musicians, lectors, gift bearers and Communion ministers. If the family wishes to select liturgical ministers for these roles, they may.
5. Music: The Director of Music will select the music for the Funeral Mass. The family members may offer suggestions. Appropriate music list is included in the planning guide

THE RITE OF COMMITTAL normally takes place in a graveyard or cemetery.

1. Music: if chosen concludes the rite. The hymn and the cantor must be approved by the presiding clergy at least one day in advance.
2. Military Honors for those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces normally occur after the conclusion of the liturgy and before the final dismissal.

Bereavement Luncheon: Many parishes offer a bereavement luncheon. Particular guidelines are offered by each parish. Please see the parish section of the funeral guidelines regarding Bereavement Luncheons.

Other Requests: All special requests are subject to approval by the presiding clergy. Special requests that conflict with Roman Catholic teachings and liturgical norms cannot be approved for use within the Order of Christian Funerals.

Devotional Prayers: Devotional prayers may take place during the visitation hours at the funeral home. Prayers such as the rosary or the divine mercy chaplet are often led by the family or friends and are an acceptable and recommended part of the grieving process. Devotional prayers are not intended to take the place of the official liturgy of the church.

Cremated Remains and the Rite of Christian Burial: If cremation is chosen, it is permissible to celebrate the funeral liturgy in the presence of cremated remains. The following instructions apply.

1. The remains of the body are to be placed in a worthy vessel and placed on a table in the spot usually occupied by the coffin. The vessel may be placed there before the Mass begins or it may be carried in the entrance procession.
2. The cremated remains may be sprinkled with holy water at the beginning of the Mass. However, the white pall is not used.
3. Final Disposition: Cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium.

Stipend Fees: The funeral director normally works with the family to provide the stipend fees to those who are offering pastoral services in support of the funeral liturgy.

- Organist: \$50.00

- Cantor/Choir: \$50.00 (optional per parish availability)
- Additional musicians, if desired should receive the same stipend.
- Church stipend: \$50.00

The presiding clergy assigned to the parish handling the funeral Mass do not receive a stipend. The funeral service is a normal part of their assigned parish duties. Clergy members brought in from outside the parish, however, do receive the stipend.

Memorial Donations: Each parish has a number of worthy ministries that may benefit greatly through memorial donations by friends of the deceased. Likewise, Mass intentions for the deceased are a traditional Catholic practice.

Bereavement Guidelines for St. Francis Xavier Church

Active Member of SFX

In order to have a Bereavement Meal at St. Francis Xavier Parish Center (sponsored by the parish), the deceased must have been an actual registered member, or a life-long member who has been cared for by a nursing facility, family member or etc.

The primary Funeral Mass/Service/Memorial must be conducted at St. Francis Xavier Church. The Bereavement Committee will not provide food or paper products, when the meal is held at other places.

The Bereavement Committee will provide enough chicken, potatoes, green beans, and tea plus paper products for 60 people. While there is no charge for this service by the parish, any donations would be most helpful in defraying the cost to our Catholic Community who selflessly gives their time to provide a meal for you and your family during this time of loss.

If you need food prepared for more than 60 people, you will need to contact the Parish Office at 270-692-2245 to make arrangements for the cost of the extra food. Exceptions to this policy will be left to the discretion of the pastor of St. Francis Xavier.

Not a Member of SFX

If you are not an active member of St. Francis Xavier Church and wish to have a bereavement meal, the Church will let you use the parish center only. You will be responsible for food, paper products and cleaning up after the meal. Or St. Francis Xavier Bereavement Committee, if available will prepare the following meal at the parish center for up to 60 people:: chicken tenders, green beans, potatoes and tea for a flat fee of \$300.00. You must contact the parish office in advance to schedule.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1. Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel, took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, in as much as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; or if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, or if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord.

2. Job 19:23-27

A reading from the Book of Job

Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him; And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

3. Short Form: Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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. Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them, and found them worthy of himself. But they are in peace. For if in the eyes of men, indeed they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality: As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

4. Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he dies 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

5. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples. A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure choice wines. 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 has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

6. Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

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 to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

7. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 4, 6-8

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to give birth and a time to die: a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to weep, and a time to laugh: a time to mourn, and a time to cast away. A time to rend 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.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

1. Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying; "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 that he sent to the children of Israel 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 the people, but to us, the witnesses 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 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."

The word of the Lord.

2. Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, 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."

The Word of the Lord.

2.Revelation 14:13

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this down: Happy now are the dead who die in the Lord." The Spirit added, "Yes, they shall find rest from their labors, for their good works accompany them."

The Word of Lord

3. Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, 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.

The word of the Lord.

4. Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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 that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more: death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

5. Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons 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 with 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.

The word of the Lord.

6. Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, 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.

The word of the Lord.

7. Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

No one 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 accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

8. Short Form: 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through a man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

9. Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Behold, I tell you a mystery. 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 incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this 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 victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

FUNERAL MASS PLANNING SHEET

Name of Deceased: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____ Birth Date: _____ Death Date: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children's Names: _____

Number of Grandchildren: _____ Number of Siblings: _____

Circumstances of Death: _____

Funeral Home: _____

Funeral Home Visiting Hours: _____

Vigil Service Date and Time: _____

Family Contact/Relationship: _____

Contact Number: _____

Presider: _____

Cemetery: _____

FUNERAL MASS PLANNING SHEET

Date and Time of Funeral Mass: _____

Liturgical Ministers: Family may select or parish will provide.

Presider: _____

Planner: _____

Keyboard/Musician: _____

1 Cantor: _____

1 Lector: _____

3 Eucharist Ministers: _____

2 Gift Bearers: _____

Music: The family may make suggestions from the appropriate music list provided.

Opening Hymn: _____

Responsorial Psalm (selected by musician): _____

Preparation of the Gifts (instrumental or hymn): _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Song of Farewell (selected by musicians): _____

Closing Hymn: _____

FUNERAL MASS PLANNING SHEET

Scripture Readings:

- If you choose 2 Readings: Select 1 from Old Testament & 1 from New Testament
- If you choose 1 Reading: Select 1 from the Old Testament or 1 New Testament

1st Reading: _____

2nd Reading: _____

Gospel: Presiding Minister selects Gospel

Optional Items:

A family member or friend may speak briefly in remembrance of the deceased after the entrance song ends. Words of Remembrance must be pre-approved.

Speaker: _____

Bereavement Meal: Please read St. Francis Xavier Church Guidelines

Circle One: YES NO if yes, # of person, attending _____

Please contact St. Francis Xavier Office: 270-692-2245 or you can ask the representative to contact the office for you.

Military Honors: Please Circle One

YES or NO

Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions

The Order of Christian Funerals

Presider:

God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his son from the dead; With confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead.

Deacon/Lector: Our response will be "Lord hear our prayer."

For _____, Who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that she may now be admitted to the company of the saints, We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

For our sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have reward of their goodness, We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of our sister that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

Presider:

God our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: Hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayers of the Faithful/General Intercessions

The Order of Christian Funerals

Presider:

God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his son from the dead; With confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead.

Deacon/Lector: Our response will be "Lord hear our prayer."

For _____, Who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he may now be admitted to the company of the saints, We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

For our brother who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have reward of their goodness, We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of our brother that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

R) Lord hear our prayer.

Presider:

God our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: Hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen