

**FUNERAL LITURGY
AND VIGIL PLANNING
HANDBOOK**

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH
MOUNT WASHINGTON, KY**

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"And Jesus wept." (John 11:35)

"And Jesus wept," is the shortest verse in the entire Bible. Yet, it captures the compassion of Jesus, as no other verse can. When someone cries, we know they are moved from within. When Jesus cries, we know that God is truly with us! Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and their brother, Lazarus, very much. He loves you, too! In their time of loss, he cried, he comforted, and he promised resurrection! He does the same for you, too!

The Rites of Christian Burial in the Catholic Church are meant to show Jesus' very presence to you.

The **Vigil** or "Wake" allows you and your family and friends to tell stories about your deceased loved one, to pray together, and relax in the loving presence of Jesus. The **Funeral Liturgy** commends your loved one to Almighty God, united to the one sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and offers us Holy Communion, even now, as a foretaste of the banquet feast of Heaven. The **Committal** or burial returns your loved one to the earth from which humans were formed to await the glorious day of resurrection when death will be no more.

Please know that your Church will continue to pray for and support you through Mass intentions for your loved one, All Souls' Day liturgies, and counseling services. If you would like a visit from the parish, please contact us at the parish office.

This booklet has been designed to help you understand the church's teaching on funerals and vigils, in the event you are called to plan a funeral for a loved one. We will schedule a time to meet with you individually and go over everything in the planning process. You are not expected to plan the funeral alone.

From the early history of the Catholic Church, the reverence given to the body of the beloved deceased, reflects our hope in resurrection. We believe that in death, life is not ended but merely changed and our prayers continue for those who walked with us on our pilgrimage on earth.

When a family member or friend becomes seriously ill, please notify the parish office or emergency number, as soon as possible. It is important that the Sacrament of Anointing be available to the sick person. All sacraments are for the living and are to be administered when one has the capacity to receive the strength and blessings they offer.

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The time immediately following death is often one of shock and bewilderment for those who were close to the deceased. The prayers of the Church help those who mourn express their grief, as well as find consolation through faith in Christ. In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life, and that Christ, by His death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity. After the death of a Christian, whose life began in the waters of Baptism and strengthened at the Eucharistic table, the Church celebrates the funeral rites.

Immediate family members may meet with the funeral coordinator to select readings and music for the funeral liturgy. Enclosed in this booklet are suggested readings, music, etc. Through these funeral rites, the Church: 1) Prays and intercedes on behalf of the deceased; 2) Offers worship and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and hope of the just; 3) Consoles the mourning and sorrow with the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist; 4) Commends the dead to God's merciful love; and 5) Recognizes the spiritual bond that still exists between the living and the dead, until that day when all the faithful will be united and death will be no more.

The death and burial of Christians have always had a deeply religious and spiritual meaning. Inspired by the description of the burial and resurrection of the Lord in the Gospels, the early Church buried its dead with proper care, reverence, and prayer. With faith in the Risen Savior, the Christian community honored the body of the dead and took part in the prayers and Mass offered for the deceased member.

The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral.

Funeral Arrangements: Any liturgical arrangements must be approved by the parish pastor before they are finalized by the funeral director. This provides the opportunity to have a clear understanding of the meaning and significance of the rites, as well as for family members to participate in the rites themselves. In making advanced arrangements for the type of funeral one would like to have; this same order of procedure is to be followed.

FUNERAL RITES OF THE CHURCH

Vigil Service: At the Vigil Service, usually conducted in the funeral home, the faithful keep watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and find strength in Christ's presence. The Vigil is a scripture or evening prayer service. The Rosary, or part of the Rosary, may be prayed, as well. This service is often the first gathering of the faithful and friends with the family, and some who cannot attend the funeral liturgy because of work or other reasons will attend. Prepared written eulogies of the deceased are most appropriate during this service, not at the funeral liturgy in church.

Funeral Liturgy: The tradition of the Church has always been the celebration of the Mass with the body present. Christians respect and honor the body of the dead, which in Baptism, becomes the Temple of the Holy Spirit. The funeral liturgy includes: the reception of the body; the Liturgy of the Word; the Liturgy of the Eucharist; and the Final Commendation and Farewell. We are reminded of Christ's Own words, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood shall live forever." (John 6:55).

Rite of Committal: For the final disposition of the body, it is the ancient Christian custom to bury or entomb the bodies of the dead in a cemetery, which means a "resting place." The Rite of Committal is the conclusion of the Funeral Rites and may be celebrated beside the open grave or place of internment. The faithful express the hope that with all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection and passes into the welcoming company of those who see God face-to-face.

Cremation: If cremation is chosen, it is preferred that the body be present for the funeral liturgy prior to cremation. However, when circumstances prevent the presence of the body at the funeral liturgy, it is appropriate that the urn containing the cremated remains of the body be present for the funeral rites, including the Vigil, funeral liturgy and the Rite of Committal. The funeral liturgy is customarily celebrated in a church. The cremated remains of the body are to be reverently buried or entombed in a cemetery or columbarium in a timely manner, rather than scattered.

