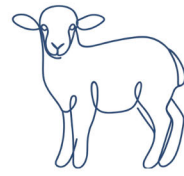


*The Parish of*



## **ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES**

### **Funeral Guidelines**

Dear Family in mourning,

Please accept my deepest and sincere sympathy in your time of sorrow.

I appreciate your help in preparing the Mass of Christian Burial for your beloved deceased. Family members or friends may participate in the mass as lectors, eucharistic ministers, gift bearers, pallbearers, and cantors.

One friend or family member may say words of remembrance prior to the mass. Guidelines for the words of remembrance are included in this document.

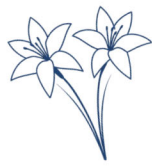
The next of kin will be asked to select readings and funeral hymns. More information is included in this document.

If you have any questions, please contact our parish office at (203) 637 -3661.

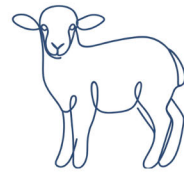
Sincerely,

Rev. Michael L. Dunn

Pastor of St. Catherine/St. Agnes Parish



The Parish of



# ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

## Funeral Guidelines

### Section I: General Information and Fees

Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation, or during Holy Week on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

The main church has a capacity of 600 people; the chapel has a capacity of 60 people.

The Funeral Pall, a large "blanket-like" vestment, is placed over the casket upon arrival at Church (it replaces the flag or flowers) and represents the baptismal garment. Family or friends, with the help of the funeral director, may help with the Pall and the carrying of the casket.

Unless there is a conflict, the priest who celebrates the Funeral Mass will also lead a simple prayer service at the Wake, usually right before the calling hours.

Cremation is permitted, however, the cremains ought to be interred.

A livestream of the ceremony is available upon request, for a fee of \$100. Please contact the parish office to arrange this.

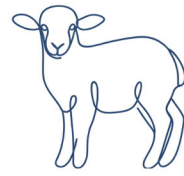
If you wish, floral arrangements may be placed in front of the lectern, centered in front of the altar, or on either side in front of the altar. Nothing should be placed on the altar itself.

The fees for the Funeral service are:

- \$250 Church fee
- \$200 suggested donation for the celebrating Priest
- \$300 Organist
- \$250 Cantor
- \$100 Livestream fee



The Parish of



## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

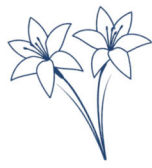
### Section II: Words of Remembrance (Eulogy)

Strictly speaking, a “eulogy” is not a Catholic practice. It focuses primarily on sharing fond memories and stories about the deceased. The Catholic Church does not permit eulogies during the funeral. However, it is permitted to share some “words of remembrance”.

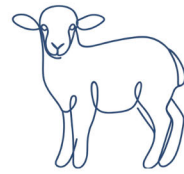
The bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport enforces strict rules about what is allowed as words of remembrance at a funeral. If you wish to have words of remembrance, you are asked to observe the following:

- **Only one person** may deliver the words of remembrance.
- The words will be delivered **at the beginning of Mass**.
- The words must be **written down**.
- The words must be limited to **3-4 minutes (approximately 250-300 words)**.
- The words must be **appropriate for church**.
- The words must **focus on the life of faith of the deceased**. A broader sharing of memories should be saved for the wake or the reception after the funeral.

**Please give these directions to the person delivering the words of remembrance.**



The Parish of



## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

### Section III: Music

Our Music Director, Dr. Liya Petrides, is a skilled organist who plays and coordinates the music at all funerals in the parish. You should contact her as soon as your funeral date is firmly established with the parish. You can reach her at (203) 637-3661, ext. 322 or [Music.Director@stc-sta.org](mailto:Music.Director@stc-sta.org). Dr. Petrides will send you information about musical choices and hiring additional musicians as needed.

The Music Director's fee is \$300 and should be paid directly to her. This fee includes her playing the organ for the ceremony, as well as helping to plan and coordinate. A parish cantor must be hired for an additional fee of \$250. Fees for the organist, musicians, and cantors are arranged directly with these individuals, and payment should be given directly to them.

Both the Music Director and the Cantor shall have the right of first refusal to serve and shall receive their regular fees, provided they are available for the service. If you choose to include outside musicians, our parish music director and cantor are still entitled to their regular fees. The exception would be if the outside musicians were close family of the deceased, or the parish musicians are unavailable for the service.

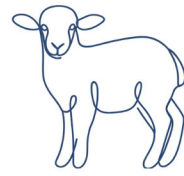
If you would like to hire musicians from outside the parish or include family members or friends as musicians for the funeral, you will need the approval of the music director. You will also need to review the music they would like to play/sing with the music director and/or pastor.

