

## Liturgical Selections

Old Testament: \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament: \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayers of the Faithful read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation of the Gifts by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Music

Processional: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation of Gifts: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion: \_\_\_\_\_

Incensing: \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

# Preparing to Celebrate The Funeral Liturgy



*"Come to me ...  
and I will give you rest."*  
*Matthew 11:28*

**St. Katharine Drexel Church**  
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Sugar Grove, IL 60554  
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At this time of loss, please know that the prayer and concern of the community of St. Katharine Drexel is with you.

As Christians, we find hope in this time of loss. We believe death is not an end, but a beginning; that the one you love has passed through death from this temporary life to a perfect and everlasting one. We believe that while death separates us now, it will be for just a short while. We will again be reunited in a dwelling place provided for us by God. The funeral Mass especially expresses this faith in Jesus' victory over death and our personal share in that resurrection. It does so through prayer and blessings, through songs and readings, through rituals and symbols.

You will have the opportunity to meet with a parish priest or representative to discuss the options for Mass. We have information enclosed to help prepare you in making some of those decisions.

### **Wake Vigil Service**

The service will normally be presided by a priest or deacon at the wake on the evening prior to the funeral.

### **Music**

Music affects our feelings and the atmosphere in which we pray. In the spirit of Christian death, we recommend that you consider hymns and songs which are joyful. We have included a listing of hymns that are liturgically appropriate. Non-liturgical or secular music will not be permitted.

### **Scripture Readings**

We have a listing of scripture readings from which to choose. You may pick one from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and a Gospel reading. Family or friends are encouraged to read your selections from the Old and New Testaments, and the Prayers of the Faithful. The priest will read the Gospel. A list of commonly used readings can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/bereavement-and-funerals>. Search under "Biblical Readings for the Funeral Liturgy".

### **Presentation of the Gifts**

The Church encourages family or friends to bring to the altar the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharistic Celebration. 2-4 people may be chosen.

### **Memories for Homily**

Please share some special memories of your loved one with Father to assist in his homily preparation. Include thoughts on the faith life of the deceased. These can be emailed to [info@skdmail.org](mailto:info@skdmail.org).



## **Words of Remembrance**

### **Rockford Diocese Norms for Speaking at Funerals**

1. In the Diocese of Rockford, it is recommended that the Vigil (Wake) is the most appropriate time for members of the family and friends to share memories of the deceased or to pay tribute to the deceased through vocal remembrances, photographs, favorite songs, etc.
2. The reception after the burial is another appropriate time for the remembrances because there is less of an emotional burden and the context is looking toward the future in a more positive manner.
3. If a family member wishes to express appreciation or say something in remembrance at Mass, the following are to be observed:
  - ✘ Only one family member or friend is to speak.
  - ✘ The words to be shared must be in writing and approved in advance by the priest celebrant.
  - ✘ Because of the intensity of emotions at the time of a funeral, the person who will speak is to be brief, that is, no more than five minutes.
  - ✘ This faith-remembrance is to take place after the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

### **Funeral Luncheon**

A luncheon may be offered to parishioners, which is prepared and ready to serve after the funeral Mass or burial. See the enclosed paper for the complete details.

### **Out of Town Burial**

If the burial will take place out of the Sugar Grove area, Father may not be able to attend. If this is the case, a deacon or the funeral director has a prayer service and is able to preside.

### **Fees**

Church: \$150

Music: \$100 for the organist/pianist  
\$100 for the cantor.

Celebrant: Families may wish to offer a donation to the priest celebrating Mass.

Luncheon: You are asked to pay for the main dish. Sides, salads, and desserts are prepared as a donation to the family of the deceased.

*Do not hesitate to contact the parish office with any questions at any point in this planning. God is with you and your family at this very difficult time.*

