



FUNERAL GUIDELINES FOR SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Christian funeral is a difficult, yet reverent, mix of grief and joy. Joy, because we are confident in the promise of God that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Consequently, the liturgy for the dead is properly an Easter Liturgy. It finds all meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too, shall be raised.

Such joy, however, does not make our grief unchristian. Quite the contrary, our grief is an expression of our love. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

At the time of death, people turn to the Church for rituals which allow them to recognize their loss, express their grief, remember and give thanks for the life of the one who has died, mark the end of relationships which exist in this life, allow them to seek strength and comfort in their faith, and provide dignity and meaning to the end of life. The rites of the Church are appropriate at several junctures in the passage from life into death. Long before death is a reality, the church can help people plan for the funeral and address other issues and concerns. Near the point of death, the Church can be present in a ministry to the dying person and his or her family and friends. After death, there is the funeral service and committal of the body to a final resting place.

At Saint Michael, our clergy, staff, and lay volunteers will do all that we can to provide a fitting and meaningful funeral for your loved one. We recognize that, upon the death of one we love, there are many arrangements to be made and concerns to be settled. Therefore, we will strive to make your experience here as easy and well-supported as possible.

At the Time of Death

Please call the Priest on Call for Saint Michael and All Angels Church at 214/232-7512 to report a death. The Priest on Call is available 24 hours a day and is the most direct way to receive pastoral care at the time of death. The Priest on Call will make preliminary arrangements and contact the staff. The Associate for Worship and Liturgy will be the main contact in planning your loved one's service.

About Grief

All funerals are services in thankful memory for the life of the deceased. The Book of Common Prayer states that the body (casket or ashes) will be present for this thanksgiving. Saint Michael clergy and those who have accomplished serious training on the reality of grief agree that this not only provides a way to honor the dead, but also begins the process of accepting the reality of death and a movement toward the healing of grief. Nonetheless, please know that a Memorial Service, the Burial Office without casket or ashes, is also acceptable.

The Pall

The Book of Common Prayer prescribes that the coffin or urn be covered with a pall (an embroidered cloth provided by the parish) during the service. The use of the pall symbolizes a great truth at the heart of the church's ministry: that we are all equal in God's sight. Over the years, a pall has covered the remains of the celebrated and the unknown, each of whom is loved by God. If flowers or a flag is covering the casket when it arrives in the Narthex, the Altar Guild respectfully removes the covering for the service and replaces it as the casket is taken from the Church/Chapel.

Flowers

After the time of the service has been set by the family and the priest, the Flower Guild Chair will contact the family regarding their wishes about the service flowers. No extra adornment of flowers, pictures or mementoes are allowed in the Narthex or any worship space of the Church/Chapel. They may be placed in the area of the reception. If the family wishes the altar to be bare with no flowers at all, that is also an option. Funeral flowers remain in the church after the service.

Music

Music makes a vast contribution to the richness and meaning of the service. A parish organist is available to play for funerals and is available to make any other music arrangements. If desired, a soloist, a choir, and/or instrumentalists are available for an extra fee. Hymns are strongly encouraged from *The Hymnal 1982* to be included in the design of the service as congregational singing helps in the grieving process and allow one to participate more fully in the service. Listed in this document are suitable hymns which may be sung at appropriate points in the service. Only sacred music (music written for Christian worship) is allowed.

Scripture

The Burial Office generally includes four lessons, one from the Old Testament, one from the Psalms, one from the Epistles, and one from the Gospels. One or two Psalms may be used after one or more of the lessons. They may be said by the whole congregation in unison or read by a reader designated by the family. Non-scriptural readings are generally discouraged. However, readings which relate to the sacred may be used, but only after consultation with and permission from the officiating clergy. Scriptural suggestions are included with this document.

Homily

Following the reading of the Gospel lesson, a homily (a brief sermon) is preached by one of the officiating clergy in consultation with the family. The homily in Christian traditions grows both out of the lessons chosen for the service and the life of the deceased. In the service, we come together before God with our grief, our questions, our hopes, and our most valued feelings as Christians. Thus, to bring together the life of the deceased with the hope of the Church, it is especially important for family members and friends to share with the officiating clergy those aspects of the deceased's life for which we are giving thanks.

A brief reflection (no longer than five minutes) may be offered by a pre-arranged family member or friend. The best reflections are written in advance and help those gathered to remember the best character qualities of the deceased—the ways in which the person helped family and friends see God's love and grace.

