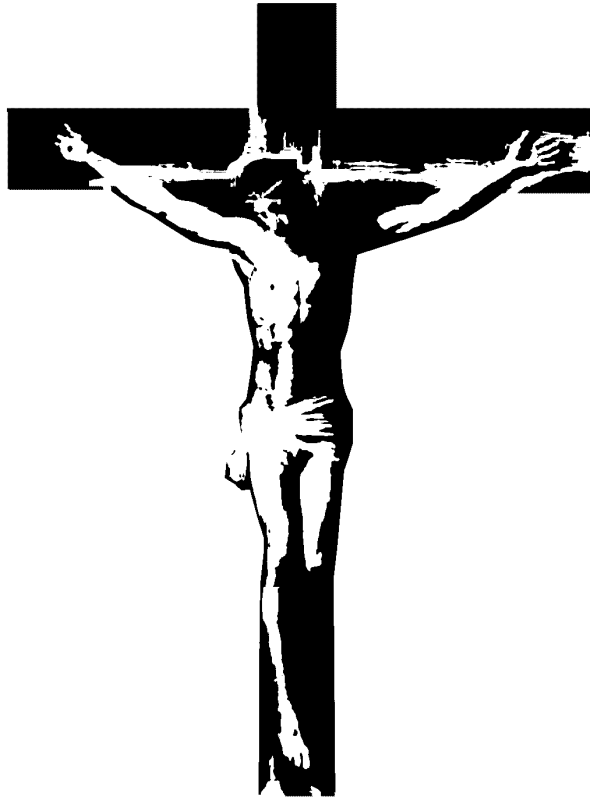


ST. GABRIEL AND ST. BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCHES



Funeral Mass Planning Guide

Parish office for both churches:

Address:

232 W. 9th Street

Connersville, IN 47331

Phone: 765-825-8578

Dear Parishioner,

In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, we read of his gratitude for the victory of Christ over death. In fact, such a sentiment is shared by all those who follow Christ. As His faithful followers, each of us were baptized into His life, death and resurrection. In short, death is not the end but an eternal beginning – Thanks be to God!

However, it can be very difficult for us to *feel* gratitude in times of death and loss. Oftentimes, we are left feeling a whole spectrum of emotions that make the coming time ahead very difficult. The funeral rites and traditions of our Catholic Faith are here to help bring order and structure to a time that is very often overwhelming.

While the time preceding the Funeral Mass is always most difficult and exhausting for immediate family and close friends, it is my sincere hope that this guide helps simplify the planning.

Be assured of our entire parishes' prayers for you during this time. Through the intercession of St. Gabriel the Archangel and St. Bridget of Ireland, may the peace of our Lord's victory reign in your hearts evermore.

Sincerely,

Fr. Dustin Boehm
Pastor

Basic Information

Name of the Deceased _____

Date of Death _____

Date of Visitation _____ Times _____

Date of Funeral _____ Time _____

*Please make sure that you or the funeral home have confirmed with the Parish Office the date/time of the funeral Mass **before** publication. We try to accommodate the desired date/time, but on occasion there are immovable conflicts in the parishes' and priest's calendar.*

Main Contact for Planning _____

Best Contact Phone Number _____

Please Circle One: *Full Body Burial* or *Cremation**

Funeral Home _____

Cemetery _____

***Cremation:**

The Catholic Church does permit cremation. However, the remains must be buried soon after cremation. Cremation can take place before the Funeral Mass, but the preference is that it happens afterward so as to allow for the full celebration of the Funeral Mass. The funeral home can give you details about how to accommodate a viewing and Funeral Mass prior to cremation.

If the cremation is the preference and does take place, it is important that the ashes are buried immediately after the funeral or very soon afterwards. If the burial will not happen immediately follow the Funeral Mass, please contact the parish office in order to arrange for a graveside service.

Eulogy:

A eulogy is not part of the celebration of Funeral Masses or services. The Funeral Mass is a sacred rite meant to pray for the deceased and their family, but above all to praise and beseech God to grant the deceased eternal peace in Heaven. It is therefore not appropriate to deliver a eulogy during Funeral Masses or services. Eulogies, songs, poems, letters, etc. may be given at other times. If desired, it is appropriate to eulogize the deceased at the visitation, at the funeral meal, or just after the prayers at the graveside.

Visitation/Viewing/Calling

The visitation will take place in what location?

Please Circle One: *Church* or *Funeral Home*

At the visitation, there is the option of a short prayer service (vigil) or having a simple Rosary. Neither of these is required. If there is a eulogy to be delivered during this time, it is recommended that it take place immediately following the prayers of the vigil or the Rosary.

Please circle the option that would be your preference:

Vigil Prayer Service *Rosary* *Neither*

Time (if applicable) _____

If the Pastor is available, is it desired that he lead the prayer service or Rosary?

YES *NO* *N/A*

If you have a prayer service/Rosary will there be a eulogy?

YES *NO*

If yes, who? _____ Relationship _____

Remembrances should be written out and rehearsed. It is recommended that they be no longer than five minutes in length.

The Funeral Liturgy

It is the norm that a funeral be celebrated during Mass. Even if family members of the deceased are not Catholic or have ceased practicing their faith, it is important that a deceased Catholic have a funeral celebrated during Mass. If cost is an issue, the parish may be able to offer assistance. However, there are occasions when the funeral ought to take place outside of Mass. For instance, the deceased is not Catholic or the deceased explicitly left instructions to not have a Mass celebrated.

Please Circle One:

Funeral During Mass or *Funeral Outside of Mass*

Pall Bearers

Normally, these are six, able-bodied individuals who assist with the carrying of the casket. Please print their names below:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Altar Servers

The Parish will provide altar servers. If the family has relatives who are trained altar servers and wishes them to serve the Funeral Mass, please print their names below. Also, if those listed below are not familiar with serving Funeral Masses at St. Gabriel or St. Bridget, please confirm that the Priest is available to train them and that the server(s) can arrive at the church 45 minutes prior to Mass.

_____	_____
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Unfolding of the Funeral Pall

Unless the body has been cremated, the Funeral Mass begins with the Priest meeting the family and the body in the back of the church. After the sprinkling with Holy Water, a cloth-pall is unfolded and draped over the casket, which typically involves two to four people. Please print the names of those people:

_____	_____
_____	_____

Liturgy of the Word

During the Liturgy of the Word, there is always a Responsorial Psalm and a Gospel proclaimed. Besides that, there are normally two additional readings at the Funeral Mass, but this is not required. When there are two readings, the first is from the Old Testament and the second is from the New Testament. When only one reading is to be proclaimed, the family may select from either the Old or New Testament. The readings can be found in the booklet provided. While the parish is able to provide someone to read the First and Second Readings, you may designate someone of your choosing to proclaim those readings.

1st Reading _____ **Reader** _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____ **Sung by Choir or Cantor**
(See Psalm Options on Pages 9 or 10)

2nd Reading _____ **Reader** _____

Gospel _____ **Read by the Priest**

Prayers of the Faithful (Provided by Church) **Reader** _____

Is there a deceased person for whom you would like to pray specifically, and/or would you like to pray for a specific intention during the prayers of the faithful?

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Gifts Bearers

Typically, two to four people bring up the bread and wine after the Petitions. Please print their names below:

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

It is the policy of our parishes that Communion only be distributed in the Consecrated Hosts. In other words, the Precious Blood is not distributed during Funeral Masses. One consequence of this is that, typically, only the Priest is needed to help distribute Communion. If there is a need for one extra person to help with the distribution of Holy Communion, and the family would like to designate someone for that liturgical ministry, please print their name below. The person listed must be a currently installed Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at their home parish.

It is our Catholic belief that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior. It is also a public sign of our individual union with the Body of Christ in the Roman Catholic Church. For both reasons, the reception of the Eucharist is reserved to practicing Catholics in good standing. Everyone else is still invited forward for a blessing during Communion time, or they can simply remain in their pews during the distribution of Holy Communion.

Approximate number of people to receive Communion: _____

Music

During Catholic Funeral Masses, only sacred music that is based in Scripture is permitted to be sung. If there is a desire for other kinds/forms of music, those can be played in a more suitable setting such as during the Visitation at the funeral home. However, other forms of music (such as that which is secular in nature) are not permitted to be played during the Funeral Mass. Beyond that, there are normally four hymns that are sung during Mass.

Please select hymns from list:

St. Gabriel's list: Page 9

St. Bridget's list: Page 10

Opening: _____

Offertory: _____

Communion: _____

Closing: _____

While we do our best to provide music for the Funeral Mass, there are rare occasions when no one is available to play the organ/sing. In such cases, you will be notified that the Mass will not have music. Also, there are occasions when musicians are unable to sing your requested hymns.

Graveside Service

This is a brief service of prayer that takes place at the place of burial. Most often, it takes place immediately following the Mass at the church. However, it is possible for it to take place on a later date.

Will this take place immediately following the funeral? YES or NO

If not, when will the burial take place? _____

Will there be a eulogy after the graveside service? YES or NO

If so, who? _____ Relationship _____

Funeral Meals

Both parishes happily offer a meal for those who wish to attend after the funeral. There are some occasions when we are unable to offer the meal, but we do our best to honor the life of the deceased and provide a setting for families and friends to share some time and fellowship together. For funerals hosted at St. Gabriel, the meal is served at the Knights of Columbus in Connersville. For those hosted at St. Bridget, the meal is served in the St. Anthony Center.

Would you like this option for your family and friends?

