

Holy Saviour Parish  
407 East Main Street  
Norristown, PA 19401  
Tel: 610 275-0958 FAX: 610 275-8464

*Your Funeral Director is responsible for giving you this letter when you are making the Funeral arrangements.*

Dear friends:

First of all, we extend to you and your family our deepest sympathy over your loss. We take very seriously our responsibility for the Catholic Funerals of our people. From our experience, it might be helpful to you if we put your mind at ease concerning what will happen at Holy Saviour Parish in the upcoming days.

When a Funeral is scheduled through your Funeral Director, we immediately contact our Parish Music Director who engages one of our excellent Organists and Cantors. They are available to us so that we can provide a dignified musical accompaniment to the Funeral Liturgy. Since they perform us the service of being available for you, and since they are excellent musicians and are familiar with the Funeral Liturgy, **we ask you to please not contact any organist or singer on your own.** Likewise, we prefer that you leave the choice of hymns up to them. They will make excellent and appropriate choices, which you will be pleased with, and which will be in the spirit of the Funeral Liturgy and the Church's Liturgical Seasons.

Generally, we will contact a family member and/or meet with the family when possible. **We always make every effort to learn something about the person whose Funeral Mass we are offering, if we did not already know them through their Parish activity, and we make use of some of this information in our homily.** There are two areas in which you may choose one or other form of participation. If you wish to have readers, please go to our Parish website: [www.holysaviour.org](http://www.holysaviour.org). Click on "Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals," and go to "Funerals." Or you may pick up the copies of approved Funeral Readings at the Rectory. Return the cover sheet with your choices at least a day before the Funeral. It may be emailed or dropped in the Rectory mail slot. Please remember that readers should be practicing Catholics, old enough to read and comfortable emotionally to do so. If you do not wish to have readers, do not feel that you must, the Priest will take care of the readings.

The same is true of family members bringing up the gifts of bread and wine. You may choose two people to do this, but please let us know by indicating this on the cover sheet. Again, do not feel you must do this. *Please be sure readers are given copies of the readings beforehand, and readers and gift bearers are given "Instructions for Readers and Gift Bearers."*

According to a long standing Parish policy, eulogies are not permitted in Church.

As you know, Holy Saviour Parish has a unique identity in its pastoral care for those who speak Italian. If you wish all or part of the Funeral Mass to be celebrated in that language, please let us know in sufficient time.

La nostra parrocchia è fondata specialmente per quelli della discendenza italiana e quelli chi parlano quella bella lingua. Se voi volete una parte o tutta la messa celebrata in italiano, vi preghiamo d'esprimere questo desiderio direttamente a noi o per mezzo del vostro direttore funerale.

A special kind word to those who may not be familiar with our Funerals at Holy Saviour or who may be non-Catholics or non-practicing Catholics: *Please keep in mind that you are asking for a Catholic Funeral Liturgy at Holy Saviour Parish. The Funeral Mass is not a "memorial service" nor merely a "celebration of life." It is the Sacrifice of the Mass offered for the repose of the soul of the person who has died and for the consolation of his or her loved ones. Of course, as mentioned above, in the course of the homily we will work into our preaching the loving characteristics of the deceased. The Mass will be offered in accord with the liturgical directives of the universal Church, the archdiocese of Philadelphia and the guidelines of the particular parish, made for the common good. Also, please keep in mind that I am the only priest assigned here. As always, we will do our best to accommodate the day you wish for the Funeral, but we ask you to be understanding of the parish schedule.*

We hope that these brief informational points are helpful to you, and we hope that you understand that we share them with you as the fruit of our experience of about 75 Funerals per year. Again, our condolences and our assurance that your late, beloved will have the prayerful, dignified Funeral Liturgy he or she deserves as a faithful Catholic.

Sincerely in Our Lord,

Monsignor Sangermano  
Pastor