

Rite of Committal

Perhaps the simplest and most meaningful part of the Rite of Christian Burial is the Rite of Committal, that ceremony at the graveside is where Rose is laid to rest.

Family and friends gather to take their final leave, and her body is committed to the ground and to the hope of the resurrection. Here, the fundamental reality of death and the most basic truth of faith take their place side by side.

Blessing of the Grave

The grave is a powerful sign of loss, but it is also sacred, consecrated by Christ, who himself lay in a tomb.

The Christian grave is holy ground – ground blessed so that it might hold a precious relic – the Body of a Christian made holy through baptism, nourished with the sacraments, and, we pray, awaiting the resurrection to life on the day of Christ's return.

The Committal

Once the grave has been blessed, and so made a sacred place where Rose may lie in peace, the Rite of Committal takes place. The priest offers a prayer, entrusting Rose, who has died and her soul to God.

A Prayer of Commendation

And now we offer and commend Rose to the Everlasting One.

Rose, we say to you in the midst of our sorrow and loss that we are grateful that you lived your life among us. We are grateful for your quiet gentleness and for your firm resolve to live life and to die on your own terms.

We take joy and relief in knowing that your journey has ended. We ask you now for forgiveness for any of the ways we may have hurt you in this life – – and we forgive you for any of the ways you may have hurt us. We release you now into the Everlasting Arms. May your passage be swift. May you know Wholeness and Peace now and through all eternity.

Blessing

And now, please bow your heads and pray for God's Blessing

May you go from this place knowing that Rose, the person you love is now at peace.

May you trust that the One who sustains us all, will hold you and keep you during the darkest of days.

And may you reenter your lives, infused with the desire and power to bless everyone and everything you touch.



Rev. Nicholas C. Ciccone, Jr., Ph. D.

Chaplain

Ascend Hospice of Massachusetts

www.ascendhospice.com



Rose H. (Bowler) Murphy

January 5, 1938 ~ December 22, 2020



O God, it is your love that has called us into being and given us this wonderful gift that we call life. It is your love that inspires us and strengthens us all along our own pathways of life.

Be especially present with us here today as we focus our attention, prayers, and our love upon the life of Rose.

Speak to us through our faith in Your Love, Your love for us, and Your continuing love for her.

Help us to hear Your Word, and to feel Your presence with us now, so that all who have come might not go away feeling empty inside.

Touch the members of this family, and this gathering of friends, in this, their time of loss and need.

January 11, 2021

1:00 pm





May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields
 and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

- Traditional Gaelic Blessing

Rose H. (Bowler) Murphy

January 5, 1938 ~ December 22, 2020

Boxborough | Age 82

Rose was the widow of Arthur L. Murphy Jr.

Born in Arlington, Massachusetts, Rose was the daughter of
 Rose McKeon Bowler and William F. Bowler.
 She grew up in Arlington with her parents and five brothers.

She is survived by her son
 Arthur L. Murphy III, his wife Patricia Murphy,
 her grandson Sean A. Murphy,
 her two daughters,
 Rose M. Murphy,

Kathryn A. Murphy, and her husband Stephen A. Olmedi.
 She was predeceased by her son William F. Murphy.

She leaves behind her beloved cat, Milly,
 who had been her constant companion for six years.

She had a large extended family including her sole remaining
 brother John Bowler, his wife Fran Bowler,
 her sister-in-law Charlotte Sewell, her husband Robert Sewell,
 her sister's in-law Mary Bowler and Ann Marie Bowler,
 as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Most remarkable about Rose was her love for family
 and her concern for those around her. She truly enjoyed giving
 to others and her love and generosity will be missed.

I know for certain . . .

that we never lose the people we love, even to death.

They continue to participate in every act,
 thought and decision we make.

Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories.

We find comfort in knowing that our lives have
 been enriched by having shared their love.

— Leo Buscaglia

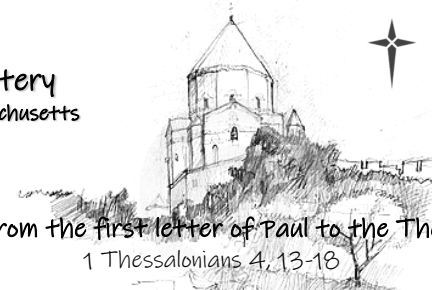


"On Eagles Wings"

Michael Joncas

based on Psalm 91, Book of Exodus 19,
 and Gospel of Matthew 13

South Cemetery Boxborough, Massachusetts



A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

We would have you be clear about those who sleep in death;
 otherwise you might yield to grief, like those who have no hope.
 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring forth
 with him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep
 believing in him. We say to you, as if the Lord himself had said it,
 that we who live, who survive until his coming, will in no way
 have an advantage over those who have fallen asleep.
 No, the Lord himself will come down from heaven at the word of
 command, at the sound of the archangel's voice and God's trumpet;
 and those who have died in Christ will rise first.
 Then we, the living, the survivors, will be caught up with them
 in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thenceforth we shall be
 with the Lord unceasingly. Console one another with this message.

The Divine Shepherd

A Psalm of David
 23:1-6

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
 I fear no evil; for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff—they comfort me.
 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

+A reading from the holy gospel according to John

John 14, 1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled.
 Have faith in God and faith in me. In my Father's house there are many
 dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going
 to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you,
 and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you
 also may be. You know the way that leads where I go."
 "Lord," said Thomas, "we do not know where you are going.
 How can we know the way?" Jesus told him: "I am the way,
 and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."