

Marked with the sign of life



Planning the Funeral Mass

Church of

St. Bede the Venerable

(Revised April 8, 2022)

Dear Parishioner,

All of us at St. Bede's wish to offer our condolences and support in this most difficult time as you grieve the loss of your loved one. We seek to offer you the assurance and comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which at its heart proclaims that from death comes life.

This booklet is intended to assist you in the planning of the funeral Mass. The funeral rites of the church are intended to be instruments of God's healing love.

In the next few days one of our parish priests will be in touch with you to plan a visit with your family. At that time, he will help you to plan the funeral Mass and answer any questions you may have about the various details involved.

How to use this booklet

Please use the enclosed planning sheet and simply fill in the blanks from the pages that you are directed to.

Again, one of our priests will be in touch with you and answer any questions you have.

If you have specific music questions, you can direct them to Mrs. Susan DiFlorio at **215-891-0869 or 215-479-2173 (cell)**.

Norms for Cremation

The Church's age-old belief in **the sacredness of the human body and the Resurrection of the dead** have traditionally found expression in the care taken to prepare the bodies of the deceased for proper burial, and to celebrate their passage from this life into the next, with appropriate funeral rites. These rites, which include among other things the sprinkling of the body with holy water, the use of incense around the casket, and burial in a blessed grave remind us of **the dignity of the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit** and of the life we share with Jesus Christ, who will transform our bodies to be like His in glory at the final Resurrection.

With this teaching in mind, the Cardinal has issued the following Norms for our Archdiocese:

- If a body is to be cremated, it is always preferable that the cremation take place after the funeral, concluding with an appropriate Rite of Final Commendation. If cremation takes place prior to the funeral, the cremated remains are to be brought to the church in a worthy vessel, positioned on a suitable table in the same place where the coffin is usually positioned.
- It is most appropriate that the burial/disposition of the cremated remains immediately follow the Funeral Liturgy. In any case, **the length of time between the Funeral Liturgy and the burial of the cremated remains is not to exceed 30 days.** The cremated remains are to be buried in a cemetery, or interred in a mausoleum or columbarium. It is not permitted to scatter cremated remains. Likewise, **it not permitted to delay the burial/disposition of the cremated remains in anticipation of the eventual burial of another person.** The permanent storage of cremated remains in a private home, funeral home or any other place is prohibited.
- The integrity of the cremated remains is always to be respected. The **cremated remains** of one deceased person **may not be mixed** with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains, or entomb them in more than one place.
- It is also **not permitted to divide the cremated remains** in such a way that they are contained in lockets or jewelry. Any other practice which violates the integrity of the cremated remains and impedes reverent and proper burial disposition is prohibited. If the burial takes place at sea, the cremated remains are to be in a solid and durable container, and **not scattered.**

Words of Remembrance

It is St. Bede's policy that Words of Remembrance are permitted if desired. According to the Order of Christian Funerals, they are not to constitute a eulogy as such. Rather they are to express appreciation for the life of the deceased, or take the form of a prayer or other inspirational text. Only one family member or friend is to speak and they are to be brief – no more than three (3) minutes. It should be reverent in nature, recognizing the sacred context in which it is being communicated. It is not the time to recount a person's life history or obituary but rather should remind the community of the importance of faith in the life of the deceased and give thanks and praise to God for His gifts to the deceased, especially the gift of Christian Life. **The Words of Remembrance are offered immediately before the Funeral Mass begins.** If the family would like to share a Eulogy or some story from the deceased's life, it is more appropriately done during the Vigil (Viewing/Wake) in the Funeral Home, at the graveside after the Committal, or at the funeral luncheon. Because of the intensity of emotions at the time of a Funeral, the Words of Remembrance should be consigned to writing. We require that the Words of Remembrance be type-written and submitted at least 24 hours before the scheduled time of the funeral so that it may be reviewed for appropriateness in conveying the consolation of God's love, grace, and mercy. If needed, the fax number is (215) 396-0704.

Bereavement Support

Members of our parish Bereavement Ministry will be in touch with your family to offer comfort and support as you grieve the loss of your loved one. Our Parish Bereavement Group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm, in the St. Francis Center. For more information, please call Coordinator Lynn O'Brien at 215-504-4718.

