

FUNERAL MASS PREPARATION BOOKLET



*“We have loved them in life. Let us never forget them...
and let us conduct them, by our prayers, into the house of the Lord.”*

ST. AMBROSE OF MILAN

Reverend Father José A. Mercado
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FUNERAL GUIDELINES

ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH ✠ WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

WHAT IS A CATHOLIC FUNERAL MASS?

This life is short, and the life to come is eternal. When a Catholic Christian departs this world for eternity, the Church commends him or her to the love and mercy of God. The Funeral Mass is a time to remember the deceased and to give thanks to God for the gift of his or her life. Even more so, it is a very privileged and sacred time to *pray* for the deceased, asking God to grant them a merciful judgment, and to grant peace and consolation to their family and friends.

PLANNING FOR THE FUNERAL

The family of the deceased is welcome and encouraged to actively participate in planning the Funeral Rites. Family members may designate individuals to place the funeral pall (a large white cloth which covers the entire casket) recalling the white garment with which the deceased was clothed on the day of his or her Baptism. The family may choose from a list of appropriate Sacred Scripture readings and music, designate individuals to proclaim those readings and present the gifts of bread and wine in the Funeral Liturgy.

PARISH CONTACTS

Whether the Funeral Mass is being scheduled for St. John Vianney Church or St. Louis Church, you may contact Patty Boyne (203) 934-5249 | patricia.stjohn23@gmail.com

SACRED MUSIC

Music is an especially important part of the Funeral Liturgy. There are many beautiful hymns which come to us from all the centuries of the Church's life of prayer and worship. These are available to be played and sung at the Funeral Liturgy. A sample list follows at the end of these guidelines.

By its very nature, the Church's Liturgy is sacred. It is a time set apart, in a sacred place, specifically for the worship of God. Thus, it is possible only for sacred music to be used during the Funeral Liturgy. Any non-sacred, or "secular" music which may

hold a particular significance to the family of the deceased would be more appropriate to be played either at the wake, or at the reception following the Funeral Liturgy. If a family wishes to bring in non-parish liturgical musicians, all music and any visiting musicians must be approved by St. John XXIII Parish.

ALL SOULS DAY MASS

Each year, on November 2, All Souls Day, we at St. John XXIII Parish celebrate a special Mass for all those whose Funeral Masses have taken place in our churches during the past year. Some weeks prior to this, your family will receive an invitation to join us for this special Mass of consolation, hope, and peace. At the All Souls Day Mass, your loved one will be prayed for by name together with all whose Funeral Mass have taken place in our churches during the past year.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

The practice of giving “Words of Remembrance,” also known as a eulogy, is actually not a part of the Catholic Funeral Liturgy. Families should not feel obligated to designate someone to offer one. It is preferable that this take place at the wake, at the cemetery, or at the reception following the burial.

If a family strongly desires to designate someone to offer “Words of Remembrance” in the church, only one person should be designated to offer it. It will be delivered at the beginning of the Funeral Liturgy immediately following the entrance procession. It should be no longer than 3 to 4 minutes. Its content should be suitable and respectful of the sacredness of the liturgy focusing on the positive characteristics of the deceased.

CREMATION

“Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites.”

(Order of Christian Funerals, no. 413)

For various reasons, some families choose the option of cremation. While intact burial is clearly preferred, in imitation of Jesus’ own burial after His Crucifixion and before His Resurrection, cremation is permitted by the Church by way of exception, if it is

not carried out so as to deny the Church's unchanging faith in the resurrection of each person's mortal body when Christ comes again at the end of time.

If cremation is chosen and takes place before the Funeral Mass, the urn is brought to the church and placed on a table in front of the sanctuary. A photograph of the deceased, as well as flowers, may be placed beside the urn on the table, should the family wish this.

Following the Mass, the cremated remains must be buried, just like a body, in a cemetery, crypt, or other appropriate burial place. Out of respect for the remains of the deceased, whose body was once a temple of the Holy Spirit and which will be raised up again on the Last Day, scattering ashes, dividing them up, or keeping them at home, is not permissible because it does not express appropriate respect for the dignity of the person's remains.

PRIESTS OR DEACONS FROM OTHER PARISHES

If a family would like to invite a Priest or Deacon from elsewhere to celebrate or concelebrate any of the Funeral Liturgies, they would be welcome to do so, if they are currently in good standing in the Archdiocese of Hartford or Religious Order.

If an invited Priest or Deacon is from another Diocese, or from a Religious Order outside the Archdiocese of Hartford, he must ensure that a *Letter of Suitability* from his Bishop or Religious Superior is sent to the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Our parish priests would be happy to facilitate this process with any visiting clergy.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Funeral Rites must be of a sacred nature since the Funeral Liturgy is principally an act of divine worship. So if, for instance, it is not possible for the parish to accommodate some requests, such as reading a specific poem in place of Sacred Scripture, a specific song, or article which was special to the deceased, it should be remembered that other moments, outside of the Mass (such as the wake, the interment, or the reception following it) are actually more appropriate times for such things to be shared with family and friends.

