

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*

## ***Preparing a Funeral ~ St. John the Evangelist Parish***

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### **Consolation Ministry**

#### **Our Message of Sympathy and Support**

The family of St. John the Evangelist Parish extends our heartfelt sympathies to you on your loss. As believers in Jesus Christ, we turn to the Lord and rely upon His words of comfort and support, proclaimed during His famous Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are the sorrowful for they shall be consoled.” (*Matthew 5:4*)

Although we cannot take away your pain, we offer you and your family our prayers of consolation and support during this difficult time. May our ministry be a sign of hope and trust in God.

Some families prefer to make selections for their involvement in the Funeral Mass, such as readings, song selections, etc. The following pages will offer you an opportunity to plan the Funeral Mass as much as you would like. The remaining selections will be made by the priest.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Parish Office at any time.



## THE ORDER OF MASS

### I. INTRODUCTORY RITES

- The Funeral Director will assist in the seating of the family and guests according to the current COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.
- At the beginning of Mass, the priest will bless the casket by sprinkling Holy Water on it. Then the family is invited to open the **Funeral Pall** (large white cloth) over the casket. The water and pall are both symbols of Christian baptism.
- The family can choose the option of placing a Christian symbol on top of the casket, such as a cross, bible, or rosary.

### II. LITURGY OF THE WORD

- You may invite family members or friends to read the from the Old Testament (**First Reading**) and the New Testament (**Second Reading**). The reading selections follow in this booklet. The priest or deacon will proclaim the Gospel.
- The Responsorial Psalm is usually sung between the First and Second readings. The musician generally selects a psalm that relates to the readings.
- The homily is shared by the priest or deacon and it follows the Gospel reading. The homily focuses on God's compassionate love and on the Easter mystery of death leading to resurrection.
- After the homily, the **Prayer of the Faithful** is read. You can invite a family member or friend to read the Prayer of the Faithful, or the priest or deacon will read it.

### III. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- The gifts of bread and wine are brought to the priest after the Prayer of the Faithful. You may invite family or friends to bring up the two gifts.
- The usual order of Mass is followed. After the Eucharistic Prayer, we recite the Lord's Prayer, exchange a sign of peace, and receive Holy Communion.

#### **IV. FINAL COMMENDATION**

- After the Communion Prayer, a family member may offer a eulogy, or offer words on behalf of the family.
- The final commendation concludes the Mass, and the priest will incense the casket as a sign of respect and honor, as he offers the final prayer of Commendation. The Funeral Mass concludes with the family following the casket out of the church.