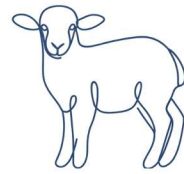




The Parish of



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

Dear Family in Mourning,

Please accept my deepest and heartfelt sympathy as you grieve the loss of your beloved family member. During this difficult time, please know that you and your loved ones are remembered in our prayers, and that our parish community is here to accompany you with compassion, faith, and hope.

As you prepare to celebrate the **Mass of Christian Burial**, we are grateful for your assistance in helping us prepare a meaningful and prayerful celebration that honors the life of your loved one and entrusts them to the loving mercy of God.

Family members and friends are welcome to participate in the Mass as **lectors, gift bearers, pallbearers, and cantors**. One family member or friend may also offer **words of remembrance** before the beginning of Mass. Guidelines for preparing these words are included in this document.

The next of kin will be invited to select the **Scripture readings and funeral hymns** for the celebration. Additional information and guidance for making these selections are included in this document.

Please know that you do not have to navigate this time alone. If you have any questions or need assistance as you prepare for the Funeral Mass, please contact our parish office at **(203) 637-3661**. We are here to walk with you and your family during this time of loss and to support you with our prayers and pastoral care.

May the Lord comfort you with His peace, strengthen you with His love, and surround your family with His presence and hope.

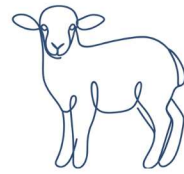
Fr. Michael Dunn

Pastor

**The Parish of St. Catherine
of Siena & St. Agnes**



The Parish of



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

Funeral Guidelines

Section I: General Information and Fees

We offer our prayers and pastoral support to families during this difficult time. The following guidelines are intended to help families understand the arrangements and procedures for celebrating a funeral at St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes Parish.

Funeral Scheduling

Funerals are not permitted on Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, or during Holy Week on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

The main church has a capacity of approximately 600 people, while the chapel has a capacity of approximately 60 people.

Funeral Pall

Upon arrival at the church, the **Funeral Pall**, a large, blanket-like vestment, is placed over the casket. The Pall replaces the use of a flag or flowers on the casket and recalls the **baptismal garment**, reminding us of the deceased's Baptism and hope of eternal life in Christ.

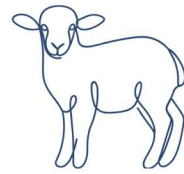
Family members or friends may assist with placing the Pall and carrying the casket, with the assistance and direction of the funeral director.

Prayer Service at the Wake

Unless there is a scheduling conflict, the priest who celebrates the Funeral Mass will also lead a **simple prayer service at the wake**, usually immediately before the calling hours begin.



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Cremation

Cremation is permitted by the Catholic Church. When cremation is chosen, the **cremated remains (cremains) should be properly interred** in a cemetery, mausoleum, or other approved sacred place.

Livestream

A **livestream of the Funeral Mass** is available upon request for a fee of **\$100**. Please contact the parish office in advance to make arrangements.

Floral Arrangements

Floral arrangements may be placed:

- In front of the lectern
- Centered in front of the altar
- On either side in front of the altar

Nothing should be placed on the altar itself.

Donation

- **Suggested Donation for the Sacrament** \$450
- **Organist:** \$300
- **Cantor:** \$250
- **Livestream:** \$100

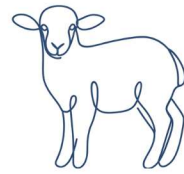
Payment Information

If paying the **by check**, please make the check payable to:

Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes



The Parish of



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA AND ST. AGNES

If you prefer to pay the **online**, please use the following link:

<https://www.osvhub.com/stc-sta/forms/funeral-suggested-donation>

Please note that the **organist and cantor are paid separately**. A separate check should be prepared for each of them and given to them on the day of the Funeral Mass.

Please contact the **parish secretary** in advance to obtain the names of the organist and cantor assigned to the Funeral Mass so that the checks can be prepared correctly.

Section II: Words of Remembrance (Eulogy)

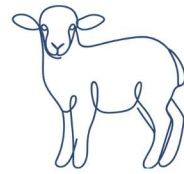
Strictly speaking, a “eulogy” is not a Catholic practice. It focuses primarily on sharing fond memories and stories about the deceased. The Catholic Church does not permit eulogies during the funeral. However, it is permitted to share some “words of remembrance”.

The bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport enforces strict rules about what is allowed as words of remembrance at a funeral. If you wish to have words of remembrance, you are asked to observe the following:

- Only one person may deliver the words of remembrance.
- The words will be delivered at the beginning of Mass.
- The words must be written down.
- The words must be limited to 3-4 minutes (approximately 250-300 words).
- The words must be appropriate for church.



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- The words must focus on the life of faith of the deceased. A broader sharing of memories should be saved for the wake or the reception after the funeral.

Please give these directions to the person delivering the words of remembrance.

