

FUNERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Some Pastoral Considerations

For Christians, death, though real, calls us in faith to see beyond the immediate death of the physical body to our hope of Resurrection to life that is eternal in God. This is our Easter faith. It enables Christians to consider their own mortality and ultimate departure from this earthly life without fear.

The Prayer Book reminds us of this great call to faith and hope. It reads:

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn. 1979 BCP 507

It's in this spirit that this Form is offered to the people of St. John's and with the hope that it may assist anyone in providing appropriate directions for their own funeral services and for any loved one that has recently joined eternal life.

It's important to have this information worked through and available to our survivors and that it explain clearly what our desires are so our family and Church can make proper provision for our funeral arrangements.

This Form attempts to provide, in one place, the immediate information that will be requested during the hours and days immediately after death.

The Christian burial of the dead should be simple, reverent, with thanksgiving for the life of the deceased. The Prayer Book service is focused on Jesus Christ. It is an affirmation of the comforting hope of Resurrection for the bereaved. Elaborate and expensive displays that draw our attention to death are inappropriate.

Before filling out this form, it is helpful to discuss it with the Rector. There are a number of possible alternatives, both for the funeral and for the disposing of the body, which are in keeping with Christian tradition.

There are special arrangements that are needed if you intend to use the Garth at St. John's for the burial of cremated remains. The Rector will clarify this for you.

You should make copies of this Form available to the proper family members, and if you have made pre-arrangements at a Funeral Home, that a copy of it should be kept in your file with them as well. A copy can be filed with your attorney. You may make changes to it at any time.

It is an obligation for every Christian adult, regardless of age, to leave burial instructions and should have a Will disposing of his or her temporal goods.

In time of serious illness, the Rector should be notified. The sacraments should be received and opportunity should be made for reconciliation with God before departing this life.

STATEMENT FOR THE GUIDANCE OF MY FAMILY AT THE TIME OF MY DEATH

I believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Having lived in the Faith of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, it is my desire that I should be buried in accordance with her traditions as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer. I have, therefore, in consultation with the Rector, expressed my desires for my funeral arrangements, and these wishes are contained in the attached statement.

Where specific pre-arrangements have been made, they are also noted here as well. A copy of this statement is on file at St. John's Episcopal Church, 2401 College Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110.

Additional copies have been given to:

It is my hope that this statement will spare my family as may be possible in their time of grief.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Length of Residence in this State: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Occupation: _____

Are you retired _____

FAMILY INFORMATION Living Deceased

Name of Spouse: _____

Name of Father: _____

Name of Mother: _____

Children: _____

Number of Grandchildren: _____ Number of Great Grandchildren: _____

Brothers and Sisters: _____

Address of family contact person: _____

CHURCH INFORMATION

Name of Parish: _____ Pastor _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

ORGANIZATIONS

Name of Organization(s): _____

MILITARY SERVICE

A copy of Discharge Papers should be attached to this Form.

Branch & Date of Service: _____

Service Number: _____ Veterans Admin. Claim No. _____

Grade, Organization, & Type of Discharge: _____

Do you receive Monetary Benefits for a Service-connected Disability? _____

LEGAL INFORMATION

Do you have a Will? Yes _____ No _____

My Will is located at: _____

The following person is taking care of my affairs: _____

INSURANCE INFORMATION

My Insurance Policies are located at: _____

CEMETERY INFORMATION

I do _____ Do not _____ own a cemetery plot.

This plot is located: _____

Other Cemetery Information: _____

I plan to use the Parish Garth: _____ Cost for Bronze Plaque is \$100.00.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Please discuss with the Rector before making final arrangements.

Please remember that once the actual service begins, even when held at a Funeral Home, the casket is closed and is never re-open for a final viewing.

The Rector of St. John’s presides at the service. In addition I would like the following clergy to assist him, if available _____

I wish the burial Service to be:

1979 Prayer Book: Rite One _____ Rite Two _____

1928 Prayer Book Burial Office _____

1928 Prayer Book “Grave-side” Service: Yes _____

The Holy Eucharist: Yes _____ No _____

Music at the Liturgy. *Please note that we will have an Organist at the service, if it is held in the Church. But there is no guarantee that a choir can be assembled* _____

Flowers may be sent _____ I prefer that flowers not be sent. _____

Instead of flowers, I suggest that gifts be made to _____

I will be cremated: Yes _____

I will use the following Funeral Home: _____

I have made the following advance arrangements with this Funeral Home: _____

I want the following persons (if available) as Pallbearers: _____

SUGGESTED LECTIONARY READINGS

The Prayer Book has a full Lectionary for Christian Burial. Please consult it. The structure of the funeral service as contained in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer assumes the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	NEW TESTAMENT	PSALM
Isaiah 25: 6-9	42: 1-7	Rom 3: 14-19, 34-35, 37-39	23
Isaiah 61: 1-3	46	1 Cor 15: 20-58	27
Lamentations 3: 22-26, 31-33	90: 1-12	2 Cor 4: 16-5:9	106
	121	1 Jn 3: 1-2	116
	130	Revelations 7: 7-17	

The Holy Gospel according to St. John 5:24-27 or 6:37-40 or 10:11-16 or 11:21-27 or 14:1-6.