

Guardian Angels Catholic Church

FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE



*“Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way
and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.”*

Exodus 23:20



Guardian Angels

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Share the Good News of Jesus

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this time of profound sorrow, we turn our hearts towards the infinite mercy and love of our Lord. Our Catholic faith teaches us that death is not the end but a sacred passage to eternal life with God. Your loved one is now embraced by the boundless peace of Christ, free from suffering and pain.

As we mourn, let us also celebrate the cherished moments shared and the love that transcends this earthly life. Take solace in the knowledge that your loved one is now accompanied by their guardian angel, who continues to watch over them in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

May the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, bring you consolation and strength. Let us turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, who intimately knows the deep pain of loss, and find hope in the glorious promise of the resurrection. Trust in the intercession of the saints and the prayers of the faithful to sustain you during this difficult time.

Please know that we at Guardian Angels are praying for you and your family, asking God to fill your hearts with His healing grace and divine peace.

With deep compassion and prayers,

Fr. Joe Connelly

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Contact information

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Oakdale, MN 55128

www.guardian-angels.org

Parish Office	651-738-2223
Fr. Joseph Connelly - Pastor	651-789-3188
Cemetery	651-738-2223
Colleen - Luncheon Coordinator	651-738-2223
Terry Quinn - Grief Support Group	651-789-3181

What you need to know as you prepare

There are many decisions that need to be made in preparation for a loved one's funeral. The Guardian Angels funeral coordinators will assist and guide you through the entire process.

Most people feel overwhelmed when faced with any sort of decision making during the initial stages of grief. We will answer your questions and make suggestions.

We ask you to look through this funeral guide to make choices that you feel are best. You are not limited to the Scripture readings and music in this guide. If you have a favorite Scripture or hymn that you would like to include that is not in this guide, let us know as we plan your loved one's service with you.

- Please fill out as much as you can in the *'Information you need for the planning meeting'* section of this packet and bring it with you when we plan your loved one's service.

Words of Remembrance prior to the Funeral Mass (optional)

There can be time set aside immediately before Mass begins for a family member or close friend to state a few words of remembrance. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- The words of remembrance will be said after everyone has been seated and approximately 5 minutes before Mass begins.
- The words of remembrance include the most meaningful and memorable things about your loved one.
- It is important to have everything written down. Bullet points followed by a sentence or two will keep the words of remembrance clear and focused.
- Length of time: 3-5 minutes.

Please note: As part of the planning session you will be submitting various attributes of your loved one that can be included in Father's homily.

If there is a luncheon or gathering after the funeral Mass, a microphone will be available for sharing memories.

Readings

Old Testament Readings

Please select one of the following readings. You may also select an Old Testament reading that is not listed here.

1. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 12-13

A Time for Everything

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (*ee-klee-zee-ass-teez*)

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to give birth, 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.

I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life.
For everyone, moreover, to eat and drink and enjoy the fruit of all their labor is a gift of God.

The Word of the Lord.

2. Lamentations 3:22-26

It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save

A reading from the book of Lamentations

The favors of the LORD are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning—so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the LORD, says my soul; therefore, I will hope in him. Good is the Lord to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; it is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

3. Isaiah 25:6a-7-9

The Lord God will destroy death forever.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations. 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!”

The Word of the Lord.

4. Isaiah 43:2, 4

You Are Mine

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Fear not, for I have recalled you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through the water, I will be with you; in the rivers you shall not drown. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you. Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious, and because I love you.

The Word of the Lord.

5. Wisdom 3:1-6,9

He accepted them as his Chosen

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the righteous 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 to others, indeed, they seemed 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.

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 his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

6. Isaiah 12:2-6

They Shall See the Splendor of Our God

A reading from the book of Isaiah

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation and say on that day: Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name. Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

The Word of the Lord.

7. Job 19:23-27

I know that my Redeemer lives.

A reading from the book of Job

Job answered and said: "O that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: that with an iron chisel and with lead they were inscribed in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him, and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalms

Please select one of the following Psalms.
Below you will see the refrain and first verse of the most commonly requested responsorial psalms.

1. Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God

Shepherd me, O God,
beyond my wants,
beyond my fears
from death into life.

God is my shepherd,
so nothing shall I want,

I rest in the meadows
of faithfulness and love,

I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

2. Psalm 25: To You, O Lord

REFRAIN:

To you, O Lord, I lift my
Soul, to you I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways,
teach me your paths
and keep me in the way of your truth,
for you are God, my Savior.

