



Funeral Guidelines

St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church

“The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.”

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, Nor angels, nor principalities, 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.”

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. 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.

This description of the funeral liturgy is taken from the Book of Common Prayer, and is the assurance that what we do when we come to celebrate the life and death of a loved one is just that a celebration. This guide is to be a “help” in allowing those who mourn, to plan as caring and uplifting a service as possible.

WHEN A DEATH OCCURS

Please contact the church or one of the clergy as soon as is possible. You may, even during one’s last illness, desire for the clergy to come and offer the Ministration at the Time of Death, commonly referred to as Last Rites, as a way of preparing the dying for their entrance into the new life of Christ.

A number of things may happen, and seems as if it is all happening at the same time:

- (1) call the church/or clergy
- (2) call a funeral home or burial society
- (3) call the remaining family members
- (4) prepare for a reception (if needed)
- (5) sit down with the clergy and plan the funeral liturgy
- (6) prepare for family members leaving and looking ahead



CALL THE CHURCH/OR THE CLERGY

The clergy will meet with the family and plan out the liturgy or funeral service. We use the prayer book services, either Rite I or Rite II, and the usual service in the church is Burial Office and Holy Eucharist. The clergy will help point out the appropriate readings, and work with the family in deciding which music, if desired, would be suitable for this time of prayer and worship.

It is at that time that family members may ask about the “fees” for the church. There is no fee for the use of the church. If there is to be a reception in the parish hall, following the service, there will be a charge for that ministry. There is also a charge for the organist and the sexton (the person who arranges and cleans the building). If paying fees is an issue, simply talk with the Rector and something can be arranged.

The cost for:

Organist	\$250.00
Sexton	\$100 .00
Flowers	\$50.00 (if we order them)
For reception	\$250.00**

**It may cost more, depending on what the family may request for a luncheon/meal.

FUNERAL HOMES/BURIAL SOCIETIES

We do not have a “special” funeral home, however there are several in our area which will be more than happy to minister to your needs.

COLUMBARIUM AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

We have a columbarium and memorial garden here at St. Augustine’s parish. The columbarium has niches, which can be reserved for \$1500.00 and can accommodate two people for an additional \$250.00. This includes an urn to keep the ashes, as well as a bronze memorial plaque to be fixed on the exterior wall of the columbarium.

Our Memorial Garden may also be used. The Memorial Garden allows the family to have the ashes or cremains of the deceased to be placed directly into the ground. The cost for this service is \$250.00, to cover the cost of the bronze plaque placed on the outside of the church.



FLOWERS

Flowers for the altar are always in order, even during the season of Lent. Other flowers may be ordered and placed in the church, as is seen fit by the clergy and the Altar Guild. You may use the church's florist for the flowers at the altar, or choose your own.

GUEST BOOK

A Guest Book may be provided, should the family request it, and the funeral director does not offer it, as part of their service.

In closing, it is our hope that these guidelines might serve to help a family. Or individual plan, what may be, one of more traumatic or stressful times in one's life. Our faith gives us the tools to strengthen our souls, and we hope that these few phrases might help in conducting a service that is both uplifting for us, and pleasing before God.

In the words of the Prayer for Mission from the Morning Office:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. AMEN

CONTACT INFORMATION

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