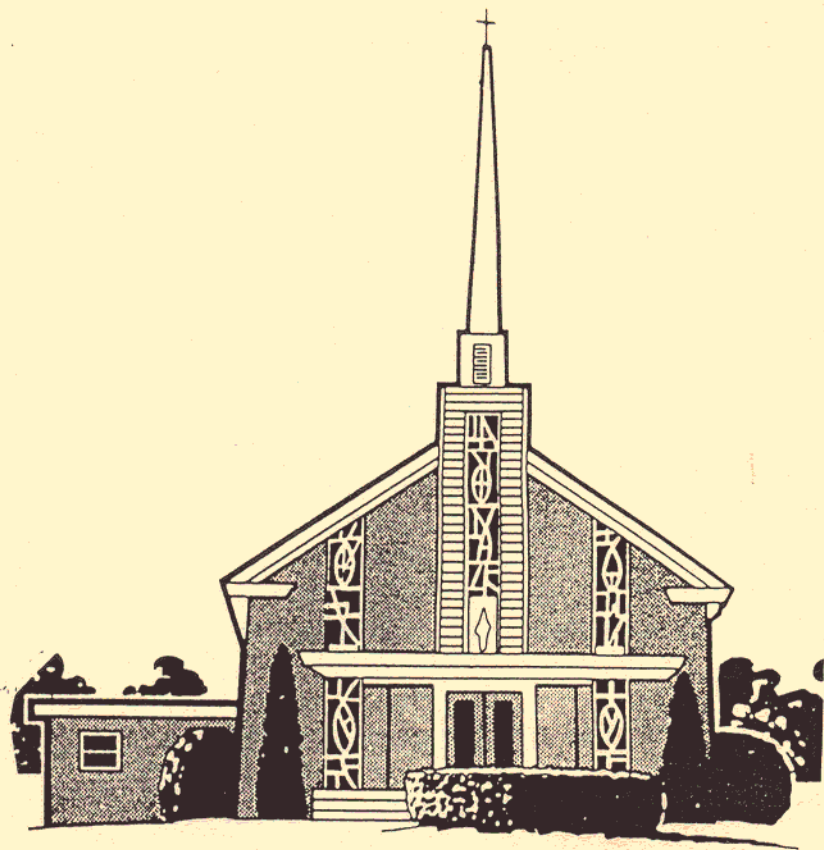


**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA  
FUNERAL GUIDE**



**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH  
243 ROUTE 164  
PRESTON, CT 06365  
887-9966**

The Pastor, Staff and Bereavement Ministry of St. Catherine of Siena Church are available to assist you in preparing the funeral for your loved one. The church divides the funeral into three components: The Vigil, the Funeral Liturgy (Mass), and the Rite of Committal (graveside prayers).

## **THE VIGIL**

The Vigil is usually celebrated at the funeral home during the wake. The parish priest, along with members of the Bereavement Ministry gather together with members of the family in prayer to our God of mercy and to find strength in Christ's presence. The proclamation of the word of God is the high point and central focus of the Vigil. It also includes a prayer of intercession, the Lord's Prayer, and a concluding prayer. The Vigil ends with a blessing bestowed upon all present.

## **THE FUNERAL LITURGY: MASS**

The funeral Mass is held in the parish church.

The family may participate as much or as little as they feel comfortable doing. Family members may do the following:

Place the pall on the casket.

The pall is the white cloth that is placed over the casket as it is brought into the church (except for cremation).

Choose the scripture readings.

The readings are passages from the Old Testament, Psalms and the New Testament. The readings that are chosen may be read by family members or friends. The priest will proclaim the gospel.

Offer the General Intercessions.

Prayers of remembrance are offered for the deceased and the grieving family members, along with General Intercessions for all the faithful.

Presentation of the gifts at the Offertory.

The gifts of bread and wine are carried up to the priest.

Give a eulogy or remembrance.

A member of the family or a family friend may wish to speak in remembrance of the deceased.

Sprinkle the casket with Holy Water at the end of the Liturgy.

Holy water is used again as you leave the church as a sign of farewell (except for cremation).

Choose the music to be sung/played by the organist.

Music is selected from the hymnals in the church or other selections chosen in accordance with the organist.

## **RITE OF COMMITTAL**

The rite of committal, the conclusion of the funeral rites, is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member. In committing the body to its final resting place, the community expresses the hope that, with all those who have gone before marked with the sign of faith, the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection.

This concludes the three-part funeral liturgy

## **FUNERAL RECEPTION**

The Bereavement Ministry is available to assist you with the reception following the Funeral Mass and burial.

This reception can be held in Siena Hall or in your home.

We will provide the baked goods, coffee, tea, cold drinks, paper goods and are available to serve and clean-up. Information is available about caterers and/or quantities of foods to purchase.

Members of the Bereavement Ministry are also available to house sit, baby-sit and provide assistance with transportation as needed.

If requested, a member of our Bereavement Ministry will be in contact with you to assist your family with the funeral reception.

## PLANNING THE LITURGY

Please use the following as a guide to your participation.

Placing the Pall \_\_\_\_\_Y\_\_\_\_N

Placed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose Scripture Readings

\_\_\_\_Y\_\_\_\_N

Selected from "Through Death to Life" by  
Champlin

Old Testament Selection \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm \_\_\_\_\_Y\_\_\_\_N

Sung by the choir or

Read by \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament Selection \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Offer General Intercessions

\_\_\_\_Y\_\_\_\_N

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Eulogy or Remembrance      \_\_\_ Y \_\_\_ N

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Sprinkling of Holy Water      \_\_\_ Y \_\_\_ N

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Music Selections:**

Entrance Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Offertory Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional \_\_\_\_\_