

# Funerals at St. Paul's Episcopal Church – Brady, TX

Funerals at St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Brady, Texas, are conducted in accordance with *The Book of Common Prayer 1979*. Funeral liturgies at St. Paul's are reserved for communicants in good standing and, in some cases, immediate family members. St. Paul's clergy, staff, and laity are not able to accommodate non-member funerals on the St. Paul's campus. Subject to availability, a clergy person could be available to officiate a limited portion of the burial office at a funeral home and/or gravesite. The Rector is the final authority in all matters.

## Concerning the Service

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

Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has the opportunity to be present.

The coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter. It is appropriate that it be covered with a pall or other suitable covering.

If necessary, or if desired, all or part of the service of Committal may be said in the church. If preferred, the Committal service may take place before the service in the church. It may also be used prior to cremation.

A priest normally presides at the service. It is appropriate that the bishop, when present, preside at the Eucharist and pronounce the Commendation.

It is desirable that the Lesson from the Old Testament, and the Epistle, be read by lay persons approved by the Rector.

When the services of a priest cannot be obtained, a deacon or lay reader may preside at the service.

At the burial of a child, the passages from Lamentations, 1 John and John 6, together with Psalm 23, are recommended.

It is customary that the celebrant meets the body and goes before it into the church or towards the grave.

The anthems at the beginning of the service are sung or said as the body is borne into the church, or during the entrance of the ministers, or by the celebrant standing in the accustomed place.

It is suggested that no flowers be brought into the body of the church except those designated for the altar. Alternatively to flowers, friends and family of the deceased should be encouraged to contribute to a charity or some fund of the parish.

Pictures of the deceased are not allowed in the sanctuary or nave during the liturgy.

Fraternal or other organizational rites are not added to, or mingled with, the services of the church. If such a service is desired, it should precede the church service. The vigil would be a good time for these rites if it is held at the funeral home or in a private home. The fraternal meeting place is another appropriate location.

# Funeral Planning Guide

## Critical Information

Full Name of Deceased (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Funeral \_\_\_\_\_

Site of Burial \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Funeral \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Funeral \_\_\_\_\_

Reception Location \_\_\_\_\_

Caterer \_\_\_\_\_ (if at St. Paul's)

No. of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ (if at St. Paul's)

## Additional Contact Information

Primary Family Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Director \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Arrangements Prepared by:

Family Member's/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Rector's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Funeral Planning Continued

### The Liturgy of the Word

Please note: readings may not be shortened or substituted. The Prayer Book liturgy does not make provisions for any non-scriptural readings

**1. From the Old Testament (choose one)**

Lector Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
- 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)
- Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

**2. A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow. The following Psalms are appropriate:**

- 42:1-7
- 46
- 90:1-12
- 121
- 130
- 139:1-11

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. From the New Testament (choose one)**

Lector Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
- 2 Corinthians 4:16—5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
- 1 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)

**4. A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow. The following Psalms are appropriate:**

- 23
- 27
- 106:1-5
- 116

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. The Gospel (choose one)**

*(read by the clergy)*

- 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)

**The Homily** (clergy) \_\_\_\_\_

*In the Episcopal Church, eulogies are discouraged because of how we understand the purpose of the funeral. The funeral is the place to lift the deceased up to God and to cast our cares at God’s feet. In short, the funeral is all about where God is in the midst of death and mourning.*

*Exceptions can be made by the Rector for extreme pastoral reasons. Multiple speakers are not allowed. It is appropriate to make time and space available for friends to share their experiences of the deceased since this is a healthy and healing activity. A luncheon or reception following the funeral is well suited for this.*

**The Eucharist**  Yes  No

**Hymns** (in consultation with Rector)

---



---



---

**Graveside Committal**  Yes  No

**Interment**  Yes  No

# Office Funeral Checklist

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Funeral Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Prior to Service

- \_\_\_\_\_ Give priest a copy of funeral planning guide
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check church calendar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule service prep meeting w/ family
- \_\_\_\_\_ Notify Altar Guild
- \_\_\_\_\_ Notify Musician
- \_\_\_\_\_ Notify Sexton
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact LEM's & other altar party members if needed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Draft / edit bulletins
- \_\_\_\_\_ Print bulletins
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare records book to be signed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check all names w/ source of authority

## Day of Service

- \_\_\_\_\_ Lock/unlock doors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Connect with family
- \_\_\_\_\_ Connect with altar party
- \_\_\_\_\_ Collect Checks
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sign record book
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Info

LEM(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_

Pallbearers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_