

## PREPARING TO CELEBRATE THE FUNERAL MASS

Helping to plan the funeral liturgy can be of great comfort to those who are mourning, but if they have an indication of what the desires of the deceased are, the Mass can be even more meaningful to all who celebrate it. Planning your funeral Mass can deepen your faith in the eternal life God has prepared for you.

Ritual and music facilitate the grief process. Music can be a catalyst for expressing feelings. Music can contribute to managing grief. Bereaved should be encouraged to use "significant" hymns. Music helps the community to bond with the bereaved. Music expresses our belief in eternal life and the resurrection of the dead.

The Psalms: provide revelations about our human response to loss; help to express the loss; reminders about trust in God without denying our feelings of abandonment, emptiness, anger, searching; allow community to respond

Distinguishing between secular and sacred music can be difficult. There are "secular" songs which are religious, just as there is sacred music which may not be suitable for a funeral. The music should speak of Christ, community, prayer, and the religious dimensions of your faith. Taped selections or accompaniments are not permitted by the general rules of the Catholic Church.

*Music in Catholic Worship*, issued by the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy in 1983, states that "to determine the value of a given musical element in a liturgical celebration a threefold judgment must be made: musical, liturgical, and pastoral."

- The Musical Judgment - Is the music technically, aesthetically, and expressively good? This judgment is basic and primary and should be made by competent musicians. Only artistically sound music will be effective in the long run. To admit the cheap, the trite, and musical cliché often found in popular songs for the purpose of "instant liturgy" is to cheapen the liturgy, to expose it to ridicule, and to invite failure.
- The Liturgical Judgment - Does the music express and interpret the text correctly and make it more meaningful? Is the form of the text respected?
- The Pastoral Judgment - Does the music in the celebration enable these people to express their faith, in this place, in this age, in this culture?

### **Order of Christian Funerals (para. 30-32)**

Music is integral to the funeral rites. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love. The texts of the songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death, and triumph over death and should be related to the readings from Scripture.

Since music can evoke strong feelings, the music for the celebration of the funeral rites should be chosen with great care. The music at funerals should support, console, and uplift the participants and should help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory.

You may not have any specific instructions regarding your funeral Mass. You may not have any particular hymns that you want; you may not know any of the cantors or lectors personally. But if you do

have certain requests, it is a good idea to have it written down so that it is readily available at the appropriate time.

If you decide to pre-arrange your funeral, the funeral home personnel will be happy to file your Mass plan with the other arrangements. If you wish, it can be kept on file at the rectory.

You may also wish to make your desires known regarding the vigil or wake service, which usually takes place at the funeral home the night before the funeral Mass. Ideally this should be in the form of a prayer service. A format for this service is usually made available by the funeral home personnel. You may also choose people to read, and you may wish to choose music for this service. If you would like the rosary prayed, it is best done privately by the family.

The final ritual is the committal, which takes place at the cemetery. "The rite of committal is an expression of the communion that exists between the church on earth and the church in heaven: the deceased passes with the farewell prayers of the community of believers into the welcoming company of those who need faith no longer but see God face to face." (*Order of Christian Funerals*, 206) This rite consists of a scripture verse, prayer over the place of committal, committal, intercessions, The Lord's Prayer, and concluding prayers. If desired, a song may be sung, and a sign of leaving-taking may be made, such as placing a flower on the casket. If you have any specific requests regarding this ritual, you will want to make them known also.

Included in this packet, in addition to suggested scripture readings and hymns, is a form that can be used to record your choices for your funeral Mass. **This form, by no means needs to be completed in its entirety.** It should serve as a guide in the event that you do have specific requests to make.