Section III: Music

Our Music Director, Dr. Liya Petrides, is a skilled organist who plays and coordinates the music at all funerals in the parish. You should contact her as soon as your funeral date is firmly established with the parish. You can reach her at (203) 637-3661, ext. 322 or Music.Director@stc-sta.org. Dr. Petrides will send you information about musical choices and hiring additional musicians as needed.

The Music Director's fee is \$300 and should be paid directly to her. This fee includes her playing the organ for the ceremony, as well as helping to plan and coordinate. A parish cantor must be hired for an additional fee of \$250. Fees for the organist, musicians, and cantors are arranged directly with these individuals, and payment should be given directly to them.

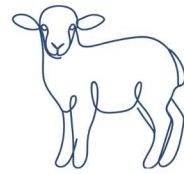
Both the Music Director and the Cantor shall have the right of first refusal to serve and shall receive their regular fees, provided they are available for the service. If you choose to include outside musicians, our parish music director and cantor are still entitled to their regular fees. The exception would be if the outside musicians were close family of the deceased, or the parish musicians are unavailable for the service.

If you would like to hire musicians from outside the parish or include family members or friends as musicians for the funeral, you will need the approval of the music director. You will also need to review the music they would like to play/sing with the music director and/or pastor.

Outside organists and cantors must be experienced Roman Catholic church musicians.



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All musicians are required to follow the parish guidelines to celebrate the liturgy. Any visiting musician responsible for leading the funeral music (usually an organist or pianist) should be familiar with the parts of the liturgy that are sung by the assembly. Secular (non-religious) songs and playing recorded music are not permitted at the service.

For a Funeral mass, you may choose four hymns: the processional hymn (opening), the offertory hymn, the communion hymn, and the recessional hymn (closing). You may also choose the responsorial psalm.

Below is a list of suggested songs, if any song you wish to hear any not on this list, please discuss with the music director.

Opening or Closing Hymns

All Creatures of Our God and King

Amazing Grace

Be Not Afraid

Here I Am, Lord

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Morning Has Broken

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

On Eagle's Wings

Sing With All the Saints in Glory

Responsorial Psalms

In You, Lord, I Have Found My Peace

My Soul is Thirsting

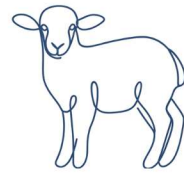
Shepherd Me, O God

The Lord is My Light

The Lord is My Shepherd



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Offertory Hymns

Ave Maria

Christ Be Our Light

Here I Am, Lord

How Great Thou Art

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Pie Jesu

Prayer of St. Francis

You Are Mine

You Are Near

Communion Hymns

Behold the Lamb

Be Not Afraid

Eye Has Not Seen

I Am the Bread of Life

Panis Angelicus

Shepherd of Souls

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

You Are Mine.

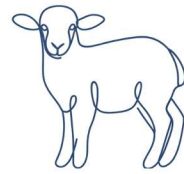
Section IV: Readings

You may choose three readings: one from the Old Testament, another from the New Testament and a third from the Gospel, options are outlined below. Family members or friends may read the first two readings (the Old and New Testament readings), and the priest will read the Gospel. Inform the readers that the readings will be placed on the pulpit, so they need not bring a copy with them.

Once you have selected your readings and readers, please fill out the Reading Selections



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form on the Funerals page of our website.

Please note: the First Reading should come from the New Testament during the Easter season, options are outlined below.

First Reading- Old Testament Selections

1. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46
2. Job 19:1, 23-27a
3. Wisdom 3:1-9 (long form) or Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (short form)
4. Wisdom 4:7-15
5. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9
6. Lamentations 3:17-26
7. Daniel 12:1-3

First Reading Selections during Easter Time

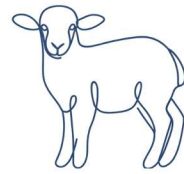
1. Acts 10:34-43 (long form) or Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 (short form)
2. Revelation 14:13
3. Revelation 20:11-12:1
4. Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

Second Reading- New Testament Selections

1. Romans 5:1-11
2. Romans 5:17-21
3. Romans 6:3-9 (long form) or Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 (short form)
4. Romans 8:14-23
5. Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
6. Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12
7. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (long form) or 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (short form)
8. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57



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9. 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

10. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

11. Philippians 3:20-21

12. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13. 2 Timothy 2:8-13

14. 1 John 3:1-2

15. 1 John 3:14-16

Gospel Reading Selections

1. Matthew 5:1-12a

2. Matthew 11:25-30

3. Matthew 25:1-13

4. Matthew 25:31-46

5. Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6 (long form) or Mark 15:33-39 (short form)

6. Luke 7:11-17

7. Luke 12:35-40

8. Luke 23:33, 39-43

9. Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a (long form) or Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53 (short form)

10. Luke 24:13-35 (long form) or Luke 24:13-16, 28-35 (short form)

11. John 5:24-29

12. John 6:37-40

13. John 6:51-58

14. John 11:17-27 (long form) or John 11:21-27 (short form)

15. John 11:32-45

16. John 12:23-28 (long form) or John 12:23-26 (short form)

17. John 14:1-6

18. John 17:24-26

19. John 19:17-18, 25-39