YES or NO

Approximate number of guests eating? _____

When available, the meal is served free-of-charge so long as the deceased was a registered member of either parish, or if the deceased is an immediate family member of a registered parishioner. Our bereavement ministries do accept donations to help defray the cost of meals. Checks can be made out to the either "St. Gabriel Catholic Church" or "St. Bridget Catholic Church." Please write, "Funeral Meal" in the Memo.

The Parish Office is happy to coordinate the meal, and the Parish's Secretary will be in-touch. If there is a reason to reach out directly to our Bereavement Meal committees, please see below:

Contact Person for St. Bridget Funeral Meals
Darlene Chewning

Contact Person for St. Gabriel Funeral Meals
Debbie Wilhelm

Funeral Hymn Options for **ST. GABRIEL** Parish

Please record your hymn selections on *Page 7* of this packet

OPENING HYMNS: Please choose one

Amazing Grace #645
Be Not Afraid #683
Blest Be the Lord #686
Faith of Our Fathers #677
For all the Saints #884
Here I am, Lord #777
Hosea #484
How Great Thou Art #578
I Heard the Voice of Jesus #724
Lord of All Hopefulness #663
O God Our Help in Ages Past #688
Old Rugged Cross (not in hymnal)
Precious Lord, Take My Hand #955
The Strife Is O'er #525
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones #882
You are Mine #721

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Choose one & record on *Page 6*

Ps 19: Lord, You Have the Words of
Everlasting Life #31
Ps 23: My Shepherd is the Lord #34
Ps 23: Shepherd Me, O God #35
Ps 25: To You, O Lord #39
Ps 27: The Lord Is My Light #41
Ps 63: My Soul Is Thirsting #57

OFFERTORY HYMNS: Please choose one

At the Cross Her Station Keeping #488
Eye Has Not Seen #728
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman #889
Here I Am, Lord #777
Hosea #484
How Great Thou Art #578

In the Garden (not in hymnal)
Lord of All Hopefulness #663
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #641
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace #828
On Eagles Wings #691
You Are Mine #721
You Are Near #695

COMMUNION HYMNS: Please choose one or two

All Who Hunger #925
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus #949 (*not in Lent*)
I am the Bread of Life #945
I Receive the Living God #916
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence #619
Now Thank We All Our God #636[†]
Taste and See #930
We Gather Together #638[†]
What Wondrous Love is This #642[†]
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart #940

CLOSING HYMNS: Please choose one

Amazing Grace #645
Be Not Afraid #683
Blest Be the Lord #686
For All the Saints #884
Hosea #484
How Great Thou Art #578
I Heard the Voice of Jesus #724
Let There be Peace on Earth #829
O God Our Help in Ages Past #688
On Eagles Wings #691
Precious Lord, Take My Hand #955
The Strife Is O'er #525
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones #882
You Are Near #695

[†] As this is a shorter hymn, please choose a second hymn in case the hymn concludes before Communion is over.

Funeral Hymn Options for ST. BRIDGET Parish

Please record your hymn selections on *Page 7* of this packet

OPENING HYMNS: Please choose one

Amazing Grace #615
Be Not Afraid #602
Blest Be the Lord #442
Faith of Our Fathers #592
For All the Saints #445
Here I Am, Lord #542
Hosea #471
How Great Thou Art #665
I Heard the Voice of Jesus #633
Lord of All Hopefulness #622
O God Our Help in Ages Past #613
Old Rugged Cross (not in hymnal)
Precious Lord, Take My Hand #478
The Strife Is O'er #384
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones #446

In the Garden (not in hymnal)
Lord of All Hopefulness #622
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #640
Make Me a Channel of your Peace #650
On Eagles Wings #598
We Are the Light of the World #657
You Are Near #619

COMMUNION HYMNS: Please choose one or two

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus #419 (*not in Lent*)
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence #694
Now Thank We All Our God #700[†]
We Gather Together #698[†]
What Wondrous Love Is This #642[†]
Gift of Finest Wheat #525

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Choose one & record on *Page 6*

Ps 19: Lord, You Have the Words of
Everlasting Life #172
Ps 23: The Lord is my Shepherd #178
Ps 27: The Lord Is My Light #188

OFFERTORY HYMNS: Please choose one

At the Cross Her Station Keeping #355
Eye Has Not Seen #728
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman #426
Here I Am, Lord #542
Hosea #471
How Great Thou Art #665

CLOSING HYMNS: Please choose one

Amazing Grace #615
Be Not Afraid #602
Blest Be the Lord #442
For All the Saints #445
Hosea #471
How Great Thou Art #665
I Heard the Voice of Jesus #633
Let There be Peace on Earth #655
O God Our Help in Ages Past #613
On Eagles Wings #598
Precious Lord, Take My Hand #478
The Strife Is O'er #384
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones #446
You Are Near #619

[†] As this is a shorter hymn, please choose a second hymn in case the hymn concludes before Communion is over.