

# FUNERAL GUIDE



**SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
8011 Douglas at Colgate, Dallas, Texas 75225  
214-363-5471      [www.saintmichael.org](http://www.saintmichael.org)



## **Christian Burial**

A Christian burial service is a difficult yet reverent mix of sadness and joy. We acknowledge the pain of loss and grief, but we are confident in the promise of God that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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” (Rom 8:38-39). Consequently, the liturgy for the dead is properly an Easter liturgy: it finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too shall be raised.

Such joy, however, does not make grief unchristian. Quite the contrary, our grief is an expression of our love. 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 (John 11:35). 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.

At the time of death, people turn to the church for rituals which allow them to recognize their loss, express their grief, remember and give thanks for the life of the one who has died, mark the end of relationships which exist in this life, allow them to seek strength and comfort in their faith, and provide dignity and meaning to the end of life. The rites of the church are appropriate at several junctures in the passage from life into death. Long before death is a reality, the church can help people plan for the funeral and address other issues and concerns. Near the point of death, the church can be present in ministry to the dying person and his or her family and friends. After death, there is the funeral service and committal of the body to a final resting place.

At Saint Michael, our clergy, staff, and lay volunteers will do all that we can to provide a fitting and meaning-filled funeral for your loved one. We recognize that, upon the death of one we love, there are many arrangements to be made and concerns to be settled. Therefore, we strive to make your experience here as easy and well-supported as possible.

### **At the Time of Death**

Please call 214-363-5471 to report a death. If you call after business hours you will be directed to press 1 for the Priest on Call, who is available 24 hours a day, and is the most direct way to receive pastoral care at the time of death. The Priest on Call will make preliminary arrangements and contact the staff. The Worship & Liturgy Department will assist you with planning your loved one's service.

### **About the Service**

The principal purpose of a burial service is to offer thanks to God for the life of the deceased, and to commend the deceased and those who mourn to the mercy and care of God. Thus, burial services are chiefly acts of worship, and as such are part of the wider worship and life of the congregation. The Book of Common Prayer assumes the remains will be present for the service (either casket or urn), but a memorial service (without casket or urn) is also possible.

### **The Pall**

The Book of Common Prayer prescribes that the coffin or urn be covered with a pall (an embroidered cloth provided by Saint Michael) during the service. The use of the pall symbolizes a great truth at the heart of the church's ministry: that we are all equal in God's sight. Over the years, a pall has covered the remains of the celebrated and the unknown, each of whom is loved by God. If flowers or a flag is covering the casket when it arrives in the narthex, the Altar Guild respectfully removes the covering for the service.

## **Flowers**

After the time of the service has been set, the Flower Guild Chair will contact the family to discuss floral options and vendors for the altar flowers. No extra adornment of flowers, pictures, or mementoes are allowed in the narthex or any worship space; they may be placed in the space reserved for the reception. If the family wishes the altar to be bare with no flowers at all, that is also an option. Funeral flowers remain in the church after the service.

## **Music**

Music makes a significant contribution to the richness and meaning of any service. An organist will be assigned to the service by the Music Department, and additional musicians (vocalists or instrumentalists) may be recruited as needed. All music offered during burial services must be sacred music (i.e., written for Christian worship), and should be from any of three hymnals approved for use in the Episcopal Church (i.e., The Hymnal 1982, Wonder, Love, and Praise, and/or Lift Every Voice and Sing II). Listed later in this document are suitable hymns that are especially appropriate for burials.

## **Scripture**

Burial services generally include three principal readings from the Bible: one from the Old Testament, one from the Epistles, and one from the Gospels. A reading from the Psalms may follow either the first and/or second reading(s), and these may be read by a lector or said by the congregation. A member of the family or friend of the deceased may be appointed to read any or all of the lessons except the Gospel. Selections or readings from sources other than the Bible are discouraged. Listed later in this document are suitable readings that are especially appropriate for burials.

## **Homily**

Following the reading of the Gospel lesson, a homily (a brief sermon) is preached by one of the officiating clergy. The homily grows both out of the lessons chosen for the service and the life of the deceased. In the service, we come together before God with our grief, our questions, our hopes, and our most valued feelings as Christians. Thus, to bring together the life of the deceased with the hope of the church, it is especially important for family members and friends to share with the officiating clergy those aspects of the deceased's life that reflected the image of God in the world and for which family and friends give thanks.

A brief reflection (no longer than five minutes) may be offered by a pre-arranged family member or friend. The best reflections are written in advance and help those gathered to remember the best character qualities of the deceased—the ways in which the person helped family and friends see God's love and grace.

