



## Funeral Procedures

The passing of a loved one, whether sudden or long-expected, is difficult. The St Mary Anne's clergy and parish find it to be a privilege to offer our prayers, comfort and pastoral support, to those who experience bereavement. We often open our doors to hold funeral ceremonies to celebrate the lives of those that have passed. The pastoral care of this Christian community is extended to all, without regard to your previous participation in this church.

If we are contacted at or near the time of death our Rector, Fr. John Schaeffer, will make every effort to join loved ones for prayer and anointing. This may take place at home, in the hospital, or a care facility. Following prayer and conversation, the Rector will assist the family in planning the service arrangements, and will speak with the Funeral Director to coordinate the details.

Fr. John requests to be notified as soon as possible after the death occurs. Then, the family and he, along with the Funeral Director, will determine the best day and time for the funeral service. Fr. John Schaeffer can be reached at 410.287.5522 or [fatherjohn@stmaryanne.org](mailto:fatherjohn@stmaryanne.org)

Prior to burial, a funeral liturgy may be held at St. Mary Anne's. The Christian Burial Service comes from *The Book of Common Prayer*, and includes prayers of the church for the departed and for those who grieve. There are readings from scripture, a homily (sermon), and a Commendation (a prayer which asks God to receive the deceased in mercy). If desired, the service may include Holy Communion. The service may also include hymns with organ or piano accompaniment.

After the service, the Rector may accompany the family to a local cemetery to conduct graveside prayers of Committal.

Families may choose to have a Memorial Service, in addition to or instead of the traditional service. This service also comes from *The Book of Common Prayer*. A Memorial Service is often scheduled to meet the needs of the family, and can occur days or weeks later.

### Fees:

- Funeral church fees for *active church members* are waived, but it is customary for gifts and Honoria to be presented to the church and to the officiating clergy.

Please Note: The organist fee (\$250.00) is not waived.

- Funeral church fees for *non-church members* are:

\$200.00 for the use of the church; \$300.00 for the clergy; \$250.00 for the organist

**Parish Hall Receptions:** Our Parish Hall may be available for a funeral or memorial reception. The Rector can discuss availability and costs at the time of the planning.

**Burials:** Please visit our website to review our guidelines for our churchyard and memorial garden