

St. Luke Church † Whitestone, NY

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FUNERAL PLANNING SHEET



"I am the Resurrection and the Life."

John 11:25

On behalf of the parish family of St. Luke, we offer your family our deepest sympathies. The death of a loved one can be a traumatic experience, and we are here to help. This planning sheet is meant to be an aid to you and your family in planning your loved one's Funeral Mass.

READINGS

Use this sheet along with the **Order of Christian Funerals** ritual. The funeral director should be able to provide you with a copy of the ritual. You will also find choices for readings on the parish website at stlukewhitestone.org/news_and_events/funeral_resources.html. The funeral director, the consolation team and the priest can all help your family to choose the reading(s) for the Funeral Mass.

PALL AND CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

Along with the readings, there are other ways to participate at the Funeral Mass. At the beginning of the Mass, family members can help place the pall on the casket, as well as either a crucifix or the Book of the Gospels. Placing the Book of the Gospels on the casket indicates that your loved one heard and lived by the Word of God. The crucifix is a sign that the deceased was marked by the Cross in baptism and that through Jesus' suffering on the cross is brought to the victory of His Resurrection.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Involvement in your loved one's Funeral Mass is good, but it is important to determine how family members can comfortably and appropriately participate. Some family members are skilled at public speaking and others are not. Even those who are trained as lectors might be too emotional to proclaim a reading at the funeral. The consolation team and priest will be happy to assist you in choosing readers for the funeral. If no family member is able to read, a parish lector or the priest himself will proclaim the readings at the funeral.

Another way to participate at the funeral is for two family members to bring up the gifts of bread and wine at the offertory. If you anticipate a large crowd and a family member has been instituted as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, that person may assist the priest in distributing the Eucharist.

EULOGY

Sometimes a family member wishes to speak on behalf of the family and offer a eulogy. This can be done at church within the following guidelines:

- Only one person is permitted to speak at church;
- Remarks should be limited to 2-4 minutes in length;
- The person may not speak extemporaneously; the text must be typewritten and submitted to the priest for approval on **the day before the funeral**;
- The nature of remarks at church can include gratitude for the support of family and friends, but should also celebrate the faith and good example of the deceased;
- The language used in church should be appropriate for the setting; cursing and offensive language are not appropriate in church.

Remarks outside of these parameters should be made at the funeral home, the cemetery, or at the family gathering after the funeral (i.e. if more than one person wishes to speak, family members wish to speak "off the cuff" and for more than four minutes, or the nature of the remarks will be a series of family memories or you wish to use "off color" remarks). We ask you to please respect these guidelines, especially since we often have other Masses or commitments immediately after funerals.

Again, we express our sympathies to your family, and we are happy to help you in any way we can during your family's time of grief.

Consolation Ministry of St. Luke Parish

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name of Deceased _____ Nickname _____

Born in USA? Yes No If not, in what country? _____

Date of Birth _____ Usual Occupation _____

Marital Status: Married Single Widowed Divorced

Name of Spouse _____ Years Married _____

Children _____

Grandchildren _____

Please list any parish involvement of the deceased _____

Are there any important interests/activities of the deceased it would be helpful for the priest to know about?

HYMN OPTIONS

Abide with Me

Alleluia the Strife

Amazing Grace

Behold the Lamb (Communion)

Be Not Afraid

Blest Are They

Center of My Life

Come to Me

The Cry of the Poor

Eat This Bread (Communion)

Eye Has Not Seen

For All the Saints (Closing)

Here I Am, Lord

How Great Thou Art (Closing)

I Know that My Redeemer (Open or Closing)

I Am the Bread of Life (Communion)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

Jesus Lead the Way

Now We Remain

The King of Love

On Eagle's Wings

Prayer of St. Francis

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (Closing)

Shelter Me, O God

Shepherd of My Heart

Sing with All the Saints (Closing)

Unless a Grain of Wheat

With a Shepherd's Care

We Will Rise Again

We Shall Rise Again

You are Near

You are Mine

Shepherd Me O God

Ps. 116 The Name of God (Communion)

Pie Jesu (Faure)

Ave Maria (Schubert) – Offertory