**Resources:**

Blest Are those Who Mourn, GIA Publications, Chicago, IL, 1993

Gather Comprehensive, GIA Publications, Chicago, IL, 1994

I Am the Resurrection and the Life, Oregon Catholic Press, Portland, OR, 1993

Journeysongs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Oregon Catholic Press, Portland, OR, 2003

Modern Liturgy, Resource Publications, Inc., San Jose, CA, February, 1998

Music in Catholic Worship, United States Catholic Conference, 1983

Now and at the Hour of Our Death, Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago, IL, 1989

The Ministry of Consolation, Alba House, New York NY, 1993

Through Death to Life, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN, 1990

The following list of scripture readings are commonly used at funeral liturgies and wake services. Included in this list is a description of the reading, although you are encouraged to read the entire scripture yourself. Also, if there is music that is currently in the parish repertoire which has been drawn from specific scripture, it has been listed. Usually the first reading is from the Old Testament and the second reading if from the New Testament. During the Easter season, a reading from Acts or Revelations is appropriate for the first reading. The responsorial psalm is usually sung by the cantor or choir and the assembly. A copy of Through Death to Life, which has all of the scripture readings, is available at the parish office.

### **Reading I from the Old Testament**

(during the Easter season one of the readings from Acts or Revelation are used)

2 Maccabees 12: 43-46

*He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.*

Job 19: 1, 23-27a

*I know that my Vindicator lives.*

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - JS 586

I Know That My Redeemer Lives- JS 131

Song of Farewell - JS 585

Sing a New Song - JS 607

Song of Farewell - JS 137

Wisdom 3: 1-9

*As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

Wisdom 4: 7-15

*An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.*

Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9

*He will destroy death forever.*

The Strife is O'er - JS 431

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - JS 586

I Know That My Redeemer Lives- JS 131

In the Day of the Lord - JS 685

Table of Plenty - JS 793

Lamentations 3: 17-26

*It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.*

Morning Has Broken - JS 871

Daniel 12: 1-3

*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.*

### **Reading I from the New Testament during the Season of Easter:**

Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-43

*He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.*

There Is a Balm in Gilead - JS 723

Revelation 14: 13

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*

For All the Saints - JS 526

The Church's One Foundation - JS 779

Revelation 20: 11 - 21: 1

*The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise - JS 434

Jesus Is Risen - JS 447

For the Healing of the Nations - JS 866

Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7

*There shall be no more death.*

Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise - JS 434

Jesus Is Risen - JS 447

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - JS 746

For the Healing of the Nations - JS 866

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23: 1-6

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

The Lord Is My Shepherd - JS 23

Song of Farewell - JS 585

Because the Lord is My Shepherd - JS 725

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need - JS 732

The King of Live My Shepherd Is - JS 733

Psalm 23 - JS 736

Gentle Shepherd - JS 737

Shepherd of Souls - JS 825

Shepherd Me, O God

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

"To you, O Lord, I lift my soul." Or "Remember your mercies, O Lord."

To You, O Lord - JS 26

To You, O Lord - JS 28

Remember Your Love - JS 561

Hold Me in Life - JS 702

To You, O Lord - JS 718

To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul - JS 691

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

"The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom should I be afraid." Or "I believe I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living."

The Lord Is My Light - JS 29

The Lord Is My Light - JS 132

Remember Your Love - JS 561

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - JS 586

The Lord Is My Light - JS 587

This Alone - JS 689

The Lord Is Near - JS 719

Psalm 42: 2, 3, 5cdef; 43: 3-5

"My soul is thirsting for the living God." Or "As the deer longs for running streams, so I long for you."

As the Deer Longs - JS 696

My Soul Is Thirsting for You - JS 43

There Is One Lord - JS 699

O God, For You I Long - JS 688

Psalm 63: 3-6, 8-9

"My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God." Or "I long for you, O Lord. With all my soul I thirst for you."

Psalm 63: My Soul Is Thirsting - JS 51

Psalm 103: 8, 10, 13-18

"The Lord is kind and merciful."

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy - JS 748

The Lord is kind and Merciful - JS 83

The Lord is Kind and Merciful - JS 84

Loving and Forgiving - JS 560

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

"I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living."

I Will Walk Before the Lord - JS 90

Our Blessing Cup - JS 91

Our Blessing Cup - JS 92

Psalm 122: 1-2, 4-9

"I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord."

Let Us Go Rejoicing - JS 101

Let Us Go Rejoicing - JS 102

Let Us Go Rejoicing - JS 791

Psalm 130: 1-8

"Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord." Or "With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption."

