

Saint Ambrose Catholic Community

Planning A Catholic Funeral

The Catholic Church offers a tremendous gift to those who are mourning in her funeral rites, which contain all the stages of memory, grief, and hope. Whether you are approaching the funeral of a departed loved one or planning ahead to your own funeral, the following resources are meant to assist you in preparing for this moving occasion with dignity, beauty, and all the riches of our Catholic tradition.

The Three Rites of a Catholic Funeral

THE VIGIL (WAKE)

The **vigil** (also called “prayer service” or “wake”) is an occasion for family and friends to gather at the funeral home or a chapel to pray together, grieve together, and remember the life of our loved one. It often includes:

- A viewing of the body or casket/urn when appropriate.
- Scripture reading, singing, intercessory prayer such as the Rosary.
- Displays of memorabilia and flowers.
- Eulogies or sharing of precious memories of the departed.

THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The **funeral liturgy** normally takes the form of a Funeral Mass, which is held at the parish church. It is also possible to celebrate a “Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass” in cases where the pastor and family deem it appropriate not to celebrate a Mass. The funeral liturgy is the place for the following:

- To give thanks and praise to God for Christ’s victory over sin and death.
- To commend the deceased to God’s tender mercy and compassion.
- To seek strength in the proclamation of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.
- To celebrate special ritual moments such as the procession of the casket/urn, the placing of the pall on the casket, and the song of farewell, which help us to grieve with hope and support.

THE BURIAL (COMMITTAL)

The **burial** (also called the “committal”), takes place at the cemetery after the funeral liturgy. It may occur immediately after the funeral or at another time. The committal includes:

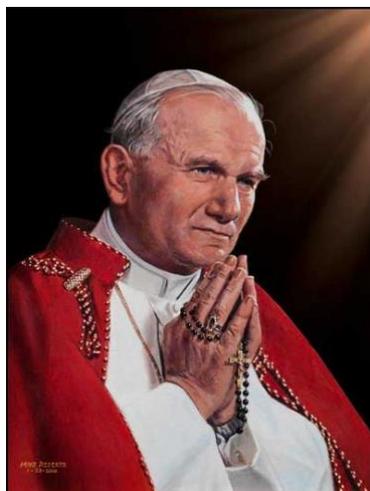
- Brief prayers, scripture reading, the Lord’s Prayer (“Our Father”), and a blessing of the remains and grave site.
- Military honors for veterans.
- Placing flowers or earth on the casket/urn if desired.
- The casket/urn may or may not be lowered into the ground.
- Cremated remains are either buried or entombed in a mausoleum during this ceremony.

*“This is the will of my Father, says the Lord,
that all who believe in the Son will have eternal life
and I will raise them to life again on the last day.”
— John 6:40*

All quotations are from the "Order of Christian Funerals: Appendix on Cremation", NCCB, 1997.

What We Believe About the Human Body

As Catholics, we believe that the human person is made of a body and a soul, both of which are sacred. Our immortal soul is the invisible part of us which gives us life. Our mortal body is the visible part of us which communicates that life to all around us. We know each other’s souls because of what our bodies show: smiles, caresses, acts of kindness, singing, dancing, etc. St. John Paul II explained this by saying, "The body reveals the person." Our reverence for the body is expressed in the Sacraments: the body is "washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the Bread of Life" (n. 412). We believe that the body is so truly a part of "who we are" that the soul is not meant to be without it forever, and at the end of time our bodies will be reunited with our souls in the resurrection of the body.



Why We Prefer Traditional Burial

St. Paul and the earliest Christians often referred to Christians who had passed away as "those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor. 15:18). They believed that the bodies of the dead would one day be reunited with their souls in heaven, just as Christ's body was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven.



Traditional burial has always been a way that Christians placed the bodies of "those who have fallen asleep" to rest until they are raised again. It is because of our deep reverence for the human body as a part of who we are, and our hope in the resurrection, that we "lay our brother/sister to rest" in traditional burial.

