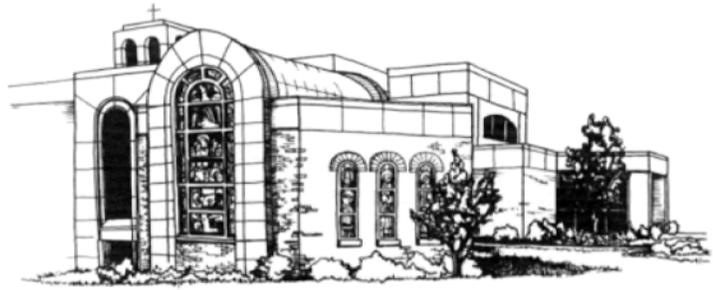




Dear Friends,

May the peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you. The parish of Saint Albert the Great is dedicated to ministering to those in our community who are experiencing the death of a loved one and to the family members of our parishioners who have died. With the help of your funeral director we hope to bring you comfort and some peace at this difficult time.



*Church of St. Albert The Great
North Royalton, Ohio*

Please read through this letter and these guidelines before making any decisions about funeral and burial plans for your loved one. Again, our sympathies and prayers are with you. We are privileged to offer you the love of God in the name of Jesus our Compassionate Lord.

The Catholic Church celebrates the death of the Christian Faithful at three “moments”.

- The first moment is ***the wake*** or visitation in the presence of the body at the funeral home. During this time a minister of the Church will assist the family and friends in praying the “Vigil for the Deceased”.
- The second moment is ***the funeral service*** itself. This service or liturgy can be a traditional Mass of Christian Burial at the church, a Service of the Word either at the funeral home or in some circumstances at St. Albert church. It is expected that a practicing Catholic would be buried within the context of the celebration of Mass at church.
- The final moment in the prayers for the dead is ***the Committal Service*** at the place of burial or entombment. *All Catholics must be buried or entombed at the time of death.* No Catholic funeral services can be provided for those whose remains are not being buried or entombed.

Cremation of the body prior to burial is acceptable for Catholic Christians. In fact, the Church has provided special prayers for those whose bodies have been cremated. Nonetheless, the cremated remains (popularly referred to as “ashes”) are still human remains and are owed the respect and dignity due our Christian bodies. Therefore, “cremains,” as they are called, are never to be discarded in public places, separated into smaller portions and dispersed, kept in the family home, or even buried in private or public places that are not a cemetery. Christians are to treat “cremains” in exactly the same way that our deceased bodies are treated. If you are planning a cremation, it is recommended that cremation take place after the funeral services prior to burial. If the choice is made to cremate the body before the funeral, it is permitted to bring the cremains to church for the Funeral Mass.

Funeral Liturgies for deceased loved ones are very important moments in the lives of believers. The participation of the loved ones in the planning and the celebration of the funeral are welcome. Attached to this letter are a Funeral Liturgy Planning Form and several suggestions of music and bible passages for your assistance in planning. Please take the time to complete the Planning Form and deliver it personally to the Parish Office or have the funeral director fax it prior to the day of the funeral.

Eulogies or Remembrances of the deceased are not to be offered during the Funeral Mass at St. Albert church. Such remembrances are encouraged during the wake/visitation, at the funeral home prior to the procession to church, or even at the place of committal/burial, or at the funeral luncheon.

Funeral Lunches are offered to the bereaved at Saint Albert Parish Hall and can be arranged through your funeral director. There is a standard and limited menu which is offered to all families. There is no cost for this service.

Mass Offerings are welcome at Saint Albert, but only two Masses per year per person may be scheduled. Monetary offering to our Saint Albert the Great Memorial Fund are welcome. This fund provides for the liturgical and bereavement ministries of our parish. Those remembered are listed in our memorial book and prayed for regularly at parish Masses. Envelopes are available from your funeral director.

There are no "fees" for the services of Saint Albert the Great Parish at the time of death and burial. Any offering that you would like to make is welcome. The actual cost that the parish incurs in addition to the luncheon expense is \$125 for the musicians. We are often asked about the "typical offering" for the church or the priest. While none is required, an average offering is \$125-\$250.

Once again, God bless you at this difficult time.

Sincerely yours in our Compassionate Lord,

The Parish Ministry of St. Albert the Great

+

+

+

+

Personal Information Form

St. Albert the Great Parish

6667 Wallings Road, North Royalton, Ohio 44133 Tele:440-237-6760/ Fax: 440-237-5945 FUNERAL@SAINT-ALBERT.ORG



Name of the Deceased _____

Your Name _____

Please highlight the major features of your loved one's life (place of birth, marriage, career, hobbies)

Please describe the most notable features of your loved one's faith and life in the Church

Please describe the most important relationships within your loved one's family life

Please feel free to use both sides. However, be sure to e-mail to Funeral@saint-albert.org or fax both sides of this sheet! fax:440-237-5945

Old Testament Reading Choices

Wisdom 3:1-9

But the souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the LORD shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

Proverbs 31:10-29

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household. She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing. Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land. She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all."

Sirach 3:1-7

Children, pay heed to a father's right; do so that you may live. For the LORD sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. He who honors his father atones for sins; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. He who honors his father is gladdened by children, and when he prays he is heard. He who reveres his father will live a long life; he obeys the LORD who brings comfort to his mother. He who fears the LORD honors his father, and serves his parents as rulers. In word and deed honor your father that his blessing may come upon you.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

New Testament Reading Choices

Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-36; 42-43

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name." Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.