Remember Your Love - JS 561

## Reading II from the New Testament:

Romans 5: 5-11

*"Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath."*

Amazing Grace - JS 713

Jesu Joy of Our Desiring - JS 669

O Sacred Head, Surrounded - JS 409

How Great Thou Art - JS 628

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - JS 417

Lift High the Cross - JS 522

What Wondrous Love Is This - JS 755

Romans 5: 17-21

*"Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more."*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God - JS 709

Alleluia! Alleluia! - JS 437

Amazing Grace - JS 713

Romans 6: 3-9

*"We too might live in newness of life."*

Lift High the Cross - JS 522

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - JS 131

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - JS 586

Christ Is Alive - JS 441

Prayer of St. Francis - JS 738

Alleluia! Alleluia! - JS 437

Alleluia No. 1 - JS 439

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today - JS 425

The Strife Is O'er - JS 431

Rejoice, the Lord Is King - JS 478

Romans 8: 14-23

*"We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies."*

In Christ There Is No East or West - JS 850

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise - JS 451

Blessed Feasts of Blessed Martyrs - JS 782

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy - JS 748

Christ Be Our Light - JS 661

Creator of the Stars of Night - JS 325

Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39

*"What will separate us from the love of Christ?"*

How Great Thou Art - JS 628

Romans 14: 7-9, 10c-12

*"Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."*

Rejoice, the Lord Is King - JS 478

1 Corinthians 15: 20-28

*"So too in Christ shall all be brought to life."*

Sing with All the Saints in Glory - JS 789

Alleluia! Alleluia! - JS 437

Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise - JS 434

Rejoice, the Lord is King - JS 478

Jesus Shall Reign - JS 479

1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

*"Death is swallowed up in victory."*

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - JS 746

Sing a New Song - JS 607

Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise - JS 434

The Strife is O'er - JS 431

Abide With Me - JS 873

O Sacred, Head, Surrounded - JS 409

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You - JS 617

2 Corinthians 4: 14- 5: 1

*"What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal."*

2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10

*"We have a building from God, eternal in heaven."*

We Walk By Faith - JS 700

Philippians 3: 20-21

*"He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory."*

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - JS 131

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

*"Thus we shall always be with the Lord."*

For All the Saints - JS 526

How Great Thou Art - JS 628

2 Timothy 2: 8-13

*"If we have died with him we shall also live with him."*

1 John 3: 1-2

*"We shall see him as he is."*

Amazing Grace - JS 713

1 John 3: 14-16

*"We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers."*

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - JS 746

What Wondrous Love Is This - JS 755

### **Gospel Reading:**

Matthew 5: 1-12a

*"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."*

Blest Are They

Be Not Afraid - JS 706

Lead Me, Lord - JS 659

Whatsoever You Do - JS 846

We Are the Light of the World - JS 660

Matthew 11: 25-30

*"Come to me and I will give you rest."*

I Heard the Voice of Jesus - JS 729

Jesus Shall Reign - JS 479

Like a Shepherd - JS 648

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - JS 746

Lord of All Hopefulness - JS 690

Age to Age - JS 703

Matthew 25: 1-13

*"Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!"*

Matthew 25: 31-46

*"Come, you who are blessed by my Father."*

Bread for the World - JS 810

Whatsoever You Do - JS 846

God of the Hungry

Mark 15: 33-39; 16: 1-6

*"Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last."*

Jesus Is Risen - JS 447

Luke 7: 11-17

*"Young man, I tell you, arise!"*

Luke 12: 35-40

*"You also must be prepared."*

Luke 23: 33, 39-43

*"Today you will be with me in Paradise."*

Jesus, Remember Me

Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53; 24: 1-6a

*"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."*

Alleluia Let the Holy Anthem Rise - JS 434

The Strife Is O'er - JS 431

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today - JS 425

Luke 24: 13-35

*"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"*

We Walk By Faith

Shepherd of Souls - JS 825

Alleluia Sing to Jesus - JS 477

John 5: 24-29

*"Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life."*

