

# Ministry Description

**Title:** Funeral Assistant

**Supervisor:** Director of Liturgy

**Description:**

The Funeral Assistant is assigned to a bereaved family and becomes their parish liaison in many ways. They are helpful, hospitable, and comforting to the grieving family in every way possible.

**Specific Tasks:**

Funeral Assistants will work closely with the Director of Liturgy in serving as a resource to a bereaved family in planning the various liturgies offered in the Order of Christian Funerals rites. They may be present at both visitation / wake and funeral to support the family and make sure all details are attended to. They will be invaluable in working with family members who will serve as Lectors, Gifts Presenters, or Eucharistic Ministers. They will communicate details to the funeral home, in some cases. The tasks required will vary with every wedding, but it will always be beneficial and rewarding.

**Skills or Attributes Required:**

A willingness to learn about the possibilities for the various funeral liturgies, a sense of compassion, a love of detail, and an appreciation for working with all sorts of people. Familiarity with a variety of ministries would be a plus.

**Time Required:**

Once assigned to a bereaved family the Funeral Assistant may spend between 1 and 3 hours in preparation or meetings with the family and likely several other hours at funeral events. This will certainly vary with each situation. If several Funeral Assistants are trained the work load will be shared.

**Training:**

Ample resources and training will be provided by the parish.

**Benefits (How does it fulfill the parish mission):**

Our parish hospitality and consideration for the bereaved are enhanced by being able to provide this ministry to St. Gall parishioners dealing with loss. Gracious hospitality and genuine care evangelizes without words.

09-2014