

# Guide for Giving Altar Flowers

*"Consider the lilies of the fields in all their beauty and radiance."*



## Sunday Services

The giving of altar flowers in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for family, friends or special occasions is a lovely way to honor them.

When you provide flowers, please place your order at the florist two to three weeks before your scheduled Sunday. The space on the reredos requires that you provide TWO arrangements. Since all arrangements must be put into our brass vases before they are placed on the reredos behind the altar, they must arrive in containers that will fit into the church's brass vases.

Following the service, the family may take the flowers. If the family wishes, the flowers can be taken to members of the parish who are unable to attend services.

You will receive a call or an email from our flower coordinator to confirm your plans. At that time, if you plan to provide flowers, you will finalize the specific date and wording to appear in the service bulletin. You will contact the florist of your choice and arrange payment to them.



## Weddings

A florist normally provides the flowers. The couple is responsible for ordering the flower arrangements and paying for them. The space requires that two arrangements are put into the church's brass vases and placed on the reredos behind the altar. A member of Christ Church Altar Guild will meet with the couple to help with flower decisions. It is customary that flowers remain on the altar for the following Sunday services. The flowers will then be taken to members of the parish who are unable to attend services.

The altar linens and hangings will be white. Fresh greens may be used in the windows. Artificial or silk flowers are not appropriate anywhere in the sanctuary.

No decorations or alterations of the inside or outside of the sanctuary will be made without the approval of the clergy and the Altar Guild.



## Funerals & Memorial Services

The only flowers in the church during a funeral or memorial service are the two arrangements that are put in the church's brass vases and placed on the reredos behind the altar. The purchase and decisions concerning these two floral arrangements are usually handled by the family. However, if you would like assistance with floral decisions, please let the clergy know.

Following the service, the family may take the flowers. If the family wishes, the flowers will be taken to members of the parish who are unable to attend services, symbolizing the continuation of life after death.

The pall is a large white cloth which emphasizes the equality of all persons before God. When the casket is present at the funeral, as the casket enters the church, any other coverings or ornaments, including floral sprays, are removed from the casket and the casket will be covered with the pall. The pall will remain on the casket during the service and will be removed at the door of the church as the casket is carried out. Other hangings or ornaments can then be placed back on the casket.

When an urn is used, it is placed on a small wooden table at the front of the sanctuary. A smaller white pall is used to cover the urn.



## The Details

When you give altar flowers for a service, you need to provide TWO arrangements. Costs run approximately \$75 per arrangement, depending on flowers used and personal preferences.

You choose the florist. Please place your order with a florist two to three weeks before your scheduled Sunday. You are responsible for the payment to the florist.

If you choose to not use a florist and want to make your own arrangements, make sure they are in receptacles that will fit into our brass vases. Artificial or silk flowers are not permitted for use on the altar or as decorations .

The tall brass vases are 10" tall. The rectangular brass vases are 8.5" x 2.5" Please let us know if you need more information detailing the vases we use and showing the dimensions of the space in the sanctuary.

Flower arrangements are normally delivered to the Altar Guild at the church between 9:30 am and 10:00 am on the Saturday prior to the Sunday for which you have given the flowers. Please make sure the florist knows the date and time to deliver the arrangements for your service.

## Florists in Winchester

These are florists we work with often, but you are welcome to choose any florist.

**Bluebells**— 6 W. Boscawen St.  
540-535-7279

**Flowers by Snellings**—23 N Braddock St.  
540- 662-2555

**Winchester Floral**—1939 Valley Ave.  
540-667-8414



CHRIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

The Flower Coordinator at Christ Church is  
**Polly Nesselrodt**. Please direct questions to Polly at  
[pollyness@yahoo.com](mailto:pollyness@yahoo.com) or 540-664-0433.

You may also call  
the Church Office for assistance at  
540-662-5843, Ext. 4.  
Church Office: 114 W. Boscawen St.  
Winchester, VA 22637