Cremation

The Church allows cremation when the following conditions are met:

- The remains must be stored in a worthy vessel (an urn which is made of solid material, beautiful, and dignified).
- The remains must be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium.
- The remains may not be scattered on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or kept in a home. No part of the remains should be separated out from the whole (e.g. kept in a locket). A memorial plaque or stone should mark the place where the remains are buried.



The Catholic Liturgy

Introductory Rites

The funeral liturgy usually begins in the back of the church. The family gathers with the priest around the casket/urn at the baptismal font.



The following normally takes place:

- The casket/urn is sprinkled with holy water as a reminder of baptism.
- If there is a casket, a pall is then draped over the casket. The pall is a large white cloth which represents the white garment worn at baptism. It is not permissible to substitute a flag or quilt for the pall.
- During this rite, Christian symbols such as a Bible or cross may be placed on the casket. Other items (such as memorabilia) are best displayed at the vigil.
- The casket is accompanied in procession to the front of the church by those chosen to be pallbearers (generally six people).
- During the procession, an Entrance Hymn is sung.

The Liturgy of The Word

The Liturgy of the Word is a time for God to speak his words of consolation to us through Sacred Scripture. In consultation with the parish pastoral team, the family chooses the readings and prayers of intercession that will best speak to mourners. The following are the parts of the Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading

- From Old Testament except during the Easter Season
- Reader chosen by the family

Responsorial Psalm

- Must be a psalm chosen from the Lectionary
- Cannot be substituted with song or poem
- Sung by a cantor

Second Reading

- From New Testament
- Reader chosen by the family

Gospel Acclamation usually sung by Cantor

Gospel Reading (read by priest or deacon)

Homily (given by priest or deacon)

Prayers of the Faithful (Intercessions)

- Reader chosen by the family



The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The liturgy of the Eucharist is where we unite our sorrow and love with the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, made present in the Eucharist. Through Jesus truly present here on earth, we are united with our loved one in the closest way possible when we receive Holy Communion.



Below are the parts of the Liturgy of the Eucharist:

- Preparation of the gifts, during which an Offertory Hymn is sung. Two family members may be chosen as gift-bearers to bring up the bread and wine used for the consecration of Holy Eucharist.
- Eucharistic Prayers (An appropriate Mass setting may be sung for the acclamations.)
- Communion Rite, during which we receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion. Non-Catholics and Catholics who have not been active in their Catholic faith do not receive Holy Communion out of reverence for its significance and are invited to come forward for a blessing.
- To read more about the guidelines for Holy Communion, visit: www.dnu.org/funeral-planning.
- The Communion Hymn is begun while the priest is receiving the Eucharist.

The Final Commendation

The final commendation brings closure to the funeral liturgy. It ends as the funeral began, with a procession of the casket/urn, this time to our loved one's final resting place. It includes:

- Prayers for the deceased, led by the priest and offered by all in silence.
- Incensing of the casket/urn by the priest as a sign of reverence.
- The song of farewell, sung by all.
- Prayer of Commendation, led by the priest.
- Procession of the casket out of the church, followed by the family and mourners.
- A recessional Hymn is sung.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why should the funeral usually be a Mass?

The funeral should usually be a Mass because the Mass is the most powerful prayer we are able to offer for our loved one who has died. The Mass is a taste of heaven on earth; at Mass we enter into the worship of the angels and saints in heaven, and we are united with those who are being purified in purgatory. Therefore, we are never closer to those who have died than when we are at Mass! (See Order of Christian Funerals n. 154)

When is it appropriate not to celebrate a Mass?

It may be appropriate not to celebrate a Mass when pastoral reasons are indicated. For example, if most of the family is not Catholic and might have difficulty participating in the Mass, a funeral service may be more appropriate. However, these cases should be carefully discerned, especially when the person who has died may have desired a funeral Mass.

If the funeral is celebrated outside of Mass, a Mass should be offered at a later time for the soul of the deceased.

Why do we use incense?

Incense is an ancient liturgical practice that symbolizes our prayer and worship; as the fragrant smoke rises upward, our prayers rise to the heavenly throne. Its use at funerals is a special act of reverence for the body of the deceased, as we offer our loved one back to God and pray for his/her soul.

Can a family member or friend give a eulogy (remarks of remembrance) at the funeral liturgy?