Attending the Family

Approximately a half hour prior to the service, family and close friends are asked to gather in the Parlor. After being greeted by the officiating clergy, they will be conducted to the front seats of the Chapel or Church by the officiating clergy or a Parish Verger. At the conclusion of the service, family and friends in the front of the Church are escorted out, in advance of the congregation's departure. On occasion, a family may choose to process down the middle aisle behind the casket or remains.

Fees

The fees detailed below simply cover the various expenses.

Officiating Priest's Honorarium **\$300**
(If assisting clergy are needed/requested) \$100/each additional clergy

Organist **\$300**
One of the Saint Michael organists will play the organ for the service.
(Professional musicians (instrumentalist or soloist) may be hired by the Church at your request – fees range upward from \$150 per person. Saint Michael does not normally allow outside musicians to sing or play at funerals. Any exceptions must be discussed with and approved by the Director of Music.)

Altar Flowers **\$700 Church/ \$300 Chapel**
It is customary to provide flowers for the worship space. The Church contracts with My Secret Garden/Terry Inman for our flower arrangements. Our Flower Guild Chair will be in touch with the family to find out their wishes for the arrangements. Enhancements to the flowers may exceed the prices listed here. All altar flowers remain in the worship space after the service. *Payment will be arranged directly with the florist.*

Printed Order of Service **\$100**
There are two options: a simple card with the order of service or a tri-fold bulletin that will contain the liturgy. Because of the nature of the liturgy and the amount of space available on the printed page, there is no alteration to the bulletin. Any pictures, obituaries, poems, etc. may be printed by the family and be available during the reception.

Ministry Support **\$400**
The dignity and function of each service includes the involvement and skill of many people, some seen and some unseen, such as: the altar guild, vergers, acolytes, and sextons.

Reception in the Parlor/Garden Cloister **\$200+**
This charge helps to offset the cost of hosting your reception. The Church will furnish the space appropriately, and provide linens for the tables, iced tea, lemonade, and water. ***Fees increase \$100 per 100 guests.*** We have suggested caterers that we work with and happy to pass along that information.

Audio/Video Recordings of the service are available upon request for additional fees.

Payments go directly to the Priest and Florist. Remaining fees are paid directly to Saint Michael and All Angels. All payments should be made prior to the service.

The Saint Michael and All Angels Courtyard Columbarium

Saint Michael and All Angels offers Columbarium niches, Green Interment, and Memorial Wall spaces for past and present communicants of the parish. Columbarium niches are available at two price levels: \$6,000 for a double and \$4,000 for a single. The price includes an urn and memorial plaque engraved and mounted on the niche. Green Interment is available for those wishing their remains to be buried: \$1,000 includes an engraved plaque mounted on the Memorial Wall. Memorial Wall spaces are available for those whose remains rest elsewhere: \$500 includes an engraved memorial plaque mounted on the Memorial Wall. To schedule an appointment to discuss your interest in any of these options, contact the business office at 214/365-3504.

FUNERAL CHECKLIST AT SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

Elements of the Liturgy:

Rite I (traditional language)	Burial service (with body/cremains)
Rite II (contemporary language)	Memorial service (without body/cremains)
With Holy Eucharist	Grave side service only
Without Holy Eucharist	Interment

Possible hymns to consider (general three):

180 He is risen	473 Lift high the cross
182 Christ is alive	482 Lord of all hopefulness
208 The strife is o'er, the battle done	516 Come down, O love divine
293 I sing a song of the saints of God	541 Come, labor on
304 I come with joy	618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones
335 I am the bread of life	620 Jerusalem, my happy home
362 Holy, holy, holy	645 The King of love
376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee	657 Love divine, all loves excelling
383 Fairest Lord Jesus	671 Amazing grace
390 Praise to the Lord	680 O God, our help in ages past
410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven	688 A mighty fortress is our God
439 What wondrous love	690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Scripture readings to choose from: A passage from the Gospels is always included if there is Holy Eucharist.

Old Testament:

Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)
Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in forever)
Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)
Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)
Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 (For everything there is a season)

Psalms

23, 27, 42: 1-7, 46, 90: 1-12, 106: 1-5, 116, 121, 130, 139: 1-11

Epistles:

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
II Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
I John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

Gospel Readings:

John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)
John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to me)
John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)

Additional resources are available for the burial of a child.