

Order of Christian Funerals

Planning Booklet



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

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A Message from Our Priests

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Having received this pamphlet on the occasion of the death of a loved one, we offer you our heartfelt prayers and sympathy. Knowing how truly difficult it can be to suffer loss in our lives, the Catholic community and all of us at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church join with you and offer our prayerful support.

It is our hope that the guidance that this booklet contains will be able to help you in this time of grief and sorrow as you prepare for the funeral liturgy of your loved one. We invite you to take full advantage of the rich Catholic funeral rites that offer prayer for our beloved dead and also hope to provide courage and solace to you.

May you, your family, and your friends enjoy God's gifts of grace and peace for all eternity.



Fr. Michael Dolan
Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish



Fr. Matthew Gworek
Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

Funerals in the Catholic Church

The Catholic Church recognizes death both as the end of our earthly pilgrimage and the opportunity for the beginning of a new and eternal life with God. Throughout the life of a Christian, this belief is reflected in the prayer, liturgy, and rites used by the Church, and the *Order of Christian Funerals* provides a ritual that represents the culmination of this belief. The funeral rites of the Church aim both to assist the dead with our prayers for their eternal salvation in Christ and to aid the family and friends of the deceased in their time of loss and grief through the message of hope and support provided by Jesus.

Like all of our liturgical moments, the focus of the Catholic funeral liturgy is on God, praising Him for the gifts of eternal life and goodness that He offers to all those, living and deceased, who believe in Him. In the funeral rite, the family and friends of the deceased turn to God with the hope that the faithfully departed will have the reward of eternal life while also praying to Him for the healing and consolation of those who mourn such loss.

As such, the funeral liturgy seeks to be an aid for both the living and the dead. Gathering to pray for those they have lost, the living are strengthened in their own faith, being reminded of God's love and our connection to the life and death of Jesus Christ. The dead, too, receive great assistance, being supported by our prayers for the forgiveness of their sins and for their entrance into eternal life with the saints in glory.

While the death of a loved one can certainly be a moment to mourn, the funeral liturgy reminds us that we find our hope in the offer of eternal life that has been granted to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus. As Paul so rightly reminds us in his Letter to the Romans, "If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him" (*Romans 6:8*). This message offers great hope, and in the Catholic Church, it is that hope which we share as we come together to remember our loved ones who have died.

Engaging in the Funeral Liturgy

The funeral liturgy is a time to prayerfully remember a person whose life has graced our own. Actively engaging in this liturgy can give family members and friends the chance to celebrate the life of the deceased in the fullest way, giving thanks to God for the life of the person being remembered. The following are a few ways in which family and friends might consider being involved:

PRESENCE: Simply being present at a funeral is a beautiful gesture of remembering those who have died. Setting aside this time to recall another is, in itself, an act of love. This presence can be enhanced throughout the funeral liturgy by making sure to engage in what is taking place. Whether you and your family are regular churchgoers or might be here for the first time, trying your best to be attentive to the prayer, music, and symbolism of the liturgy is a wonderful way to honor a loved one who has been lost.

PRAYER: Throughout the course of the liturgy, a number of prayers and responses are set aside to be prayed by those who are present. When these moments arrive in the liturgy, family and friends are encouraged to participate in the prayers with which they are familiar. If you are not familiar with the prayers being used, we invite you to reverently listen to the responses of others and offer your own prayers in the solemn silence of your heart.

PARTICIPATION: There are a few ways in which individuals can personally take part in the funeral liturgy. A short **Eulogy** (or “Words of Remembrance”) may be offered at the beginning of the celebration. Selected family members or friends of the deceased are also invited to read both the **Old Testament and New Testament Scripture readings** and to lead the congregation in the **General Intercessions** of the funeral liturgy. In addition, family members may come forward to bring up the gifts of bread and wine during the **Presentation of the Gifts**. Finally, all are invited to join in singing the songs and hymns that are chosen to be sung throughout the liturgy. All of these are memorable ways in which individuals can be chosen to play a special role in the funeral liturgy. We ask that those who are making preparations for the funeral try their best to choose people who they think will be able to perform these roles in a reverent, prayerful way that will honor the person who has died.

Funeral Reading Selections

In making preparations for the funeral liturgy, we ask that you choose one (1) Old Testament reading and one (1) New Testament reading from the selections offered below.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1. Job 19:1, 23-27

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 innermost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.

2a. 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.

2b. 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.

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 for 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.

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.

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.

6. Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

[I, Daniel, mourned and I 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.

7. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas [the ruler of Israel] then 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 to 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 this sin.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

1a. 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.

1b. Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then 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. 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.

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 dies 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.

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.

4a. 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.

4b. 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.

5. Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For 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 firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

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 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.

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.

8a. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 24b-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits 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.

8b. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits 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.

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 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.

10. 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

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.

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.

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.

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.

14. 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant 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.

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.

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.

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.

18. Revelation 20:11-15, 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 into 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.

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 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 the 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 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.

Selections for General Intercessions

In the General Intercessions (or, Prayer of the Faithful), all those gathered have the opportunity to join together and intercede on behalf of the Church, the world, and in a special way at the funeral liturgy, for the person who has died. We ask that you choose one (1) of the following lists of intercessory prayers, which may be led by a reader of the family's choosing or by the priest or deacon.