The funeral liturgy is not the preferred time for a eulogy (a speech in praise of the deceased). The focus of the funeral is to pray fervently for our loved one that he/she may enter into eternal happiness. While a eulogy looks back on a person's earthly life which has ended, the funeral liturgy looks forward to the future--to his/her heavenly life which is just beginning!

A eulogy by friends and family, or a sharing of stories from the person's life, is better suited to the vigil (wake). It is permissible, however, for a friend or family member to give brief remarks in remembrance of the deceased at the funeral liturgy. We would be happy to discuss your wishes for a eulogy.

Can favorite songs be sung or played, even if they do not have Christian words?

Only sacred music, that is, music with sacred words and a sacred sound, may be used in the liturgy. For more about funeral music see the music section.

It is difficult for us to imagine how beautiful heaven actually is, and how much greater its joys are than those of earth. Though our loved one may have enjoyed a certain song during his/her lifetime, from now on we hope that he/she will be singing the songs of heaven. During the liturgy, we are able to join our loved ones in that heavenly song!

Can a slideshow of pictures or display of memorabilia be shown during the liturgy?

The Vigil (wake) is a more proper time to have a slideshow of pictures or a display of memorabilia to remember and honor the earthly life of your loved one, while the funeral liturgy looks forward to heaven.

Similarly, items of memorabilia should not be brought up in procession during the liturgy. However, it is permissible to have a framed photo (generally 5 x 7 and no larger than 8 x 10) on the table with the urn or set on a stand next to the casket.

Can the funeral be recorded?

We are not able to offer live-streaming for funerals, but we do provide the opportunity for the funeral to be recorded.

We ask that you provide a USB flash drive so we are able to download the funeral following the Mass or service.

First Reading Options for the Mass of Christian Burial

Old Testament #1 - Job 19:23-27

A reading from the book of Job.

Job answered [Bildad the Shuhite] and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: that with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him; and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.
The word of the Lord.

Old Testament #2 - Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. [In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever.] Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

The word of the Lord.

#3-B [Delete bracketed verses for short form.]

Old Testament #3- Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" The word of the Lord.

Old Testament #4 -Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations.

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the Lord. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: the favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the Lord, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Good is the Lord to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; it is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament #5 - Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;

a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament #6 - Proverbs 31:10-12.17-18.20.25-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.

She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all." Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm Selections for Funerals

Psalm 23

R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

(or)

R/. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
in verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name sake.

R/.

Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R/.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R/.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come.

R/.

Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

Psalm 25

R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

R/.

Relieve the troubles of my heart;
And bring me out of my distress.
Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins.

R/.

Preserve my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
Because I wait for you, O LORD.

R/.

Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21

Psalm 27

R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

R/.

One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life.
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple.

R/.

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
Your presence, O LORD, I seek.
Hide not your face from me.

R/.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

R/.

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14

Psalm 46

R/. Be still and know that I am God.

The mountains shake, the waters roar, the valleys tremble with fear;
And yet our strength, our refuge sure, whispers in our ear.

R/.

Though nations fight, though kingdoms fall,
though spiteful hearts will harm.

Your mercy holds us, we hear you call,
we linger in your resting arms, as you say:

R/.

Behold the works our Lord has done to change these hearts of stone.
God breaks our arrows, God breaks our bows,
God calls us chosen, calls us God's own.

R/.

Psalm 46:2-4, 6-8

Psalm 62

R/. Rest in God alone, my soul.

Only in God is my soul at rest,
from him comes my salvation.

He only is my rock, and he only is my salvation,
my stronghold, my stronghold; I shall not be disturbed at all.

R/.

Only in God be at rest, my soul,
for from him comes my hope.

He only is my rock, and he only is my salvation,
my stronghold, my stronghold; I shall not be disturbed.

R/.

With God is my safety and my glory.
He is the rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.
Trust in Him at all times, O my people!
Pour out your hearts before Him!

R/.

Psalm 62:2-3, 6-9

Psalm 63

R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

R/.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory,
For your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you.

R/.

Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

R/.

You are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me.

R/.

Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Psalm 91

R/. Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble, be with me Lord, I pray.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Most High,
who abide in the shadow of our God,
say to the Lord: "My refuge and fortress, the God in whom I trust."

R/.

No evil shall befall you, no pain come near,
For angels stand close by your side,
Guarding you always and bearing you gently, watching over your life.

R/.

Those who cling to the Lord live secure in God's love,
lifted high, those who trust in God's name,
call on the Lord, who will never forsake you. God will bring you salvation and joy.

Psalm 91:1-2,10-11,14-15

Psalm 116

R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Gracious is the LORD and just;
yes, our God is merciful.

R/.

The LORD keeps the little ones;
I was brought low, and he saved me.

R/.

I believed, even when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";
I said in my alarm,
"No man is dependable."

R/.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.

O LORD, I am your servant,
you have loosed my bonds.

R/.

Psalm 116:5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac

Psalm 118

R/. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his mercy endures forever;
let the house of Israel say:
"His mercy endures forever."

R/.

The Lord's right hand has struck with power,
the Lord's right hand is exalted;
I shall not die, but live
and declare the works of the Lord.

R/.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes!

R/.

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Psalm 122

R/. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me,
"We will go up to the house of the LORD."
And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R/.

To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
According to the decree for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
In it are set up judgment seats,
seats for the house of David.

R/.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings.

R/.

Because of my relatives and friends
I will say "Peace be within you!"
Because of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will pray for your good.

R/.

Psalm 122:1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Psalm 130

R/. With the Lord there is mercy and fulness of redemption

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication.

R/.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,
LORD, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered.

R/.

I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.
My soul waits for the LORD
more than the sentinels wait for the dawn.

R/.

More than the sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the LORD,
For with the LORD is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption.

R/.

And he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities.

R/.

Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8

Second Reading Options for the Mass of Christian Burial

New Testament #1 - Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament #2a- Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we, who were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. [For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin.] If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

#2b – [Delete bracketed verses for short form.]

New Testament #3 - Romans 8:31-39

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament #4 - Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God. The word of the Lord.

New Testament #5a- 1 Corinthians 15:20-24a,25-28

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father. [For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.]

The word of the Lord.

#5b – [Delete bracketed verses for short form.]

New Testament #6 -1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament #7 - 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil. The word of the Lord.

New Testament #8 - Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament #9 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament #10 - 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of Saint John.

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

Supplemental Reading

New Testament#11a - Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, [what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.] He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name." The word of the Lord.

#11b – [Delete bracketed verses for short form.]

The word of the Lord.

New Testament #12 - Revelation 14:13

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The word of the Lord.

New Testament #13 - Revelation 21:1-7

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of lifegiving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament #14 - 2 Timothy 4; 6-8

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy.

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

Gospel Reading Options for the Mass of Christian Burial

Gospel #1 - Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When he saw the crowds, Jesus went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel #2 - Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."
The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel #3 - Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you

gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel #4 - Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel #5 - Luke 23:33, 39-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel #6 - John 5:24-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the Jews: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life.

Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel #7 - John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowd: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel #8 - John 6:51-58

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowd: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel #9 - John 11:17-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."
The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel #10a - John 12:23-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus told his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. [I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? `Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."]
The Gospel of the Lord.

#10b – [Delete bracketed verses for short form.]

Gospel #11 - John 14:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
The Gospel of the Lord.

Intercessions for Funeral Liturgies

Please select *one* Intercession from each of the five sections

Prayers for the Deceased

- #1: God of life, death and resurrection, we believe that _____ lives on in eternal glory because of Jesus Christ: May God strengthen the faith in all of us who mourn, let us pray to the Lord.
- #2: For our brother/sister _____, who in baptism was given the promise of eternal life: May he/she now receive a place in the company of the saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- #3: For _____, who for so long had been under the limitations and pain of illness: May he/she know the freedom and joy of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- #4: Our brother/sister _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior: May he/she now be welcomed into the halls of the heavenly banquet, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayers for the Family of the Deceased