Paul's Letter to the Romans 6:3-9

Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 15:51-57

And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's Letter to the Philippians 3:20-21

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Book of Revelations 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God). He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.

Funeral Liturgy Planning Form

St. Albert the Great Parish

6667 Wallings Road, North Royalton, Ohio 44133 tele:440-237-6760/ fax:440-237-5945 FUNERAL@SAINT-ALBERT.ORG



We have provided this planning guide in order to assist bereaved family members in the preparation for the funeral of a loved one. When completed, this sheet is either given to the Parish Minister at the funeral home following the Vigil Service, or it can be faxed to the parish by the funeral director at 440-237-5945 (fax)

Name of Deceased _____

Phonetic Spelling of the Last Name _____

What form of the deceased's name should be used during the funeral? _____

Family Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Place of Funeral _____

Date of Funeral: _____ Time: _____

MUSIC SELECTIONS (only for those having a liturgy at the church)

On the reverse of this page please find a number of hymns from which to select the music for your funeral liturgy. Simply check off the hymns you prefer.

INTRODUCTORY RITES (only for those having a liturgy at the church)

Arriving at church holy water and a funeral pall (white cloth) are placed upon the casket as a reminder of baptism. Family members are asked to assist in placing the pall on the casket.

LITURGY OF THE WORD – See attached pages

On the reverse of this page please find a number of scripture passages from which to select the scriptures for your funeral liturgy. Simply check off the ones you prefer. The attached pages have the full text of each of the readings. Non-biblical readings are not permitted. Any practicing Catholic is permitted to proclaim the Scriptures within the Mass.

The scriptures will be read by:

Old Testament by _____

New Testament by _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST (only for those planning a Funeral Mass)

Presentation of the Gifts (two people) _____, _____.

Two members of the congregation are invited to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine. The gifts are on a small table at the cross aisle of the church.

NOTES ON THE LIFE OF THE DECEASED

On a separate sheet please include any notes about the deceased that would be helpful to the presider in preparing the homily.

Please be sure to e-mail to Funeral@saint-albert.org or fax both sides of this sheet! fax:440-237-5945

Funeral Liturgy Selections

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: Please pick one scripture reading from each section:

Old Testament Readings:

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-12 "There is a time for everything under heaven."
 Wisdom 3:1-6,9 "The souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment shall touch them."
 Isaiah 25:6a,7-9 "The Lord will destroy death forever, let us rejoice in that he has saved us."
 Sirach 3:1-7 "Children pay heed to a father's right."
 Proverbs 31:10-29 "When one finds a worthy wife."
 Other: you may indicate another Old Testament reading (not from the book of Psalms) on the following line.
-

New Testament Readings:

- Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 "God has appointed Jesus as the judge of all people living or dead."
 Roman 6:3-9 "Let us walk in newness of life."
 I Corinthians 15:51-57 "Death is swallowed up in victory."
 Philippians 3:20-21 "Our citizenship is in heaven."
 Revelation 21:1-5a,6b-7 "There will be no more death."
 Other: you may indicate another New Testament reading(not from the Gospels) on the following line.
-

FUNERAL MUSIC: (only for funerals at the church): Please pick one hymn from each of the following categories:

Gathering

- Be Not Afraid
 Amazing Grace
 On Eagle's Wings
 I Heard the Voice of Jesus
 I Know That My Redeemer Lives
 Precious Lord Take My Hand

Presentation

- Amazing Grace
 Here I Am Lord
 Eye Has Not Seen
 Lord of All Hopefulness
 Your Are Near
 Ave Maria
 Summons

Communion

- Blest Are They
 One Bread One Body
 I am the Bread of Life
 Taste and See
 Come to Me
 You Are Mine
 We Remember
 Gift of Finest Wheat
 Now We Remain

Closing

- How Great Thou Art
 On Eagle's Wings
 Let There Be Peace on Earth
 I Know that My Redeemer Lives
 Song of Farewell (refrain only)
 The Strife is O'er
 The Irish Blessing
 Holy God We Praise Thy Name
 For All the Saints
 America the Beautiful
 Immaculate Mary
 Eternal Father, Strong to Save
 O Loving God

**Please e-mail to Funeral@saint-albert.org or be sure to fax both sides of this sheet! fax:440-237-5945
If you have selected music NOT on this list, please call our Music Director,
Lori Geyer, at 440-823-1756 - 24 hrs. in advance.
Outside Vocalists/Instrumentalists MUST call Lori Geyer - 24 hrs. in advance.**

Personal Information Form

St. Albert the Great Parish

6667 Wallings Road, North Royalton, Ohio 44133 Tele:440-237-6760/ Fax:440-237-5945 FUNERAL@SAINT-ALBERT.ORG



Name of the Deceased _____

NOTES ON THE LIFE OF THE DECEASED

Please include any notes about the deceased that would be helpful to the presider in preparing the homily.



Bereavement Support Ministry

- Any parishioner who is mourning the loss of a loved one is encouraged to attend and invited to bring a guest.
- We meet for six Tuesday evenings.
- To register for the next series of sessions, or if you have any questions, please contact Tom Sawyer at 440-263-8730.

In this season of sorrow, we lift up our broken hearts to you. Heal us with your tender mercy and make this a season of hope. Trusting in your infinite kindness, we ask this of you with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(- M. Donna MacLeod - Season of Hope Prayer)