



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Dear Parishioner:

The death of a loved one brings grief and loss. Our Lord Jesus wept at the grave of his friend, Lazarus. For the Christian it is also time for renewed trust in a loving God who is the Lord of life and the Victor of death. At St. Mary's Episcopal Church we are eager to assist you in arranging the funeral to be an occasion of solemn worship, of comfort to the bereaved, and of celebration for the life of the deceased. As a parish, we conduct burials for parishioners, their families, and those who have appropriate ties to the church. This booklet on The Burial of the Dead has been prepared to help you in your planning.

It is important to consult with me directly to secure a date and time for the funeral and to plan the details before you begin making other arrangements.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Kendall Haynes
Rector

The human body is a gift of God. We live in bodies out whole life, and in death the body is treated with respect and dignity, the temple of the Holy Spirit. Christian burial is the proper and ordered placing of the body in its final resting place. We praise God our Creator, pray for the deceased and for the family and friends, are comforted with Scripture, God's Holy Word, and proclaim the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At St. Mary's we have maintained our Church with a simple dignity which focuses attention on the altar. This booklet outlines those guidelines which we believe maintain an atmosphere of worship. Your support and cooperation are appreciated.

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with, the Minister of the Congregation.

The Book of Common Prayer
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BURIAL IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- ✦ Baptized Christians are properly buried from the Church.
- ✦ The Burial liturgy should be held at a time when the congregation has opportunity to be present.
- ✦ The casket is brought to the Church and is closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter.
- ✦ The casket is covered with a funeral pall, one which the Church provides.
- ✦ The body should always be present for the service of the burial.

PASTORAL CARE AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Sometimes death comes slowly and with anticipation, and other times it comes suddenly and without warning. The clergy are eager to provide pastoral care to the dying and their families whatever the circumstances. It is an essential ministry of our priests. Please call one of our priests whenever you are in need.

BURIAL AT ST. MARY'S

CLERGY

The clergy of the parish provides pastoral care before, during, and after the experience of death. Their ministry is augmented by strong lay presence and involvement from our prayer guilds and committed laity. The entire parish extends love, support, and prayers at the time of death.

Funerals are scheduled through the clergy. One of the priests will meet with you to arrange the time and discuss the details. This booklet has been prepared to assist in that process.

Our clergy officiate at funerals in the parish. Other clergy, who may be friends of the family, are of course, invited to assist.

CHURCH

St. Mary's Episcopal Church seats 300 comfortably in the nave. Additional space up to 50 is available in the back of the nave and folding chairs are used.

Burials performed at St. Mary's Church are held in the Church. We do not perform funerals in individual homes, in gardens, at funeral homes, etc. without permission of the Rector.

SETTING THE DATE AND TIME

Burials may be scheduled at the St. Mary's by arrangement with the Rector only. They may be scheduled throughout the year, except for the following days:

Holy Days:

Any Sunday
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
Epiphany
Ash Wednesday
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday
and Holy Saturday
Easter Day
Pentecost

Holidays of the Parish:

New Year's Day
President's Day
Memorial Day
Fourth of July
Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving

The choice of day and time of a funeral is important. The time is usually between 11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

PRAYER BOOK

All burials at St. Mary's are from the Book of Common Prayer. Each service includes a short homily.

THE EUCHARIST

The principal act of Christian worship is the Holy Eucharist. For baptized, practicing Christians, the Holy Eucharist at a funeral is an essential part of burial. Those who throughout their lives have gathered at the Lord's Table each Sunday, will find this the appropriate place to come for burial.

READINGS

The families may wish to select Scripture readings and psalms from the Book of Common Prayer. For Rite I Burial office, see page 469, and for Rite II, see page 491 or consult the Burial readings Booklet at the church office.

MUSIC

The Assistant Director of Music will coordinate and assist with the selection of appropriate music for the funeral. The family may select hymns and music at the time the priest calls on you. Our organist provides the music for the liturgy from the Episcopal Hymnal.

Since the burial is a service of worship, music appropriate to that occasion needs to be selected.

RECEPTIONS

The Altar Guild of the parish hosts an informal reception for families of parishioners. Formal receptions are to be held at other facilities. Most people have them in their homes.

FEES

For parishioners there is no fee for the use of the Church; for non-parishioners a fee is charged for the use of the building. The officiating priest will discuss the amount with you during the call.

No fee is accepted by the clergy for services of ministry. Some persons wish to make a donation to the individual priest's discretionary fund as an expression of appreciation for his or her time, effort, and concern.

PARKING

St. Mary's has two parking lots (one in front and the school parking lot in back). You can also park on the street down Lake Avenue but cannot block any driveways. You are not allowed to park at the bank across the street as would block spaces for their customers. For a larger funeral, we appoint ushers to help in the parking area.

FLOWERS

The family may wish to supply flowers for the burial liturgy. This is arranged through our Altar Guild. Two vases or one large arrangement may be placed on the reredos. Other flower arrangements sent to the church by friends are kept in the narthex or placed on tables in the parish hall for the reception.

PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN DURING THE SERVICE. Before or after the service you may take as many pictures as you wish.

Video or movie equipment is not available through the parish. If the family wishes a video of the funeral, they may make those arrangements with permission from the clergy.

CREMATION

Crementation is one option for the disposition of the body. The choice of cremation does not preclude the presence of the body for the funeral.

COLUMBARIUM

St. Mary's Episcopal Church maintains a cloister Columbarium for cremated remains. A niche can be purchased by any member of the parish. Each niche will hold two urns, depending on size and shape of each. Be sure to check the size of the niche before you purchase an urn. St. Mary's does have urns available to purchase. Details of cost and arrangements may be discussed with the priest during his or her visit or by calling the Parish Administrator. Cremated remains are always buried in sanctified ground and are not scattered.

FUNERAL PLANNING IN ADVANCE

It is fitting and proper for the Christian to plan his or her funeral in advance. The clergy are willing to help you make the necessary arrangements. It is not uncommon to select a funeral home in advance to work with you. The clergy keep on file those who have planned their funerals in advance. If you wish to do so, simply make an appointment with one of the priests and discuss your questions and concerns. A form will be prepared for your files and ours that will detail your wishes at burial.

AT TIME OF DEATH

For those who have a death in the family, the clergy can be of assistance. They will be glad to come to your home to discuss details. The clergy will give special consideration to the thoughts and concerns of the family, as well as any known wishes of the deceased, in the funeral arrangements. Family involvement in the planning process is encouraged.