LIST A

In baptism *N.* received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Our brother/sister *N.* was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

The family and friends of *N.* seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister *N.* Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

LIST B

For *N.* who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the family and friends of our brother/sister *N.*, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Music in the Funeral Liturgy

As with all liturgies in the church, music is a very important part of a Catholic funeral. The beauty and character of a song often allow convictions and feelings to be expressed that words alone fail to convey. As such, music has the power to strengthen the faith and the hope of those present.

The music chosen to be part of a funeral liturgy is meant to offer support and consolation to those present while also helping to provide a reminder of the power in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory. The songs and hymns selected for a funeral should express this mystery of salvation in Christ, namely, the saving power of the Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. Because of this, popular or non-religious songs often are not the best or most fitting choice for accompanying the reverence and character of the liturgy. While these songs may have been meaningful to the deceased or to the family, they often do not capture the Gospel message of hope or the sacred quality of Christian worship and might be better suited to be heard at a wake service or reception.

On the following page, you will find a selection of sacred song and hymn suggestions offered for your consideration. As you look through these recommendations, we hope that you find a number of choices that you think would add to the beauty of the liturgy.

Sometimes it's difficult to make these decisions, and that's okay. If you can't decide on a single option, you may choose to recommend a couple of different selections from a certain section on the list and allow the musicians to make the final choice, or, if you find it simpler, you can choose to leave all of the musical selections in the very capable hands of our organist and cantors.

Finally, while we do hope that you give thought to the explanation offered above, we do remain open to special requests and the use of songs not provided in our list of suggestions. If you have questions regarding the music for the liturgy, the possibility of using guest musicians, or would like to make a certain request, we simply ask that you contact the Parish Office and speak with the priest who will be celebrating the liturgy to discuss this.

Funeral Music Suggestions

As music can play such an important role in the funeral liturgy, we have provided you with the following selections that we see as fitting and appropriate for this occasion. After looking through the suggestions offered, please choose one (1) song from each of the sections listed below. If you have questions or other specific musical requests, we ask that you speak with the priest who will be celebrating the liturgy to discuss them.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Come Home

I Have Loved You
Softly And Tenderly
You Are Mine

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Ave Maria
Blest Are They
Come To Me
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

How Great Thou Art
On Eagle's Wings
Only In God
Prayer Of St. Francis

COMMUNION HYMN

All I Ask of You
Breathe On Me, O Breath of God
Come Unto Me
Here I Am, Lord
Hosea
Irish Blessing
My Soul Is Thirsting For You, O Lord

O Loving God
Peace
Psalm 42
Shelter Me, O God
The Lord Is My Light
We Will Rise Again
You Are Near

FINAL COMMENDATION

May The Choirs Of Angels

In Paradisum

Funeral Liturgy Selection Form

Name of Deceased: _____

Date of Mass: _____ Time: _____

EULOGY

Yes, A Eulogy Will Be Given

No, A Eulogy Will Not Be Given

If yes:

Name of Person Giving The Eulogy

Relationship to the Deceased

“The wake is the primary place for remembering and celebrating the person’s life in this world. At the funeral Mass itself, the liturgy allows some brief words of thanks by a family member... but not long eulogies that are more appropriate for a wake” (Archbishop Leonard Blair, October 2014). To ensure that Archdiocesan standards are followed, we request that whenever possible the text of any Eulogies or “Words of Remembrance” at the funeral liturgy be submitted twenty-four (24) hours prior to the funeral. Eulogies are always appropriate at a Memorial Service at the funeral home when there is no funeral Mass celebrated.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The priest will indicate to the reader(s) when to come up for the readings.

First Reading (Old Testament): _____
Number of Reading & Citation (e.g. 1. Job 19:1, 23-27)

Name of Reader

Relationship to the Deceased

Responsorial Psalm: *Selected and sung by the cantor*

Second Reading (New Testament): _____
Number of Reading & Citation

Name of Reader

Relationship to the Deceased

Gospel: *Selected and read by the priest*

General Intercessions: LIST A or LIST B *(Please choose one of the two lists)*

Name of Reader

Relationship to the Deceased

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

The priest will indicate to those presenting the gifts when it is time to do so.

Presenters of Gifts of Bread and Wine: *(You may select up to four people)*

Name of Presenter / Relationship to the Deceased

Name of Presenter / Relationship to the deceased

Name of Presenter / Relationship to the Deceased

Name of Presenter / Relationship to the deceased

MUSIC

Please choose one hymn or song from the “Funeral Music Suggestions” page for each of the following categories.

Entrance Hymn: _____

Presentation of the Gifts: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Final Commendation: _____

We at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church hope that the Planning Booklet and this Selection Form will assist you in preparing both a fitting and prayerful liturgy for the loved one you have lost, and we thank you for taking the time during this difficult moment to make these preparations. If you have any special requests, questions while attempting to make any of the selections presented above, or inquiries about the funeral liturgy in general, please contact the Parish Office at 203-248-0141 or olmtcarmelchurch@sbcglobal.net. Our secretary, a member of our staff, or one of our priests will be happy to assist you in whatever way we can.