John 6: 37-40

*"Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day."*

Bread of Life - JS 819

Alleluia Sing to Jesus - JS 477

I Am the Bread of Life

The Supper of the Lord

John 6: 51-59

*"Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day."*

Bread of Life - JS 819

The Supper of the Lord

I Am the Bread of Life

John 11: 17-27

*"I am the resurrection and the life."*

I Am the Bread of Life

John 11: 32-45

*"Lazarus, come out!"*

John 12: 23-28

*"If it dies, it produces much fruit."*

Lift High the Cross - JS 522

John 14: 1-6

*"In my Father's house there are many dwellings."*

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - JS 131

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - JS 586

How Great Thou Art - JS 628

Bread of Life - JS 819

Lead Me, Lord - JS 659

Prayer of St. Francis - JS 738

John 17: 24-26

*"I wish that where I am they also may be with me."*

John 19: 17-18, 25-39

*"And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit"*

### Hymns in Journeysongs

All Creatures of Our God and King - JS 600

Alleluia! Alleluia! - JS 437

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise - JS 434

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus - JS 477

Age to Age - JS 703

Amazing Grace - JS 713

Be Not Afraid - JS 706

Bread of Life - JS 819

City of God - JS 830

Christ, Be Our Light - JS 661

For All the Saints - JS 526

Gift of Finest Wheat - JS 803

Glory & Praise to Our God - JS 596

Hail Mary: Gentle Woman - JS 489

Here I Am, Lord - JS 832

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name - JS 593

How Great Thou Art - JS 628

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place - JS 581

Hosea - JS 559

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place - JS 581

I Heard the Voice of Jesus - JS 729

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - JS 586

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - JS 131

In the Day of the Lord - JS 685

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today - JS 425

Jesus, Come To Us - JS 694

Jesus, Lord - JS 701

Jesus, Lord, Have Mercy - JS 591

Jesus, Remember Me

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - JS 617

Lead Me, Lord - JS 659

Let Heaven Rejoice - JS 435

Like a Shepherd - JS 648

Let There Be Peace on Earth - JS 739

Lord of All Hopefulness - JS 690

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - JS 746

Loving and Forgiving (Psalm 103) - JS 560

My Soul Rejoices - JS 503

Now Thank We All Our God - JS 636

On Eagle's Wings - JS 704

Only a Shadow - JS 707

Prayer of St. Francis - JS 738

Remember Your Love - JS 561

Seek Ye First - JS 720

Shall We Gather At the River - JS 786

Shepherd of Souls - JS 825

Sing a New Song - JS 607

Sing to the Mountains - JS 601

Sing With All the Saints in Glory - JS 789

Song of Farewell - JS 137

Song of Farewell - JS 580

Song of Farewell - JS 585

The King of Kings, Christ Jesus Reigns - JS 486

The Lord Is My Light - JS 587

The Path of Life - JS 536

The Strife Is O'er - JS 431

There Is a Longing - JS 692

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy - JS 748

To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King - JS 485

We Are the Light of the World - JS 660

We Walk By Faith - JS 700

We Will Rise Again - JS 714

Whatsoever You Do - JS 846

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones - JS 528

You Are Near - JS 722

**Options for the Choir to Sing:**

As the Deer Longs (Psalm 42) - JS 696  
Ave Maria  
Because the Lord Is My Shepherd - JS 725  
Behold the Lamb - JS 809  
Child of Mine  
Come, All You Blessed Ones (Psalm 23 or 34)  
Come Home  
Come to Me - JS 728  
Comfort My People  
Death Will Be No More  
Eye Has Not Seen (GC 638)  
Gentle Shepherd - JS 737  
Hymn of Promise  
I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say  
I Shall See My God (GC 856)  
I, the Lord - JS 584  
In Every Age - JS 727  
Into Your Hands - JS 582  
Just a Closer Walk With Thee  
Lead Me, Lord - JS 659  
Like a Child Rests - JS 734  
Luke 2: Canticle of Simeon - JS 123  
May the Angels Be Your Guide  
Only in God (GC 621)  
Only This I Want - JS 766  
Precious Lord, Take My Hand (GC 874)  
Psalm 23 - JS 736  
Shelter Me, O God - JS 724  
Shepherd of My Heart (GC 641)  
Song of Farewell - JS 585  
Song of Farewell - JS 580  
Song of Simeon - JS 507  
The Hand of God Shall Hold You (GC 859)  
The Lord Is Kind and Merciful  
The Lord Is My Light - JS 587  
The Lord Is Near (May the angels) - JS 719  
The Love of the Lord  
The Name of God  
The People of God  
This Alone - JS 689  
Unless a Grain of Wheat - JS 760  
We Shall Rise Again  
What You Have Done For Me  
Yes, I Shall Arise - JS 590