- #5: For the family and friends gathered here: May God comfort them in the knowledge that they someday will be reunited with _____ in the loving presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- #6: For the family and friends of _____: that, in their grief, they will find comfort and consolation from all those surrounding them with love, let us pray to the Lord.
- #7: For the family of _____ and those who cared for _____ in his/her illness: May they be consoled in the knowledge that _____ is now released from pain to enjoy peace forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- #8: For the family and friends of _____ and all who mourn the deaths of loved ones: that, in our loving support, they will find the strength to continue their own life journey, let us pray to the Lord.
- #9: For the family of _____ and all those who loved him/her: May they find comfort in remembering the good times and the love they shared with _____, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayers for the Church

- #10:** For the Church: May we continue to proclaim that Jesus Christ has overcome death and gives eternal life to His faithful followers, let us pray to the Lord.
- #11:** For our Church and parish family: May we continue to be a community of hope in the promise of Jesus' resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- #12:** For the bishops, priests, deacons, and ministers who serve the Church: That their ministries among us may continue to proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayers for the Sick and Suffering

- #13:** For the sick, the recovering and the dying: May the compassion of Jesus be present to them in our prayers and our care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
- #14:** For all who suffer in hospitals and at home: That they may always feel close to Christ, who suffered so much during his life, let us pray to the Lord.
- #15:** For the poor, the suffering, the abused, and the forgotten: May they always have places of honor and welcome among us, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayers for all who have Died:

- #16:** For all of our departed relatives and friends: May they share an everlasting home with our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- #17:** For _____ and for all who have died in Christ's peace: May they find light, happiness and peace in the presence of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- #18:** For all who have died in faith: That the Lord will lavish love and life upon them, let us pray to the Lord.
- #19:** For all who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again: May they soon see God face to face, let us pray to the Lord.

Prelude and Entrance Procession

Prelude

Prelude music is optional. It can provide a comforting atmosphere that promotes prayer and reflection as loved ones gather in the church.

Entrance Procession

- Christ Be Our Light #590
- Lord of All Hopefulness #663
- For All the Saints #884
- Be Not Afraid #683
- All Creatures of Our God and King #611
- O God Beyond All Praising #598
- Amazing Grace #645

Responsorial Psalm

The psalms are a particularly rich source of beautiful, profound texts appropriate for the funeral. We invite you to prayerfully look through our Psalm Guide for Funerals to help you make your selection. *See Psalms beginning on page 10.*

Preparation of the Gifts & Communion

Preparation of the Gifts

These selections along with all of the songs listed under "Entrance Procession" would be appropriate:

- Prayer of St. Francis #828
- Be Thou My Vision
- Precious Lord Take My Hand #955
- Ave Maria
- Eye Has Not Seen #728
- Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled #869
- You Are Mine #721
- On Eagle's Wings #691
- Be Not Afraid #683
- Here I Am, Lord #777

Communion

All of the songs listed under "Entrance Procession," "Preparation of Gifts," and "Responsorial Psalms" would be appropriate during this time, as well as the following song options:

- Gift of Finest Wheat #940
 - I Am the Bread of Life #945
 - Taste and See #930
 - We Remember #681
 - We Come to Your Feast #938
 - Table of Plenty
 - Take and Eat #951
-

Final Commendation, Song of Farewell & Recessional

This Final Commendation rite, unique to the funeral liturgy, includes the Church's Song of Farewell, which is sung during the incensing of the coffin or urn. The Liturgist chooses this song.

Recessional

- Alleluia, Sing to Jesus #949
 - I Know that My Redeemer Lives #527
 - For All the Saints #884
 - Holy God, We Praise Thy Name #615
 - We Shall Rise Again #871
 - How Great Thou Art #578
 - Jerusalem My Destiny #491
 - Sing with All the Saints in Glory #539
 - Alleluia, Love is Alive
 - City of God #766
-

Additional Praise & Worship song ideas

- I Can Only Imagine (Mercy Me)
 - You Raise Me Up (various artists)
 - Lord, I Need You (Matt Maher)
 - I Will Rise (Chris Tomlin)
 - Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone (Chris Tomlin)
-

Specific Requests

If you have a specific Scripture reading request or music request that is not listed in this funeral guide, please indicate your request on the worksheet with full reference of book, chapter, verse or song title and composer or artist. Special music requests require approval by liturgist.