3. Psalm 40: Here I Am

REFRAIN:

Here I am, Lord, here I am,
I come to do your will

Long was I waiting for God,
and then he heard my cry
It was He who taught this song
to me a song of praise to God.

4. Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

REFRAIN

The Lord is Kind and Merciful
The Lord is kind and merciful

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all being bless God's name;
Bless the Lord,
and forget not God's benefits.

New Testament Readings

Please select one of the following readings. You may also select a New Testament reading that is not listed here.

1. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

... righteousness awaits me.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

Beloved: I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Word of the Lord.

2. Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, will he not give us everything else along with him? Who will bring any charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who has loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

3. Revelation 14:13

Happy are those who die in the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord.

4. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We shall stay with the Lord forever

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

5. Romans 5:5-11

...we will be saved from God's anger through him

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

6. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

We have an everlasting home in heaven.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters: We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. So we are always courageous; although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

7. 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8

Love is patient...

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

Please select one of the following readings. You may also select a Gospel reading that is not listed here. The Gospel is read by the priest.

1. John 14:1-6

There are many rooms in my Father's house.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way. Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

2. Matthew 5:1-12a

Beatitudes – Rejoice and be glad...

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

1The Gospel of the Lord.

3. Matthew 25:31-40

Come, you whom my Father has blessed.

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

4. John 6:37-40

... and I will raise them to life again on the last day.

Jesus said to the crowds: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

5. Matthew 11:25-30

Come to me and I will give you rest.

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

6. John 5:24-29

Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them: Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. "Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life.

The Gospel of the Lord.

7. John 11:17-27

I am the resurrection and the life.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful

In the Prayers of the Faithful, the community calls upon God to comfort the mourners and to show mercy to the deceased. (Order of Christian Funerals #62)

We usually have 5-6 Prayers of the Faithful. You may have one or two readers come forth to read the following:

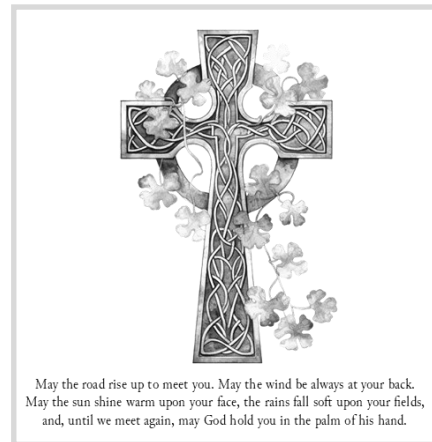
1. For the Church, that we may be a comforting witness to Christ, our resurrection and our life.
2. For the family of _____ - for his/her wife/husband of ___ years, and for his/her children [and grandchildren and great grandchildren and the many other friends (and family) who have shared their path over the years;] may they move from grief to fondness, from loss to celebration, from sadness to joy.
3. For those who could not be here today due to distance or illness; that they may experience peace through our prayers;
4. For all those who have helped our family during this time of sorrow and confusion; may they be rewarded for their goodness;
5. For _____, that the light of Christ may lead him/her to eternal life in God's Presence.
6. You may write additional Prayers of the Faithful.

Worship Aid Covers

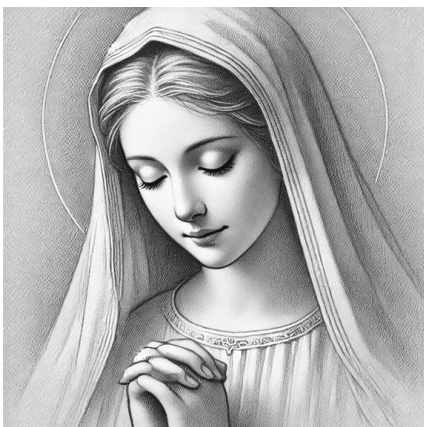
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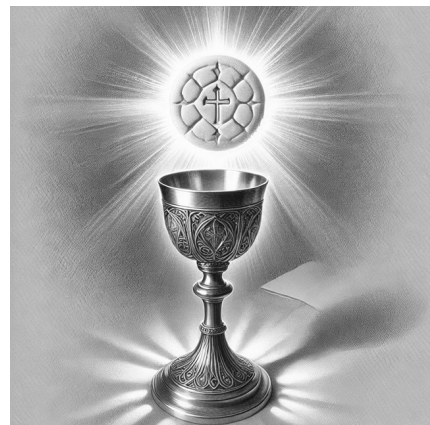
2.



3.



4.



Hymns

Here are some suggestions for hymns. If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to include that is not in this guide, let us know as we plan your loved one's service with you.

