



ST. MARY'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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[www.stmarys-stuart.org](http://www.stmarys-stuart.org)

FUNERAL BOOKLET

Dear Family and Friends,

The loss of a loved one is perhaps the most difficult experience that any person must bear. Please know that we are praying for you during this time of grief.

In the Christian faith, we are consoled by the knowledge that death is not the last word. Rather, through Jesus Christ, resurrection is assured.

In the Episcopal tradition, therefore, a service of burial (commonly called a funeral) is rooted in the hope of resurrection. Indeed, we often refer to a funeral as “an Easter liturgy.”

As you look through this booklet, keep in mind the words of St. Paul, who wrote, “I am convinced that neither death nor life...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” - Romans 8:38-39

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "The Rev. Dr. Todd Cederberg". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Rev. Dr. Todd Cederberg  
Rector

## **Funerals and Memorial Services at St. Mary's**

St. Mary's has a policy that any person may have a funeral or memorial service at our church, Regardless of membership. The service will be based on the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer liturgy, which provides a beautiful version of a Christian ceremony.

### **Some Initial Questions**

#### **What will be the day and time of the service?**

St. Mary's often has funerals Monday-Thursday when the office is open and the staff and clergy are present. Common times for funerals are 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. Funerals on Friday and Saturday require additional planning, and there are additional fees associated. Funerals are not held on Sundays.

#### **Are you working with a funeral home?**

St. Mary's does not have a specific relationship with any one funeral home in the area. Generally, a funeral home is not involved in the planning of the church service. However, please provide us with contact information so that we can coordinate with them.

#### **Where is the body or ashes to be buried/interred?**

St. Mary's does not have a relationship with any local cemetery. Our memorial garden is available for ashes to be buried or placed in a niche. Some families take the ashes with them to be laid to rest in a different location. In all cases, it is still possible to purchase a brass plaque to be hung in our memorial garden. Please let us know your wishes.

#### **Will the body or ashes be present at the service?**

In the case of ashes, St. Mary's does have a small collection of boxes and urns which can be used free of charge. If the body/ashes will *not* be present at the church, the ceremony is known as a memorial service.

#### **Will the service include Holy Eucharist (Communion)?**

Sharing the body and blood of our Lord is an appropriate and powerful action for a funeral or memorial service. However, it is not required. Please know that at St. Mary's, all **baptized Christians**, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive Communion.

### **About how many people will be attending?**

Our church can comfortably accommodate 200 people.

### **Will the service include music?**

A church service does not need to include music. If you do desire music, our Director of Music Ministry can play a variety of pieces. Some families opt for only organ music, while others include sung hymns. Families sometimes request that a friend or family member sing or play an instrument. This should be arranged through our music director who will schedule a rehearsal.

### **Music**

Pieces and hymns should be discussed with the clergy and music director. For a full Communion service, the order may be as follows:

Organ prelude  
Processional or opening hymn  
Hymn before the Gospel reading  
(optional) Communion hymns  
Recessional or closing hymn  
Organ postlude

### **Planning a Burial Service**

The liturgy used for funerals begins on page 491 in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. The prayer book allows for some flexibility and choices. Specific questions about the liturgy can be directed to the priest who will be presiding.

The main choices that are made in planning a service are the following

Scripture Readings (two to four readings)  
Hymns (two to four hymns)  
Family words or a eulogy (two persons maximum)

## **Scripture**

Here are some suggested scripture readings. More options are available, or you may choose different readings from the Bible.

### **Old Testament**

Isaiah 61:1-3

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

### **Psalms**

Psalm 23

Psalm 130

### **New Testament**

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

Revelation 7:9-17

### **Gospel**

John 10:11-16

John 14:1-6

\*For a service with Eucharist (Communion) a Gospel passage must be used.

## **Other Topics**

### **Family words or Eulogy**

At an Episcopal service, the priest always offers a homily reflecting the Christian understanding of death and resurrection. Prior to this homily, it is appropriate (but not necessary) for one or two family members or friends to offer memories or reflections about the deceased. These remarks must be typed or written on paper. This is for two reasons:

- 1) So that you know where to begin and end.
- 2) Therefore, that, in the event that you find yourself unable to read it, the priest or someone else may read it on your behalf.

We recommend that remarks be no more than 2 double spaced pages, and that you read it aloud to yourself on the day before.

### **Creating the funeral bulletin (program)**

St. Mary's will create the printed bulletin for the service, and we will create as many copies as needed. If you have a specific poem or verse to be included in the bulletin, please send it via

Email. A picture of the deceased may be included on the back of the bulletin. Please send this in digital form via email.

### **Flowers**

Two flower arrangements are permitted on the retable behind the altar and should be ordered through St. Mary's Church. Additional arrangements are not permitted in the sanctuary. Large flower arrangements are not permitted in front of the altar, lecterns, or chancel area, or on the pews. After the service, families may take the flowers with them or leave them at the church.

**Reminder:** If you are taking the flowers with you, please have containers available to put them in for transport.

### **Receptions**

St. Mary's is generally able to provide space for receptions following funeral services. Please check with our facilities manager. The possible venues include the courtyard, Smith Hall, and the Pittenger Center. We encourage the use of private caterers, especially on Fridays and Saturdays.

## **FEES FOR SERVICES**

**Organist/ Pianist/ Soloist** - \$200

(Make checks payable to organist)

**Flowers** - \$150 to \$200

(Make checks payable to St. Mary's Church for flowers)

**Sexton** - Saturday service only payable to sexton - \$100

**Clergy Fee**

Suggest honorarium payable to the priest - \$250

**Church Fee**

Use of Church \$250

**Reception Hall Fee**

Use of Smith Hall \$200

## FUNERAL & BURIAL FORM

Name of Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Eucharist \_\_\_\_\_ Rite \_\_\_\_\_

Ashes or Casket \_\_\_\_\_ Waiting room requested \_\_\_\_\_

Burial Site \_\_\_\_\_ Obituary \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Book by Family \_\_\_\_\_ OR by Funeral Home \_\_\_\_\_

Priest \_\_\_\_\_

Assisting Priest \_\_\_\_\_

Chalice Bearer 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Acolyte / Crucifer 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Ushers 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Readers 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**READINGS**

Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

Prayers of the People \_\_\_\_\_

Organist \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Musicians \_\_\_\_\_

**HYMNS**

Opening \_\_\_\_\_

Offertory \_\_\_\_\_

Communion 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Communion 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Closing \_\_\_\_\_

Family Words by: \_\_\_\_\_

Altar Guild \_\_\_\_\_

Altar Flower instructions \_\_\_\_\_

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Notes:

Attendance \_\_\_\_\_ Reserved Pews \_\_\_\_\_ Bell Toll \_\_\_\_\_

Reserved Pews \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Priest met with Family \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Family Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Family Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## DONATIONS

In lieu of flowers, Please send checks to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reception \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Caterer: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**FEES**

Organist (\$150) \_\_\_\_\_

Soloist (\$150) \_\_\_\_\_

Sexton (\$100 weekends only) \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers (\$130-200) \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Site (\$250) \_\_\_\_\_

Plot # \_\_\_\_\_

Plaque wording \_\_\_\_\_

Niche (\$1850) \_\_\_\_\_ Niche # \_\_\_\_\_

Niche wording \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Arrangements made by (Please print name) \_\_\_\_\_