



***Every human being
Has a great, yet often unknown, gift
To care,
To be compassionate,
To become present to the other,
To listen, to hear and
To receive.
If that gift would be set free
And made available
Miracles could take place.***

Henri T. M. Nouwen

Dear Bereaved,

Our parish community extends our deepest sympathy to you and your family on the death of your loved one.

In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life. At the death of a Christian, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end or does it break the bonds forged in life. Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has been returned to God. The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral.

As ministers of consolation, our main focus is to assist you in planning The Funeral Liturgy, the Mass. We have included the forms used for planning the funeral Mass. They include information about the deceased, and the music and readings choices.

Once you have talked with the Funeral Director and scheduled a date/time with the Parish Office for the Funeral Mass, you should begin to complete the necessary forms. You may download and print out the forms, complete them as much as possible and bring them with you when you meet with a consolation minister. A member of the Ministry of Consolation will contact you by phone to schedule your appointment to review the choices you have made and/or assist you to complete them in person.

You are encouraged to enlist the support of other family members to make the choices required on the planning forms if you wish.

Please direct any questions to our parish office at: 609-654-8208, ext. 110

1. Picking the Scripture Readings:

These readings set the tone for the Mass. You will select the First Reading from the OLD TESTAMENT. Take your time and get a feel for the message of God's word and how it relates to your loved one. In addition, please think about the two people you will choose to do these readings at the Funeral Mass. Please review "SUGGESTED READINGS" section. Enter choices on "SELECTION PAGE".

2. Choosing the Music:

Music is a vital part of the funeral liturgy. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. Please see "SUGGESTED MUSIC" and note your choices on "SELECTION PAGE".

3. Placing of the PALL:

During the opening rite of a funeral, at the back of the church, a long white cover is placed over the casket by the Funeral Director before processing to the front. Would family members, 1 or 2 like to assist with this? Note choice on "SELECTION PAGE".

4. Gift Bearers at Offertory:

The bread and wine are carried from the rear of the church and presented to the priest. Members of family or friends may do this. Note choice on "SELECTION PAGE".

5. Eulogy – in Memoriam

As a final memorial/remembrance to the loved one, a family member or friend may be invited to read their thoughts. Please see the "GUIDELINES" suggested by Father Dan, our Pastor, and share them with the eulogist. Note information on "SELECTION PAGE".

6. Homily/Sermon Form:

In an effort to make the homily/sermon more personal, Father Dan requests that you complete the form included for this purpose.

7. Book of Remembrance:

A tradition here at SML is to have a family member record the deceased loved one's name in our Book of Remembrance before the conclusion of the funeral liturgy. Note choice on "SELECTION PAGE".

Thank you. A member of the Ministry of Consolation will call you to arrange an appointment to discuss the planning choices you have made. At that time, everything will be finalized for the Funeral Liturgy.

FUNERAL LITURGY SELECTION PAGE

Deceased: _____

Contact: Person planning the funeral _____

Home phone _____ **Cell** _____ **Relationship** _____

Have you requested a wake service at the funeral home: YES _____ **NO** _____

Funeral liturgy will be for: Body/Casket _____ **or cremains:** _____

Will this be a Funeral Mass: _____ **or Memorial Mass (after burial)** _____

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

First Reading _____

Read by: _____ **Relationship** _____

Second Reading _____

Read by: _____ **Relationship** _____

MUSIC SELECTIONS:

Gathering Song _____

Responsorial Psalm _____

Preparation: _____

Communion: _____

Meditation _____

Recessional _____

PLACING OF THE PALL: Family Members assisting: YES _____ **NO** _____

GIFT BEARERS AT OFFERTORY:

Name	Relationship
_____	_____
_____	_____

EULOGIST: Name _____ **Relationship** _____

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE: Name of signer/relationship

SUGGESTED MUSIC SELECTIONS

Gathering Song

Preparation/Communion

Meditation Hymns

(Choose one)

(Choose two)

(Choose one)

Be Not Afraid

Amazing Grace

Ave Maria

Gather Us In

Be Not Afraid

I Have Loved You

Here I am Lord

Blest Are They

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Hosea

Center of My Life

You Are Mine

On Eagle's Wings

Come to Me

Where My Father Lives

Sing a New Song

Eye Has Not Seen

Precious Lord Take My Hand

Sing with all the Saints in Glory

Gift of Finest Wheat

O Loving God (Danny Boy)

You Are Mine

Like A Child Rests

Hail Mary: Gentle Woman

Here I am Lord

Responsorial Psalms

Hosea

Recessional Hymns

(Choose one)

I Am the Bread of Life

(Choose one)

Be With Me Lord

I Have Loved You

Glory in the Cross

I Lift Up My Soul

Loving and Forgiving

City of God

The Lord is My Shepherd

My Soul Thirsts

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Like a Child Rests

One Bread One Body

How Great Thou Art

My Soul Thirsts

One Love Released

I Am the Bread of Life

Shepherd Me O God

Only This I Want

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

The Goodness of the Lord

Prayer of St. Francis

On Eagle's Wings

You Are Near

Taste and See

Lord You Have Come to the

The Lord Is My Light

Seashore

You Are Mine

Sing With All the Saints in Glory

You Are Near

We Have Been Told

We Remember

HOMILY/SERMON FORM

In an effort to make the homily/sermon at the Funeral Mass of your loved one more personal, it would be very helpful to the homilist if you would complete the form below and return it to the funeral director, the parish office either in person or by fax. Thank you very much for your cooperation and know you and your family are remembered in prayer.

Name of Deceased _____ Age _____

From what did the deceased die? _____

How long was the deceased sick? _____

How were his/her spirits during this time?

Was there anyone who took special care of the deceased during their illness?

Describe the deceased's occupation.

Describe any special interests the deceased had.

Describe the kind of person the deceased was.

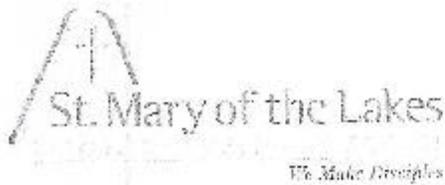
Describe how the deceased led a life of faith; how their life exemplified gospel values.

Please list survivors and their relation to the deceased.

Other Comments: _____

Person Completing Form/Relation to Deceased

Phone



40 Jackson Road
Melford, New Jersey 08055
Phone: (609) 654-8208 Fax: 609-654-1734

Dear Eulogist:

The following guidelines will help you write or prepare your thoughts regarding a eulogy for your loved one.

1. Please be respectful of time and limit your eulogy to a maximum of five minutes.
2. Only one eulogy will be given during the Mass. Additional eulogies should be given at the viewing in the funeral home.
3. The purpose of a eulogy at a Mass of Christian Burial is to praise the faith life of your loved one. It is appropriate to talk about:
 - the prayer life of the deceased;
 - how they taught you about God;
 - how their life exemplified the life of Christ; and
 - how they lived Gospel values.
4. Eulogies commenting on the deceased's secular interests or funny stories would be more appropriate for a eulogy given at the viewing in the funeral home.

If the eulogy does not reasonably adhere to these guidelines, you will be asked to be seated.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Assuring you of my prayers and asking yours in return, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Daniel F. Swift

Rev. Daniel F. Swift
Pastor