

# Church of the Assumption

Ansonia, Connecticut

## The Rite of Christian Burial (Funeral Mass)

We would like you to actively participate in the preparation of the Funeral Mass and during the Funeral Mass as well. There are several different choices you have during the course of the Mass.

- 1. Placing of the Pall on the Casket.** At the beginning of the Mass, the body of your loved one is welcomed into the church where his or her casket is sprinkled with holy water and clothed with a white pall, a large covering reminiscent of the white garment which was received at baptism. Friends or family members may place the funeral pall on the coffin if they wish to do so. If family or friends wish to place the funeral pall on the coffin, please indicate that on the planning sheet.
- 2. Selection of the Readings.** During the funeral Mass, there are three readings: one from the Old Testament, one from a New Testament Epistle; and one from a New Testament Gospel. Several different choices are indicated on the planning sheet; please choose one from each category. You may have family members or friends read the first and second reading. (The priest or deacon will read the Gospel.) If you would like family members or friends to read, please write their name and relationship to the deceased on the planning sheet.
- 3. Someone to Read the General Intercessions.** After the homily, in the General Intercessions, we pray for the needs of the Church. If someone would like to lead us in these prayers, please write that person's name and relationship on the planning sheet.
- 4. Presentation of the Wine, Water, and Bread.** Here again, as many as three family members or friends may participate by bringing the Offertory Gifts to the altar. If family members or friends will participate, please indicate their names and relationship on the planning sheet.
- 5. A Eulogy.** One family member or friend is permitted to eulogize the deceased person. This takes place after Communion. If a family member or friend wishes to offer a eulogy, please indicate his or her name and relationship on the funeral planning sheet. This eulogy should be written out and last no longer than five to seven minutes. **Only one eulogy may be given.**
- 6. Music.** Music is an important part of any funeral Mass. You may choose up to four hymns which will be sung during the Mass. Please check the hymns listed on the planning form which you would like. The organist will place the order of the songs. Please note that secular songs are not permitted during Mass.
- 7. Suggestions for the Homily.** The priest celebrating your loved one's funeral liturgy would appreciate any suggestions you might have as he prepares his homily for the funeral. Do you have some stories or reflections to share with the priest? This is particularly important if no one is going to deliver a eulogy. Please write your reflections or stories on the reverse side of the planning form.