

# In the Loss of a Loved One

*A Guide To Funeral Planning At  
St. Paul's Church in Downtown Syracuse.*





# Advance Preparation



While death comes to us all, the death of a loved one can be an emotional and difficult time.

At St. Paul's Church we encourage our members to prepare in advance to make this inevitable stage of life as easy as possible for those who remain and those who have responsibility for carrying out your wishes.

This means reviewing your financial position and consulting an attorney about any estate planning or distribution options that may be yours.

This means looking at the Burial Rite in the Book of Common Prayer (pages 468-489 for Rite 1 and pages 490-505 for Rite II) and meeting with our clergy about choices you can make concerning how the church will celebrate your life.



This means having conversations with your family about end-of-life decisions and sharing your desires and wishes with those whom you trust and those whom you will empower to act on your behalf.

The clergy at St. Paul's Episcopal Church consider it a privilege to assist you in any way we can, not only to make advance preparation, but also to walk with you and your family through the various stages leading to one's death and afterwards.



# At the Time of Death

To receive special prayers (referred to in some traditions as Last Rites) as the time of death approaches, please contact the clergy at St. Paul's.

The Litany at the Time of Death is an order of prayers and blessings that can be adapted to fit all situations and even repeated when a situation, for the sake of family peace or individual comfort warrants it.

Praying this Litany does not require certainty regarding when death will occur. When these special prayers and blessings are requested, clergy persons in consultation with the family will determine what approach is best.



# A Pre-Burial Vigil

Following death, family members sometime request an opportunity (often held at the funeral home) for family and friends to gather and, if desired, grant a final visitation and viewing of the loved one who has passed on.

St. Paul's clergy welcome the opportunity to offer a Vigil of Remembrance at the conclusion of such visitations. This vigil is a brief recitation of prayers and petitions to God for the one who has died as well as those who remain behind.



# Burial

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to and arrangements for the funeral made in consultation with the Rector.

Because we recognize that all persons contacting the church about a death may not be Christians, Episcopalians, or familiar with how to plan a service celebrating the life of their loved one, clergy and church staff work very closely with the designated family representative to plan a service that honors the individual and respects the family and friends while remaining true to the understanding of death and dying that arises out of Christian tradition.





The Book of Common Prayer (page 507) describes our perspective on the burial rite:

*The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.*

*The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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."*

*This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. 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. 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.*



# Basic Considerations

**Burial Rite** The Book of Common Prayer offers two orders of service for burial.

The Rite II service uses modern language and permits a personalization of the service that the Rite I liturgy does not allow. We strongly encourage use of the Rite II service, particularly if the service will be attended by persons unfamiliar with the Episcopal tradition.

The Rite I service uses Elizabethan English.

**Coffins** Individuals and/or their families typically choose between burial, cremation and/or body donation. When a family opts for burial, certain guidelines govern the handling of a coffin inside the church building.

Open coffins are not permitted in the sanctuary or chapel. Coffins carried into the church proper may not be adorned with floral sprays. All coffins are covered with a linen pall (or flag as appropriate) before being brought into the church proper.

The use of a pall signifies the equality each individual has in the eyes of God.

**Music** The Organist & Choirmaster of St. Paul's Church, works with the clergy and family to suggest and determine any music selections to be used during the service.





# Basic Considerations

## Flowers

Because the burial rite is an Easter liturgy focusing upon the resurrection as opposed to the death of an individual and because Episcopalians strive to uphold the truth of all persons being equal in the eyes of God, at St. Paul's Church we only allow two floral arrangements inside the sanctuary or chapel during a burial service (two single vase altar arrangements). The family may want to consider designating an organization or cause to which donations may be made in lieu of flowers.

## Committal

Clergy will accompany the family to the place of interment and perform a brief committal service.

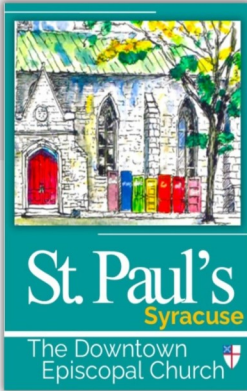
If necessary, or if desired, all or part of the service of Committal (Book of Common Prayer, page 484 or 501) may be said in the church.

If preferred, the Committal may take place before a memorial service in the church. The Committal service may also be used prior to cremation.

## Reception

Sometimes families want to offer light refreshments to those who travel and gather to celebrate the life of their loved one. St. Paul's is able to host post burial service, unless Covid-19 protocols don't allow receptions to take place.

The Brewster Room comfortably can accommodate about 40 persons. The Hanson Dining Room can accommodate much larger groups. Our narthex (church rear foyer) can accommodate many more although seating in the immediate area is limited.



# Funeral Fees

## ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE



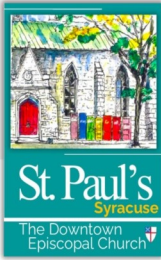
- \$250 Priest
- \$250 Organist
- \$100 Soloist
- \$100 Flowers & Altar Supplies
- \$125 Administrative Fee
- \$1.00 ea Color Leaflets
- \$75 Live Streaming of the Service
- \$25 per hour Security (min 4 hours)
- \$75-400 Reception (note: if the reception is held at St. Paul's, we ask that you make a donation based on the number of people and type of food.)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

220 East Fayette St (Street Address) 310 Montgomery St (Mailing Address)

Syracuse, NY 13202

[www.stpaulsyr.org](http://www.stpaulsyr.org) 315 474-6053



# Funeral Planning Form

## ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE

- \$250 Priest
- \$250 Organist
- \$100 Soloist
- \$100 Flowers & Altar Supplies
- \$125 Administrative Fee

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Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Funeral or Memorial: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Calling Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Leaflets: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral with Casket  Funeral w/ Cremains  Memorial

Flowers (colors/type): \_\_\_\_\_

Reception Y/N: What Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Expected: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Priest: \_\_\_\_\_ Organist: \_\_\_\_\_ Soloist: \_\_\_\_\_

Security: \_\_\_\_\_ Streaming: \_\_\_\_\_

### Notifications

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Priest             | <input type="radio"/> Community Fellowship |
| <input type="radio"/> Organist           | <input type="radio"/> Ushers               |
| <input type="radio"/> Operations Manager | <input type="radio"/> Security             |
| <input type="radio"/> Flower Committee   | <input type="radio"/> Streaming Tech       |
| <input type="radio"/> Altar Guild        | <input type="radio"/> Parish Assistant     |



**St. Paul's**  
Syracuse  
The Downtown  
Episcopal Church

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Offices open: Tuesdays/ Wednesdays 9am to 4pm