Helpful Hints regarding a "Eulogy"

By definition, a "eulogy" is a favorable and positive speech or written tribute, especially praising someone who has died and is being remembered. A eulogy is most appropriate at the visitation or vigil at the funeral home, not at the funeral liturgy in church.

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A eulogy is a piece of written work, generally 2-3 minutes in duration, from someone who is acknowledging a loved one who has passed away and remembering them in a special way. Eulogies provide information, sometimes recalling funny times or incidents in their life, about a deceased person (including personal quotes and stories), but most of all about the love that the reader had and continues to have for that person. There is no one, single way of writing a eulogy.

Generally speaking, the eulogist must make sure that the eulogy is clear and understandable—after all, you want the assembly to understand and remember what you are saying. “I remember when” and “I can remember” are commonly used in eulogies.

Some important guidelines are: (a) in your eulogy, you should always acknowledge the person you are writing about in a positive manner; (b) pay your final respects and tribute to this person in a loving manner; (c) eulogies are best written out and help the reader to maintain a clear message and line of thought. When writing the eulogy, provide the necessary details and elements, but when you’re reading your eulogy, “talk” to the assembly as though you were talking to a friend. Get the audience involved in what you are telling them, make them laugh, make them cry, make them happy to be part of this final tribute to this person. Make your eulogy memorable.

Vigil/Visitation Planning

Please let the parish funeral planner know if you desire a member of the clergy to preside at a funeral vigil. If you desire to play a particular CD or number of selections that were special or significant for your departed loved one at the funeral home this is permissible. The funeral home may have appropriate selections for you to choose from, or you may choose to use your own CDs. The parish minister presiding at the vigil service must approve your selections and will schedule the selections at the appropriate times during the service. Usually, one or two selections are appropriate.

If there is a family member or friend who would like to read a scripture passage during the vigil service, please let the presiding minister know. The Catholic Church in its Rite/Order of Christian Funerals, specifies that the appropriate liturgical celebration in which eulogies may be presented is during the Vigil. If there are members of the family and or friends who wish to offer eulogies at the vigil service, please let the presiding minister know their names.

Funeral/Memorial Mass Planning

In the Liturgy of the Word portion of the Mass, there will be two scriptural readings, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. The church encourages the family of the deceased to participate in the funeral planning process by selecting the readings to be used during the funeral liturgy. Also, family members or friends are permitted to participate in the funeral liturgy by reading the selected passages from the lectern during the service. Please let the parish funeral planner know the names of those who will be reading. The parish will provide readers, if this is desired.

During the funeral liturgy, there are four times in which songs are typically sung. Please refer to page #73-74 for a suggested list of appropriate selections. The parish has its own musicians and vocalists who serve in the parish's music ministry. If you have family members or friends who wish to participate in the music ministry at the funeral liturgy, they must be approved by the parish's music director and the pastor. The Catholic Church in its Rite/Order of Christian Funerals, specifies that only live music is permitted at funeral liturgies in church. Recorded music is permissible at funeral liturgies outside of Mass at the funeral home. Because of the sacred nature of the Funeral/Memorial Masses, the music must be liturgical in nature, generally at Saint Francis Xavier the selections should be made from the Gather hymnal. Secular music is not permitted.

Old Testament Readings

1. (Job 19: 1, 23-27a)

A reading from the book of Job:

Job answered 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.

(Thanks be to God)

2. (Long Version: 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 his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

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(Short Version: Wisdom 3: 1-6, 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.

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 his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

3. (Wisdom 4: 7-15)

A reading from the book of Wisdom:

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time.

nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown of men,

and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;

he who lived among sinners was transported—

Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind

or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right

and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while,

he reached the fullness of a long career;

for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,

therefore, he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,

nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

4. (Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9)

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.

(Thanks be to God)

5. (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.

(Thanks be to God)

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6. (Daniel 12: 1-3)

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel:

[I, Daniel, mourned and heard this word of the Lord:]

"At that time there shall arise

Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;

It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.

At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;

Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,

And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

7. (2 Maccabees 12: 43-46)

A reading from the second book of Maccabees:

Judas [the ruler of Israel] took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

But if he did this with a view of the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from sin.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

New Testament Readings

1. (Acts 10:34-43)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

"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.

(Thanks be to God)

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(Short Version: Acts 10:34-36, 42-43)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

"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.

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.

(Thanks be to God)

2. (Romans 5: 5-11)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

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,

yet 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,

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.

(Thanks be to God)

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3. (Romans 5: 17-21)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

If, by the transgression of one person,

death came to reign through that one,

how much more will those who receive

the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification

come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ.

In conclusion,

just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all,

so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of one person

the many were made sinners,

so through the obedience of one

the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase

but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more,

so that, as sin reigned in death,

grace also might reign through justification for eternal

life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

4. (Long Version: Romans 6: 3-9)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

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.