## **Guest Clergy**

A member of the clergy who was particularly well known to the deceased and/or the family may be invited to participate in the service. However, all such invitations require the permission of the Worship & Liturgy Department, and may require the permission of the Bishop. Families are encouraged not to issue any invitations to clergy not serving at Saint Michael until they have consulted with the Worship & Liturgy Department.

## Attending the Family

Approximately 30 to 45 minutes prior to the service, family and close friends are asked to gather in the Parlor. After being greeted by the officiating clergy, they will be conducted to the front seats of the sanctuary by the officiating clergy or a verger. At the conclusion of the service, family and friends are escorted out, in advance of the congregation's departure. On occasion, a family may choose to process down the middle aisle behind the casket or cremains.

## Saint Michael and All Angels Courtyard Columbarium

Saint Michael and All Angels offers columbarium niches, green interment, and Memorial Wall plaques for past and present communicants of the parish. Columbarium niches are available at two price levels: \$6,000 for a double and \$4,000 for a single. The price includes an urn and memorial plaque engraved and mounted on the niche. Green interment is available for those wishing their remains to be buried: \$1,000 includes an engraved plaque. Memorial Wall spaces are available for those whose remains rest elsewhere: \$500 includes an engraved plaque. To schedule an appointment to discuss your interest in any of these options, contact Melisa Bray (214-692-3007/mbray@saintmichael.org).

## Pre-planning a Funeral

Saint Michael and All Angels offers the opportunity to pre-plan a funeral service. If you are interested in pre-planning a funeral, please contact the Rev. David Faulkner (214-365-3506/dfaulkner@saintmichael.org) to schedule an appointment.

## Elements of the Liturgy

Burial service (with body/cremains)	Memorial service (without body/cremains)
Rite I (traditional language)	Rite II (contemporary language)
With Communion	Without Communion
Interment	

## Scripture Selections

Up to four readings (one from each category) may be chosen.

[Online link to lessons listed below](#)

Please use individual link for the Ecclesiastes lesson

### Old Testament

Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)  
Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in forever)  
Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)  
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)  
Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)  
[Ecclesiastes 3:1-8](#) (For everything there is a season)

### Psalms

23, 27, 42: 1-7, 46, 90: 1-12, 106: 1-5, 116, 121, 130, 139: 1-11

## Epistles

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)  
I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)  
II Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)  
I John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)  
Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)  
Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

For a service with Holy Eucharist, a passage from the Gospel is included and read by the clergy.

## Gospel

John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)  
John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to me)  
John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)  
John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)  
John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)

## Hymns

[online link to Hymns listed below](#)

180 He is risen	482 Lord of all hopefulness
182 Christ is alive	516 Come down, O love divine
293 I sing a song of the saints of God	541 Come, labor on
304 I come with joy	618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones
335 I am the bread of life	620 Jerusalem, my happy home
362 Holy, holy, holy	645 The King of love
376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee	657 Love divine, all loves excelling
383 Fairest Lord Jesus	671 Amazing grace
390 Praise to the Lord	680 O God, our help in ages past
410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven	688 A mighty fortress is our God
439 What wondrous love	690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
473 Lift high the cross	

## Fees

Prior to the burial service the family will be invoiced the total amount payable to Saint Michael.

Floral and catering fees will be payed directly to the vendors.

All fees are subject to change.

Organist	\$250
Soloist/Instrumentalist	\$150 minimum

One of the Saint Michael organists will play for the service, and a cantor will help lead the singing. Professional musicians (instrumentalists and/or vocalists) may be hired by the church at your request. Saint Michael does not normally allow amateur musicians to sing or play at funerals. Any exceptions must be discussed with and approved by the Director of Music.

Pew Torches \$100

Printed Order of Service \$100 Trifold/no charge Card

There are two options: a simple card with the order of service or a tri-fold bulletin that will include the text for the liturgy. Because of the nature of the liturgy and the amount of space available on the printed page, there is no alteration to the bulletin. Any pictures, obituaries, poems, etc., may be printed by the family and be available during the reception.

Audio/Video/Livestream \$500

Services in the main sanctuary may be live-streamed or recorded. Services in Saint Michael Chapel may be recorded, but cannot be live-streamed. An online link to recorded services will be provided 36-48 hours after the service concludes.

Clergy Honorarium \$150-\$300

Honoraria for clergy are voluntary and not expected, and are entirely at the discretion of the family. Payment is made directly to the clergy.

Altar Flowers Floral arrangement costs vary

A member of the Flower Guild will contact you to answer any floral questions you may have and to send you the approved florists' contact information. The minimum cost for the two arrangements in the church is \$700 and the minimum cost for the Chapel is \$300. These prices are subject to flowers selected. The Altar Flowers are the only floral arrangements that can be placed in the worship spaces. Floral arrangements received from the community will be placed in the Parlor.

**Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church**

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