Funeral Planning Sheet

Step 1: Selection of Readings

A: *First Reading* - Please pick **one (1) reading from, p. 6-10: or during the Easter Season (After the celebration of Easter) – from, p. 11-12**

First Reading: Reading Page _____ Number: _____

Name of Reader: _____

B. *Second Reading* - Please pick **one reading from, p. 13-24**

Second Reading: Reading Page _____ Number: _____

Name of Reader: _____

Step 2: Presentation of the Gifts

Please check box A or B

- A. We will have 2 people to present the gifts (bread, wine).
- B. We will not present the gifts.

Step 3: Musical Selections

Please check box A or B:

- A. We prefer to let the parish musicians make the musical Selections.
- B. We prefer to make the musical selections (if you select this please fill in the spaces below from the songs listed on p. 24)

Entrance Hymn: _____

Preparation of the Gifts: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Recessional Hymn: _____

Step 4: Words of Remembrance (before the Funeral Mass)

Please check box A or B:

- A. There will be words of remembrance. Typed copy will be submitted on _____ Read by : _____
- B. There will be no words of remembrance.

Old Testament Readings

1. He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view. II Maccabees 12:43-46

Reader: 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, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

2. I know that my Redeemer lives. Job 19:1, 23-26

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Job

Job answered and said,

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

3. As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Wisdom 3:1—6,9

Reader: 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 they're going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet it is their hope full of immortality;
chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.
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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

4. An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

Wisdom 4: 7-15

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

5. He will destroy death forever.

Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9

Reader: A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. 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!”

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**6. It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.
Lamentations 3:17-26**

Reader: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**7. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.
Daniel 12:1-3**

Reader: A Reading from the book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and heard this word of the Lord:

At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

New Testament Readings

READING I FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER

1. God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.

Short version: Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

Reader: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

“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 Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

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.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord

2. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

Revelation 14:13

Reader: A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

3. The dead were judged according to their deeds.

Revelation 20:11-21:1

Reader: A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

4. There shall be no more death.

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

Reader: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

READING II FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.

Romans 5: 5-11

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that 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 has 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

2. Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.

Romans 5:17-21

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

3. Let us walk in newness of life.

Long version: Romans 6:3-9

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized by 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

4. We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:14-23

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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 in 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 firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

5. What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

6. Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

7. All people will be brought to life in Christ.

Long Version: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits 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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for “he subjected everything under his feet.” But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Short Version: 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

8. Death is swallowed up in victory.

I Corinthians 15:51-57

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

9. What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:14-5-1

Reader: A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal heaven.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

10. We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

Reader: A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

11. He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.

II Philippians 3:20-21

Reader: A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

12. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thess 4:13-18

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul
to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

13. If we have died with him we shall also live with him.

II Timothy 2:8-13

Reader: A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy

Beloved: remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

14. We shall see him as he is.

I John 3:1-2

Reader: A Reading from the first Letter of St. John.

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**15. We know that we have passed from death to life because
we love our brothers**

I John 3:14-16

Reader: A Reading from the first Letter of St. John.

Beloved: we know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.

The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

Musical Selections

Opening Hymn:

Crown Him with Many Crowns
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Send Us Your Spirit
We Gather Together
The Strife is O'er

Opening/Closing Hymns:

This Day God Gives Me
Christ, Be Our Light
Glory and Praise to Our God
Be Not Afraid
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
Morning Has Broken
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Preparation of the Gifts:

Hosea
I Have Loved You
Lord, You Have Come
The Lord is My Light
We Remember
You are Near
Here I am, Lord
Loving and Forgiving
This Alone
Servant Song
Lord of All Hopefulness
Prayer of St. Francis
Ave Maria
Eye Has Not Seen
Like a Child Rests
Be Not Afraid
O God, You Search Me
Come Unto Me
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
I, the Lord

Communion Hymns:

In The Breaking of the Bread
Behold the Lamb
One Bread, One Body
Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist
The Cry of the Poor
Shelter Me, O God
Shepherd Me, O God
Eye Has Not Seen
I Am the Bread of Life
Center of My Life
Gift of Finest Wheat

Closing Hymn:

On Eagle's Wings
How Great Thou Art
Sing to the Mountains
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Nearer My God to Thee
City of God