**Responsorial Psalms:**

Psalm 4: Lord, let your face shine on us.  
Psalm 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd - JS 23  
Psalm 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd - JS 136  
Psalm 24: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.  
Psalm 25: Remember Your Mercies (GC 35)  
Psalm 25: To You, O Lord, to you - JS 26  
Psalm 25: To You, O Lord - JS 28  
Psalm 25: To You, O Lord, - JS 718  
Psalm 25: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.  
Psalm 27: In the Land of the Living (GC 38)  
Psalm 27: The Lord is My Light - JS 132  
Psalm 27: The Lord Is My Light - JS 29  
Psalm 42/43: Like a deer that longs for running streams  
Psalm 42/43: My soul is thirsting - JS 43  
Psalm 63: My Soul Is Thirsting - JS 51  
Psalm 90: In Every Age - JS 66  
Psalm 91: Be with Me, Lord - JS 67  
Psalm 91: Be with Me, O Lord - JS 68  
Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and merciful - JS 83  
Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful - JS 84  
Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful (GC 100)  
Psalm 107: Out of the Depths - JS 107  
Psalm 116: I Will Walk in the Presence (GC 108)  
Psalm 116: The Name of God (GC 110)  
Psalm 122: I rejoiced when I heard them say  
Psalm 122: Let Us Go Rejoicing - JS 101  
Psalm 130: With the Lord There is Mercy - JS 106  
Psalm 130: Out of the Depths - JS 107  
Psalm 143

**Worship Aid is Needed for the Assembly to Sing:**

Shepherd Me, O God (GC 31)  
Blest Are They (GC 659)  
I Am the Bread of Life (GC 828)  
Shepherd Me, O God (GC 31)  
Song of the Body of Christ  
We Walk By Faith (GC 590)  
You Are Mine (GC 649)  
The Supper of the Lord  
We Have Been Told



## FUNERAL MASS

### **Introductory Rites**

Greeting at entrance to the church  
Sprinkling with Holy Water  
Placing of the Pall (white cloth is placed over casket)  
Entrance Procession/Gathering Song  
Opening Prayer

### **Liturgy of the Word**

Old Testament Reading  
Responsorial Psalm  
New Testament Reading  
Gospel Acclamation  
Gospel Reading  
Homily (thoughts on the scripture, life, death, and resurrection - not a eulogy)  
General Intercessions

### **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Preparation of the Gifts/Music  
Prayer Over the Gifts  
Preface  
Eucharistic Prayer  
Communion/Song  
Prayer after Communion

### **Final Commendation**

Remarks of Remembrance (if desired a friend or family member may speak in remembrance of the deceased)  
Invitation to Prayer  
Song of Farewell and incensing of casket  
Prayer of Commendation  
Procession to the Place of Committal/Song

**FUNERAL LITURGY PLANS FOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**MINISTERS:**

Celebrant: \_\_\_\_\_ (normally the local pastor - *Code of Canon Law, canon 530, part 5*)

Musicians: \_\_\_\_\_

Resurrection Choir? Yes                      No                      Worship Aid (bulletin)? Yes                      No

Pallbearers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Placer of the Pall: \_\_\_\_\_

Altar Servers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lectors: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Bearers: \_\_\_\_\_

(to bring bread and wine to celebrant)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**READINGS**

Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel Acclamation \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

**MUSIC**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_