Funeral Intake Information

Date/Person taking info _____

Deceased: _____ DOB: _____

Date of Death: _____ Age at Death: _____

Cause of Death: _____

Address: _____

Notified of Death by: _____ Phone: _____

Next of Kin: _____

Relationship: Wife / Husband / Mother / Father / Daughter / Son / Other _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Principal Survivors (Family members and significant others)

Name	Relationship to Deceased
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Mortuary _____

Contact Name _____ Number: _____

Guest Clergy _____

Wake Service _____
Date Time Presider

Location

Visitation at the Church _____ Date/Time _____

Liturgy _____

Date Time Presider

Location

Approx. # to attend

Mass Format _____

Cremation _____ Full Body _____

Burial

Cemetery _____

Time of Arrival _____

Would like priest or deacon for burial? Yes No Other: _____

Date _____ Time _____

Family thoughts on the deceased:

Funeral Lunch

We welcome your guests to participate in a funeral luncheon following the funeral liturgy. Please note that we require that a caterer provide the luncheon. It is your responsibility to arrange for the caterer. Once you have made the arrangements with a caterer, please notify the parish office with the name of the caterer you have chosen and the number of guests you have ordered for.

Funeral Lunch Yes No If yes, before or after burial? _____

Name of Caterer: _____

Number you ordered for: _____

Options for Catering:

- 1. Tinucci's**
Mark Tinucci
651-459-3211
markjr@tinuccis.com
- 2. Green Mill / Bella Vida Catering**
Tim O'Brien
612-237-7318
timo@greenmill.com
- 3. Kowalski's**
Roxanne Kielbasa
651-313-6858
rkielbasa@kowalskis.com
- 4. Little Oven**
Joe Lindgren
joe@thelittleoven.com
- 5. Hy-Vee - Cottage Grove**
7280 E. Point Douglas Road S.
651-458-7000
- 6. Jerry's – Woodbury**
7760 Hargis Parkway
651-458-0240
- 7. Angelina's Kitchen – Woodbury**
2170 Eagle Creek Lane
651-998-0474

Funeral Planning Worksheet

Music for Funeral Mass

The information contained in the Music section of the planning book coincides with each music selection that we are asking you to make. The list is not exclusive and if you have other hymns that you would like to use, our staff can help guide you with your choices.

Please write the name of the song you have chosen for each place in the liturgy listed below:

Prelude Music (Optional): _____

Entrance Hymn: _____

Responsorial Psalm: Liturgist will select musical setting

Preparation of Gifts: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Song of Farewell: Liturgist will select musical setting

Recessional Hymn: _____

First Reading:

The First Reading at a funeral liturgy is typically taken from the Old Testament. Please write the number of the reading you have selected below along with the name of the person who will read the First Reading at the funeral liturgy:

Old Testament: # _____ Read by: _____

Second Reading:

The Second Reading at a funeral liturgy is typically taken from the New Testament. Please write the number of the reading you have selected below along with the name of the person who will read the First Reading at the funeral liturgy:

New Testament: # _____ Read by: _____

Gospel:

The gospel at a funeral liturgy is taken from the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. To make your selection, please enter the number of the reading you have chosen on the worksheet. The gospel will be proclaimed by the Priest who is presiding at the funeral liturgy.

Gospel: # _____

Intercessions:

You will see that the intercessions in the planning book are divided into categories. A good rule of thumb for making your selection for the funeral liturgy is to choose one intercession from each category. To make your selections, please enter the numbers of the intercessions at the at the funeral liturgy:

Intercessions: # _____, # _____, # _____, # _____, # _____

Read by: _____

Gift Bearers:

Please give us the names of those individuals who will serve as gift bearers at the funeral liturgy.

Gift Bearers: _____

Burial:

The priest or deacon will be present for prayers at the cemetery. Please provide the following information:

Cemetery: _____ Date of Burial: _____

Displays, Photographs, and/or Videos:

You are welcome to have displays, photographs, and/or videos present in the church commons during the visitation and luncheon. The parish has DVD equipment and easels that may be used for this purpose. Please note that all items must be appropriate for a church setting.

Parish Staff Contact Information

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