



# The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary

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## WHAT TO DO WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES

This parish family known as Saint Mary's is prepared to assist anyone who is facing the death of a loved one. It does not matter if those involved are members of Saint Mary's, or Episcopalians, or the manner by which the person died. As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe that each human being is created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, we view each person and each human body as sacred, simply because God chose to become human like us. Therefore, each human being deserves a funeral that is dignified and honorable.

The Episcopal Church has a beautiful and ancient burial liturgy that is founded upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ as our source of hope for life that continues beyond the grave. It allows for the celebration of the life of the deceased, while recognizing the grief and sorrow of those left behind – all in the context of our trust in the goodness of God.

### Ministration at the Time of Death

When someone you love is near death, reach out immediately to Fr. Nathan Ferrell (mobile 207-310-0268) and the Parish Office (207- 781-3366). As circumstances allow, the clergy of the parish will come to wherever you are. They will gather family and friends and offer prayers, often called the "Last Rites" of the Church, to commend your loved one to God. The clergy will also offer you practical counsel and support. This includes making arrangements for the funeral and determining the details for burial or cremation.

### What to do first after a death occurs

*"The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with, the Pastor of the Congregation. Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has opportunity to be present"* (The Book of Common Prayer, p. 468).

To notify Fr. Nathan Ferrell, our Rector and Pastor, please call his cell phone at (207) 310-0268. You do not need to hire a funeral home to prepare the body or to make arrangements. The body can be cleaned and prepared at home. And all of the funeral arrangements can be handled by our parish office. However, you will need a professional service to assist with the transport of the body to its final resting place. There are many options available to provide this service.

### The promise of resurrection even when we are grieving

When faced with the stark reality of death, it is best to let the truth of the Lord's Resurrection guide your thoughts.

*"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."*

The liturgy that we will plan together is a celebration and a thanksgiving. This is more than just a way to help grieving people feel better. We truly believe in the statement of faith behind the words. Every funeral, every memorial service, every celebration of the life of a departed loved one is an opportunity for us to celebrate God's promise that nothing — not even death —

can separate us from the love of God in Christ. This is what we proclaim on the day when we remember a loved one with a special service in his or her honor. Because Jesus died and rose again, we believe that we also live with him beyond death. Therefore, when someone you love dies, the Church is present to reaffirm this promise of resurrection, to offer you confidence in the midst of mourning, and to provide practical help with arrangements.

### What are the expected fees and donations?

There are no required “fees” for having a funeral at Saint Mary’s, except for our contractual obligation to pay the organist (when involved) and the sexton. Otherwise, voluntary donations are requested, depending upon what is to be included in the funeral arrangements. But no one is ever turned away for lacks of funds to make these suggested donations.

When you are working with a funeral home, they will typically ask these questions, adjust for these expenses in what they charge, and then write and distribute the checks to us. Most find that easier, but writing checks directly to the church is fine as well.

All checks should be made payable to The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary, except as noted.

### Required Funeral or Memorial Service Fees

Organist	(check made payable directly to <i>Bruce Fithian</i> )	<b>\$200.00</b>
Add'l Musician	(ie, harpist, violinist, bagpiper, etc)	as negotiated
Sexton	(check made payable directly to <i>Roy Packard</i> )	<b>100.00</b>

### Offerings of Thanksgiving

General donation to the parish		200.00
Memorial Receptions (if this is provided by the parish)		100.00 – 250.00
Preacher/Celebrant	(check made payable directly to Clergy)	100.00 – 250.00