Outside organists and cantors must be experienced Roman Catholic church musicians. All musicians are required to follow the parish guidelines to celebrate the liturgy. Any visiting musician responsible for leading the funeral music (usually an organist or pianist) should be familiar with the parts of the liturgy that are sung by the assembly.

Secular (non-religious) songs and playing recorded music are not permitted at the service.



The Parish of



## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

For a Funeral mass, you may choose four hymns: the processional hymn (opening), the offertory hymn, the communion hymn, and the recessional hymn (closing). You may also choose the responsorial psalm.

Below is a list of suggested songs, if any song you wish to hear any not on this list, please discuss with the music director.

### *Opening or Closing Hymns*

All Creatures of Our God and King  
Amazing Grace  
Be Not Afraid  
Here I Am, Lord  
I Know that My Redeemer Lives  
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
Morning Has Broken  
O God, Our Help in Ages Past  
On Eagle's Wings  
Sing With All the Saints in Glory

### *Responsorial Psalms*

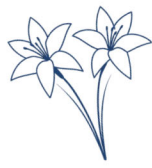
In You, Lord, I Have Found My Peace  
My Soul is Thirsting  
Shepherd Me, O God  
The Lord is My Light  
The Lord is My Shepherd

### *Offertory Hymns*

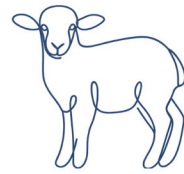
Ave Maria  
Christ Be Our Light  
Here I Am, Lord  
How Great Thou Art  
I Heard the Voice of Jesus  
Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
Pie Jesu  
Prayer of St. Francis  
You Are Mine  
You Are Near

### *Communion Hymns*

Behold the Lamb  
Be Not Afraid  
Eye Has Not Seen  
I Am the Bread of Life  
Panis Angelicus  
Shepherd of Souls  
The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
You Are Mine



The Parish of



## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

### Section IV: Readings

You may choose three readings: one from the Old Testament, another from the New Testament and a third from the Gospel, options are outlined below. Family members or friends may read the first two readings (the Old and New Testament readings), and the priest will read the Gospel. Inform the readers that the readings will be placed on the pulpit, so they need not bring a copy with them.

Once you have selected your readings and readers, please fill out the Reading Selections form on the Funerals page of our website.

Please note: the First Reading should come from the New Testament during the Easter season, options are outlined below.

#### First Reading- Old Testament Selections

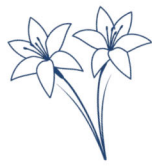
1. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46
2. Job 19:1, 23-27a
3. Wisdom 3:1-9 (long form) or Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (short form)
4. Wisdom 4:7-15
5. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9
6. Lamentations 3:17-26
7. Daniel 12:1-3

#### First Reading Selections during Easter Time

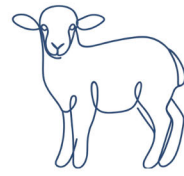
1. Acts 10:34-43 (long form) or Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 (short form)
2. Revelation 14:13
3. Revelation 20:11-12:1
4. Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

#### Second Reading- New Testament Selections

1. Romans 5:1-11
2. Romans 5:17-21
3. Romans 6:3-9 (long form) or Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 (short form)



The Parish of



## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

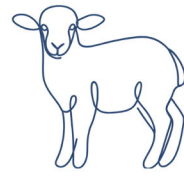
4. Romans 8:14-23
5. Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
6. Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12
7. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (long form) or 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (short form)
8. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57
9. 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1
10. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10
11. Philippians 3:20-21
12. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
13. 2 Timothy 2:8-13
14. 1 John 3:1-2
15. 1 John 3:14-16

### Gospel Reading Selections

1. Matthew 5:1-12a
2. Matthew 11:25-30
3. Matthew 25:1-13
4. Matthew 25:31-46
5. Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6 (long form) or Mark 15:33-39 (short form)
6. Luke 7:11-17
7. Luke 12:35-40
8. Luke 23:33, 39-43
9. Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a (long form) or Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53 (short form)
10. Luke 24:13-35 (long form) or Luke 24:13-16, 28-35 (short form)
11. John 5:24-29
12. John 6:37-40
13. John 6:51-58
14. John 11:17-27 (long form) or John 11:21-27 (short form)
15. John 11:32-45
16. John 12:23-28 (long form) or John 12:23-26 (short form)
17. John 14:1-6



*The Parish of*



## **ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES**

18. John 17:24-26

19. John 19:17-18, 25-39