1. We Shall Rise Again

Come to me, all you weary,
with your burdens and pain.

Take my yoke on your shoulders and learn from me:

I am gentle and humble,
and your soul will find rest,

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

REFRAIN:

We shall rise again on the last day with the faithful,
rich and poor. Coming to the house of Lord Jesus,
we will find an open door there,
we will find an open door.

2. Amazing Grace

Amazing grace,
how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost,
but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

3. Be Not Afraid

You shall cross the barren desert,
but you shall not die of thirst.

You shall wander far in safety
though you do not know the way.

You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and all will understand.

You shall see the face of God and live.

REFRAIN:

Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.

4. Eye Has Not Seen

REFRAIN:

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard
what God has ready for those who love him;
Spirit of love, come,
give us the mind of Jesus,
teach us the wisdom of God.

5. For All the Saints

For all the saints
who from their labors rest,

All who by faith
before the world confessed,

Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

6. Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

7. I Have Loved You

REFRAIN:

I have loved you with an everlasting love,
I have called you and you are mine.

Seek the face of the Lord and long for him.
He will bring you his light and his peace.

8. On Eagle's Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in his shadow for life.
Say to the Lord: my refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!

REFRAIN:

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

9. One Bread, One Body

One bread, one body,
One Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many,
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

10. I Am the Bread of Life

I am the Bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger;
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father beckons.

REFRAIN:

And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.

11. How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God,
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made,
I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

REFRAIN:

Then sings my soul, My savior, God, to thee;
How great thou art,
How great thou art! (repeat)

12. Ave Maria

Ave Maria
Gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Ave, ave dominus
Dominus tecum
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus
Et benedictus fructus ventris
Ventris tuae, Jesus.

13. Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

14. Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Holy God, we praise thy name!
Lord of all, we bow before thee!
All on Earth thy sceptre claim,
All in Heav'n above adore thee;
Infinite thy vast domain,
Everlasting is thy reign.

15. O God, Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing.

Caterers

If you would like to have a luncheon after the funeral:

- Please review the list below.
- Call the establishment for prices and to place your order.
- Call the parish luncheon coordinator, Colleen at 651-738-2223 for further information.
- Alcohol is not allowed.

Below is a list of catering companies that are frequently used at Guardian Angels.

If you prefer, you can use another company who has a license for catering.

Lake Elmo Inn	651-779-5994
Tinucci's Newport	651-459-3211
HyVee Oakdale	651-714-3160
Little Oven St Paul.	651-735-4944
Olive Garden Oakdale	651-264-1447
JW's Bierstube	651-731-8381

The Minnesota Department of Health only allows food from a licensed caterer to be served at a funeral luncheon. Additional salads, desserts, etc. are not allowed per the public health policy.

Fees

	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Church fee	\$200	\$300
Clergy Honorarium	\$150	\$200
Pianist	\$175	\$175
Cantor	\$175	\$175
Administrative Fee	\$150	\$150
No funeral home	\$550	\$1,000
<i>If you don't have a funeral home, there is a charge for the additional staffing needed that day.</i>		
Peter O'Neill Hall Rental	\$200	\$300
<i>Lunch set up/clean up</i>		

Fees may be collected by the funeral home or paid directly to the church.

Make checks payable to:

Guardian Angels Catholic Church

Information for Your Planning Meeting

Date of the funeral service _____

Name of deceased _____

As you would like it to appear on the worship aid.

Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

Casket _____ Urn _____

Funeral Home _____ Cemetery _____

Primary Contact Person _____

Relationship to the deceased _____ Phone number _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Other family members _____

Slide show Yes ___ No ___ *(If yes, please bring a flash drive computer to the Parish Office a day or two before the funeral)*

Funeral Lunch Yes ___ No ___

Approximate number of people you expect to attend the service. _____

We encourage family and friends of your loved one to be involved in the funeral Mass. At this time, do you know who might want to participate? We will explain the duties of the following:

Words of Remembrance (optional) _____

Cross bearers _____

Pall Bearers / Urn carrier _____

Placement of the Pall (casket service) _____

Gift bearers (2 or 3) _____

Readings: Please refer to pages 2-9

Old Testament _____

Read by _____

Responsorial Psalm _____

New Testament _____

Read by _____

Gospel (*Read by Priest*) _____

Prayers of the Faithful (*1 or 2 Readers*) _____

Additional Prayers Would you like to add a prayer or two? If so, what would you like to add?

Music - Please refer to pages 12-13

Entrance Song _____

Offertory _____

Communion _____

Recessional _____

What would you like Father Joe to know about your loved one?
