



Funeral Policies

We welcome your inquiry concerning funeral services at All Saints Episcopal Church. The information below presents our policies and procedures for a funeral in The Episcopal Church tradition. You are encouraged to read it carefully, and if you have questions or are interested in arranging a funeral at All Saints, please call the parish office.

When Death Occurs

If at all possible, a clergy person should be notified when a person is near death in order that the ministrations of the Church may be provided. When death occurs, the parish office should be called at once. All arrangements for the funeral must be made only in consultation with the Priest.

The Funeral Service

The funeral service 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" (Romans 8:38-39). This joy, however, does not make human grief un-Christian. So, while we rejoice that the one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we join in sorrow and sympathy with those who mourn (Book of Common Prayer, pg. 507).

Since the Episcopal funeral service is a service of worship, it is properly held in a church, unless considerations of space prohibit. The Church and its services are available to all. All Saints Episcopal Church uses the Book of Common Prayer for its funeral services. Though eulogies, or remembrances, are not typically a part of the Episcopal funeral liturgy, we understand that they can play an important role in comforting those who are grieving. With the permission of the priest, we do allow up to 2 people to deliver brief remembrances of the deceased. Each should be no more than 3-5 minutes, and not be a detailed litany of life achievements. Rather they should tell a story, or paint in broad strokes a picture of the joy of life and the Christian hope in death. This will be followed by a brief homily delivered by the officiating priest.

All Saints Episcopal Church Funeral Policies

Only the Priest is authorized to make funeral plans with the family and perform the funeral service. The Priest has complete authority over the contents and conduct of the service, authorizes the date and time of service, and which church property space may be used. No funeral services will be conducted at the church when the Priest is unavailable or out of town, or if it conflicts with other previously scheduled church events. The church will provide printed programs to aid the congregants in following the service. The seating capacity in the church is around 175 people.

Pall for the Coffin

The coffin is to be closed before the service and it remains closed thereafter. A white pall to cover the coffin during the service in the church is provided by the church. This reminds us of the equality of all people before God. In the case of a veteran of the United States military, the coffin may be covered at the burial site by an American flag, if desired. Military funeral ceremonies are appropriately conducted outside the church or at the burial site.

Cremation

The Episcopal Church has no objection to cremation. The cremation may take place after the service or beforehand. The ashes may be present at the service, and blessed during the Commendation, if desired.

The Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden is designated as a place to honor the memory of deceased family members of the parish and as a quiet place for prayer and contemplation. The Memorial Garden of All Saints is open to all members of our parish family as a final resting place for cremated remains. The cost of interment is a donation of \$550, which will include the cost of the inscribed plaque. The Vestry may approve a different amount should the family of the deceased not be able to afford the suggested donation.

Ashes will be scattered on the ground or interred in the ground. Names of persons memorialized and interred in the Memorial Garden will be inscribed on a suitable plaque on the wall of the Memorial Garden, the inscription being limited to name and year(s) of birth and death. No additional plaques or markers will be permitted; nor will a grid of interment location be maintained. In addition to listing the names of persons memorialized and interred on the Memorial Plaque, a record of interments will be kept by a Memorial Garden committee as a separate part of the Parish records. Interments, of course, will also be recorded in the burial register maintained by the Parish.

Dates of Services

It is the policy of this church that funeral or memorial services not be held on Sundays and other days that conflict with church events.

Music

The music for the funeral or memorial service should generally be taken from hymnals and other sources approved by The Episcopal Church for use in worship services. More importantly, music selections should be appropriate for a funeral or memorial service. Recorded music is not permitted. The selection of all music for the service is done in consultation with the clergy. All Saints Organist/Music Director will play at all funerals or memorials with music. There is a fee for her services. Musicians requested by the family, in addition to the Organist, are welcome to participate in the service. However, they and their music selections must be approved by the Priest.

Flowers

Altar flowers at a church funeral are usually displayed as on Sundays, on the vase stands behind the Altar. Flowers are not to be placed on the coffin. Other flower arrangements may be placed in the narthex of the church for display. A memorial table may be set up in the narthex and a small

memorial table may be arranged in the front on the church, when there is no coffin or cremated remains present. The items in the church are limited to pictures and appropriate items of remembrance.

Wills

“The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses”

(Book of Common Prayer, pg. 445)

Please don't forget All Saints in your will! Clergy are willing to talk to you about the different options available for you to leave a legacy at All Saints Episcopal Church.

A “Living Will” (Advanced Care Directives) would be helpful to the doctor and to family members should one become unable to make decisions for oneself. Information regarding end-of-life issues can be obtained from the clergy.

Funeral Service Honorariums & Fees

When practical it is expected that all fees and honorariums will be paid prior to the funeral service. The fees for use of the church facilities should be made in a cash or check payable to All Saints Episcopal Church. Should these fees be prohibitive, please be in conversation with the clergy to discuss arrangements.

The fee for the priest's honorarium should be paid in cash or check payable to the priest. The honorarium for the Organist should be paid directly to them.

Use of the church (up to 100. including service booklet costs)

By members in good standing* No charge

All others \$500

Organist \$ 150

Priest's honorarium – *by donation*

Use of the parish hall

By members in good standing* No charge

All others \$ 300 (\$50-Cleaning Fee)

Receptions

Contact the office for more information regarding Receptions.

** According to the Constitution and Canons of the Church, members in good standing are those adult communicants who have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God. At All Saints we generally recognize a member in good standing to be those who regularly attend worship services, engage in the life of the parish, and are current financial contributors of record (by pledge or other identifiable contribution) to the general support of the parish.*