St. John XXIII Parish is here to support your family in your time of grief and loss, and we will always seek to ensure that the Funeral Liturgy is celebrated with all possible dignity and prayerfulness.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

FIRST READING



(The following readings are options outside of the Easter Season.)

1

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

2 Maccabees 12:43-46 (1011-1)

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 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.

I know that my Vindicator lives.
Job19:1,23-27a (1011-2)

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead

they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,

and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him;

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Long version: Wisdom 3:1-9 (1011-3)

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.

Short version: Wisdom 3:1-6,9 (1011-3)

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.

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
Wisdom 4:7-15 (1011-4)

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.

He will destroy death forever.
Isaiah 25:6a,7-9 (1011-5)

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.

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.
Lamentations 3:17-26 (1011-6)

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.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.
Daniel 12: 1-3 (1011-7)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, 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.

During Easter Season: New Testament

(Only these readings may be selected as the First Reading during the Easter Season.)

8(L)

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

Long version: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 (1012-1)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

“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 children of Israel
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.

8(S)

Short version: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:
“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 children of Israel
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.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.
Revelation 14:13 (1012-2)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

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

The word of the Lord.

The dead were judged according to their deeds.
Revelation 20:11-21:1 (1012-3)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, 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.
The 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.

11

There shall be no more death.
Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 (1012-4)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
 and the sea was no more.
I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
 coming down out of heaven from God,
 prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
 “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.

He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said,
“Behold, I make all things new.
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

SECOND READING



12

Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.
Romans 5:5-11 (1014-1)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,

because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,

died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,

though perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us

in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies,

we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.

Not only that,

but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.
Romans 5:17-21 (1014-2)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of the one,
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 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 the one man
the many were made sinners,
so through the obedience of the 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.

We too might live in newness of life.
Long version: Romans 6:3-9 (1014-3)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

Short version: Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

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.

We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
Romans 8:14-23 (1014-4)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

What will separate us from the Love of Christ?
Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 (1014-5)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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 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.

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12 (1014-6)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself,

and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,

and if we die, we die for the Lord;

so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,

that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why then do you judge your brother?

Or you, why do you look down on your brother?

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;

for it is written:

As I live, says the Lord, every knee

shall bend before me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God.

So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.
Long version: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28 (1014-7)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
 the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
 the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die,
 so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
 but each one in proper order:
 Christ the 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.

Short version: 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each on in proper order:
Christ the first fruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Death is swallowed up in victory.
1 Corinthians 15: 51-57 (1014-8)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility,
and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.

And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:

*Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?*

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1 (1014-9)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.
2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10 (1014-10)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands,
eternal in heaven.

We are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.
Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.
Philippians 3: 20-21 (1014-11)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,

and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body

to conform with his glorified Body

by the power that enables him also

to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 (1014-12)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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 the 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.

If we have died with him we shall also live with him.
2 Timothy 2: 8-13 (1014-13)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

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.

We shall see him as he is.
1 John 3: 1-2 (1014-14)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.
1 John 3:14-16 (1014-15)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

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

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.

The word of the Lord.

MUSIC SELECTIONS

FOR FUNERAL MASSES



Listed below is a selection of hymns which are appropriate for use at Catholic Funeral Liturgies. Should you have another request which does not appear on the list, please feel free to discuss it with the organist, who must approve all music choices.

As noted in the guidelines, “any non-sacred, or ‘secular’ music which may hold a particular significance to the family of the deceased would be more appropriate to be played either at the wake, or at the reception following the Funeral Liturgy.”

PROCESSIONAL HYMNS

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- | | |
|---|--|
| ○ Abide with Me (<i>Eventide</i>) | ○ Lord of All Hopefulness (<i>Slane</i>) |
| ○ Be Not Afraid (<i>Robert J. Dufford, S.J.</i>) | ○ Morning Has Broken (<i>Bunessan</i>) |
| ○ Christ Be Beside Me (<i>Laura Wasson</i>) | ○ My Soul Rejoices |
| ○ Christ, Be Our Light (<i>Bernadette Farrell</i>) | ○ Rain Down (<i>Jaime Cortez</i>) |
| ○ Come to Me (<i>Weston Priory</i>) | ○ Seek Ye First (<i>Karen Lafferty</i>) |
| ○ Day Is Done (<i>Ar Hyd y Nos</i>) | ○ Shall We Gather at the River (<i>Hanson Place</i>) |
| ○ For You Are My God (<i>John Foley, S.J.</i>) | ○ The Church's One Foundation (<i>Aurelia</i>) |
| ○ Healing River of the Spirit (<i>Ruth Duck</i>) | ○ The Summons (<i>Kelvingrove</i>) |
| ○ Here I Am, Lord (<i>Dan Schutte</i>) | ○ There Is a Longing (<i>Anne Quigley</i>) |
| ○ Holy, Holy, Holy (<i>John Dykes</i>) | ○ There's A Wideness in God's Mercy |
| ○ I Heard the Voice of Jesus (<i>Kingsfold</i>) | ○ This Day God Gives Me (<i>Bunessan</i>) |
| ○ I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (<i>Houston</i>) | ○ We Are the Light of the World (<i>Greif</i>) |
| ○ Jesus Christ is Risen Today* (<i>Easter Hymn</i>) | ○ Whatsoever You Do (<i>Willard F. Jabuseh</i>) |
- *(not available during the Lenten Season)

