

FUNERAL PLANNING

(please complete as much as possible before your meeting with the priest or deacon)

First, Middle and Last Name of Departed: _____

Mass Music: If there is a religious hymn that was special to the deceased or that would be meaningful to the family, we are happy to include it in the Mass if at all possible. Otherwise the parish music director will choose appropriate funeral music. *Please note that only religious hymns are included as part of the Funeral Mass. Also, only live, not recorded, music is done at the Funeral Mass.*

Hymn Request/s if any: _____ *optional*

_____ *optional*

_____ *optional*

Readers: The priest will read the Gospel, but readers are needed to offer the First (Old Testament) and Second (New Testament) readings. If you only have one person to read, that person may offer both readings. Usually readings are chosen when you meet with the clergy, but please try to find readers even before then. Do not be afraid to ask people to read – most often they are complimented to be given a role in the Funeral Mass.

1st Reader (OT): _____ *required* **Reading Chosen:** _____

2nd Reader (NT): _____ *required* **Reading Chosen:** _____

Gifts: Just as at a Sunday Mass, at a Funeral the gifts of bread and wine are brought forth by members of the worshipping community. A minimum of two gifts must be brought forward, but as many as four gifts may be arranged if you want to include more people in this moment. The funeral director will assist those chosen to bring the gifts to the altar when the time comes.

Gifts (Bread): _____ *required* _____ *optional*

Gifts (Wine): _____ *required* _____ *optional*

Other Departed: If someone very close to the deceased has already gone home to God, (i.e. a spouse, child or sibling), please provide their name so that we can include them in the Prayers of the Faithful.

Other Departed: _____ *optional*

Flowers: A gift of flowers may be made to the parish to decorate the church sanctuary for the Funeral Mass. Usually two to three of the arrangements (if any) from the Wake are used for this. Flowers given to the parish for the Funeral Mass then remain in the church adding beauty and acting as a visible reminder of the deceased at other celebrations. *The exceptions are Lent, when flowers are not allowed in the church, and the octaves of Christmas and Easter, when because of the flowers already present there is simply no room for more.* Please coordinate any flower gifts through the Funeral Director.

Eulogy (optional): A eulogy is not part of the Catholic Funeral Rite, but is a courtesy St. Mary's is happy to extend. The final draft must be received at St.Marys1870@gmail.com by 7 PM the night before the Wake and approved for Mass. A eulogy of length or content not appropriate for Mass will have to be read at the Wake or Reception instead. One eulogist may speak at the Funeral Mass in the Church. However, as many speakers as desired may eulogize at the Wake or at the Graveside. The Eulogy is a 3-5 minute talk which expresses love of the deceased, hope and faith in this hour, and often includes a few favorite memories.

Eulogist: *one name only* _____ **Email:** _____

To the Eulogist (if any):

Dear Friend in Christ,

Thank you for offering to deliver a Eulogy.

Eulogies are not actually part of the Catholic Funeral Rite, which is a prayer for the soul of the departed more than a memorial.

However, at St. Mary's we are always glad to offer this courtesy and opportunity, provided the guidelines for Eulogies set out by the Archdiocese of Boston are respected.

Therefore, please carefully read the following before composing a eulogy. Thank you and God bless you for making this beautiful contribution to the Funeral Mass.

One eulogist may speak at the Funeral Mass in the Church. However, as many speakers as desired may eulogize at the Wake, Graveside or Reception.

The Eulogy is a 3-5 minute talk, delivered by one person, which expresses love of the deceased, hope and faith in this hour, and often includes a few favorite memories. A good place to start is, "What did we love, what will we miss, about this person ...?" Always avoid talking more about yourself than the deceased.

Please carefully time your eulogy by reading it out loud.

**A copy, in WORD format, must be received by 7 PM THE NIGHT BEFORE THE WAKE to:
St.Marys1870@gmail.com**

Provided the Eulogy is of appropriate length and content, the eulogist will receive a reply email stating "Eulogy Accepted for Mass." They will then be invited forward at the start of Mass, by name. Nothing is carried up - a copy of the approved eulogy you sent us will be in place - no other copy may be used.

If the length or content are not appropriate for Mass, the eulogist will receive a reply email stating "Eulogy Accepted for Wake or Reception." In such a case they will not be invited to speak at Mass, but should arrange to offer the eulogy at the Wake or reception instead.

A copy of a eulogy of appropriate length and content follows as an example.

It times out at just over 4 minutes.

Clare M. Burke Eulogy February 13, 2015

On behalf of Clare's family, thank you all for being here today.

When Clare was born into the Galvin family there were 3 brothers waiting for her.

About 15 to 20 years ago, Clare told me this story.

When she was 7 (her brothers were 13, 10 and 9) her parents told her they were going to have another baby. She was thrilled. Clare was certain she would have the sister she had been wishing for, for years.

Instead, she got a fourth brother. As a small consolation, our parents allowed Clare to choose my name.

Some time after that, her career as a babysitter started. Clare told me about some of the "adventures" we had while I was in her care: like, carriage races, carriages rolling down hills, carriages tipping over and similar exciting events.

A few years later, while she was in high school, Clare noticed her kid brother fidgeting in church. So, she bought me a missal to help me concentrate during Mass.

Clare worked at the Brigham's Ice Cream Shop in West Roxbury while she was in high school.

From then on her favorite food was Brigham's Ice Cream!

She was a loyal Red Sox fan. She was pretty excited when they won the World Series ten years ago, on her 70th birthday.

Clare was a graduate of the Catherine Laboure School of Nursing in Boston in 1955. One of her early patients was our mother. Our entire family was really proud of our nurse.

Clare married Donald Burke in 1958. They had 4 daughters: Kathleen, Amy, Paula and Maureen.

Clare truly loved those girls. She was the Girl Scout Leader, the 1st Communion dress maker, the ice cream party organizer, etc. and most of all; a loving mother.

She was so proud of them as they grew up to be young ladies and start their own families. You could always see the sparkle in Clare's eyes and her enthusiasm when she was talking about her daughters and their families, or any one of her 10 grandchildren or her great grandchildren.

She had enjoyed working as a nurse at St. Patrick's Manor many years ago and her family is very grateful for the care she received there during the last 2 years.

Shortly before Clare entered St. Patrick's Manor, she wanted to see (Bob Rogers') band perform. What was supposed to be a short visit turned into an evening of tambourine playing and dancing as Clare stayed for the night.

Clare loved to help others. We will never know how many people were touched by Clare's kindness as a nurse, a Girl Scout leader, a CCD teacher, a Minister to the Sick and as a Hospice Volunteer.

Clare loved her Catholic faith, just like our mother did.

We will miss Clare.

There is a verse from a prayer titled "Safely Home" that could serve as a message from Clare to us today.

All the pain and grief is over,

Every restless tossing passed;

I am now at peace forever,

Safely home - in Heaven - at last