(Thanks be to God)

(Short Version: Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

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.

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.

(Thanks be to God)

5. (Romans 8: 14-23)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,

but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!"

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children,

then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,

if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time

are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God;

for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord

but because of the one who subjected it,

in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption

and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;

and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,

we also groan within ourselves

as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

6. (Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all,
will he not also give 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.

(Thanks be to God)

7. (Romans 14: 7-9, 10b-12)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

None of us 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.

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.

(Thanks be to God)

8. (Long Version: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

Christ has been raised from the dead,

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a human being,

the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

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 first fruits;

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.

(Thanks be to God)

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(Short Version: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-23)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

Christ has been raised from the dead,

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a human being,

the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

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 first fruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

9. (1 Corinthians 15: 51-57)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

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 cloth 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.

(Thanks be to God)

10. (2 Corinthians 4: 14 – 15:1)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus

will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more

people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged;

rather, although our outer self is wasting away,

our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all

comparison, as we look not to what is seen, but to what is unseen;

for what is seen is transitory,

but what is unseen is eternal.

For 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.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

11. (2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10)

A reading from the Second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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.

So 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.

(Thanks be to God)

12. (Philippians 3: 20-21)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians:

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.

(Thanks be to God)

13. (1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18)

A reading from the first letter of 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.

(Thanks be to God)

14. (2 Timothy 2: 8-13)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead,

a descendent of David:

such is my gospel, for which I am suffering,

even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen,

so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,

together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him,

we shall also live with him;

if we persevere,

we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him

he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful,

he remains faithful,

for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

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15. (1 John 3: 1-2)

A reading from the first letter of John:

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.

(Thanks be to God)

16. (1 John 3: 14-16)

A reading from the first letter of John:

We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love our brothers and sisters.

Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.

The way we came to know love
was that he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives
for our brothers and sisters.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

17. (Revelation 14:13)

A reading from the book of Revelation:

I 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.

(Thanks be to God)

18. (Revelation 20:11-21:1)

A reading from the book of Revelation:

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence

and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly,

standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds,

by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead;

then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown in the pool of fire.

(This pool of fire is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life

was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,

and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

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19. (Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7)

A reading from the book of Revelation:

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

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 away 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 life-giving water.

The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son."

The Word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God)

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MUSIC FREQUENTLY SELECTED

The parish normally provides the musicians and vocalists. If you are interested in having someone else participate in the music ministry at the funeral liturgy, please contact the parish office for approval by the parish's music director.

Below is a list of frequently selected music:

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

Amazing Grace

Be Not Afraid

How Great Thou Art

On Eagle's Wings

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

You are Mine

You are Near

Precious Lord, Take my Hand

Save Your People

Prayer of Saint Francis

Morning Has Broken

How Can I Keep from Singing

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Psalm 23 - Shepherd Me O God

Psalm 25 - To You, O Lord (Joncas)

Psalm 27 - The Lord is My Light (Haas)

Psalm 63 - My Soul is Thirsting (Joncas)

Psalm 103 - The Lord is Kind and Merciful
(Haugen)

Psalm 130 - With the Lord There is Mercy

Psalm 122 - Let Us Go Rejoicing (Joncas)

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COMMUNION HYMNS/SONGS

Eat This Bread

The Supper of the Lord

Keep in Mind

Bread for the World

I Am the Bread of Life

In the Breaking of the Bread

Bread of Life

Cup of Blessing

One Bread, One Body

Pan de Vida (Bread of Life (in Spanish))

Behold the Lamb

Ave Maria – Schubert

FINAL COMMENDATION:

Song of Farewell – Sands

Song of Farewell – Old Hundreth

Saints of God – Haas

Quietly, Peacefully (may he/she rest in you...)

SFX Funeral Planning Sheet

Deceased Name: _____

Dates: Birth _____ Death _____ Funeral _____

Family Contact

Name _____ (Relation? _____)

Phone _____

Funeral Home _____

Contact _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Cemetery _____ (Cremains or Casket)

Bereavement Meal (YES or NO) Estimated Guests: _____

Worship Aides (estimated assembly: _____)

Vigil Service (YES or NO) Remembrance (YES or NO)

Time of Visitation _____ (Vigil service time _____)

Ministers:

Presider: _____ (Concelebrants: _____)

(Vigil presider: _____)

Pianist: _____ Cantor: _____

Sacristan: _____ Lector: _____

Extraordinary Minister (s): _____

Gift Bearers: _____

[Arrangements can be made for large numbers.]

Pall Placement: _____

Message:

OT Reading: _____

Psalm Response: _____

NT Reading: _____

Gospel (chosen by presider): _____

Music:

Prelude (YES or NO) _____

1. Opening Hymn _____

2. Offertory Hymn _____

[Mass setting is normally that of the current season.]

3. Communion Hymn _____

Post Communion Meditation (YES or NO) _____

4. Song of Farewell _____

5. Recessional Hymn _____

NOTES / FAMILY REQUESTS

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