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

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- | | |
|--|---|
| ○ As the Deer Longs - Psalm 42 (<i>O Waly Waly</i>) | ○ Psalm 25 |
| ○ Center of My Life - Psalm 16 (<i>Paul Inwood</i>) | ○ Psalm 23 |
| ○ How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place - Psalm 84 (<i>Michael Joncas</i>) | ○ Shelter Me, O God- Psalm 61 (<i>Hurd</i>) |
| ○ In Every Age - Psalm 90 (<i>Janet Whitaker</i>) | ○ Shepherd Me, O God - Psalm 23 (<i>Marty Haugen</i>) |
| ○ My Shepherd is the Lord - Psalm 23 (<i>Joseph Gelineau, S.J.</i>) | ○ The King of Love My Shepherd (<i>St. Columba</i>) |
| ○ Our Blessing Cup - Psalm 116 (<i>Hurd</i>) | ○ The Lord Is My Light - Psalm 27 (<i>Walker</i>) |
| ○ Remember Your Love (<i>Darryl Ducote</i>) | ○ This Alone – Based on Psalm 27 |
| | ○ To You, O God, I Lift up My Soul - Psalm 25 (<i>Hurd</i>) |
| | ○ You Are Near - Psalm 139 (<i>Dan Schutte</i>) |

OFFERTORY HYMNS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ○ All I Ask of You (<i>Weston Priory</i>) | ○ Like a Child Rests (<i>Christopher Walker</i>) |
| ○ All is Well with My Soul (<i>Ville Du Havre</i>) | ○ Nearer My God to Thee (<i>Mangisondele</i>) |
| ○ Amazing Grace (<i>New Britain</i>) | ○ O Sanctissima (<i>O Du Frohliche</i>) |
| ○ Ave Maria (<i>Schubert</i>) | ○ On Eagle's Wings (<i>Michael Joncas</i>) |
| ○ Come, Lord Jesus (<i>M.D. Ridge</i>) | ○ Parable [Ecclesiastes] (<i>M.D. Ridge</i>) |
| ○ Come to the Water (<i>John Foley, S.J.</i>) | ○ Peace (<i>Weston Priory</i>) |
| ○ Eye Has Not Seen (<i>Marty Haugen</i>) | ○ Prayer of St. Francis (<i>Sebastian Temple</i>) |
| ○ Fly Like a Bird (<i>Ken Canedo</i>) | ○ Precious Lord Take My Hand (<i>Precious Lord</i>) |
| ○ For You Are My God (<i>John Foley, S.J.</i>) | ○ Salve Regina (<i>Chant, Mode V</i>) |
| ○ Hail Mary: Gentle Woman (<i>Carey Landry</i>) | ○ Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling (<i>Thompson</i>) |
| ○ I Have Loved You (<i>Michael Joncas</i>) | ○ Stand By Me (<i>Tom Kendzia</i>) |
| ○ Jesus, Remember Me (<i>Jacques Berthier</i>) | |

COMMUNION HYMNS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ○ Behold the Lamb (<i>Martin Willett</i>) | ○ Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist (<i>Unde et Memores</i>) |
| ○ Beyond the Moon and Stars (<i>Dan Schutte</i>) | ○ Lord, You Have Come (<i>Cesáreo Gabárain</i>) |
| ○ Bread of Life (<i>Bernadette Farrell</i>) | ○ One Bread, One Body (<i>John Foley, S.J.</i>) |
| ○ Christians, Let Us Love One Another (<i>Picardy</i>) | ○ Only This I Want (<i>Dan Schutte</i>) |
| ○ Eat This Bread (<i>Jacques Berthier</i>) | ○ Our Blessing Cup (<i>Bob Hurd</i>) |
| ○ Gift of Finest Wheat (<i>Bicentennial</i>) | ○ Pan de Vida (<i>Bob Hurd</i>) |
| ○ Give Me Jesus (<i>Spiritual</i>) | ○ Panis Angelicus (<i>Sacris Solemnis</i>) |
| ○ Here at This Table (<i>Janet Whitaker</i>) | ○ Precious Lord, Take My Hand (<i>Precious Lord</i>) |
| ○ Hosea (<i>Weston Priory</i>) | ○ Resucito/He Is Risen* (<i>Kiko Argüello</i>) |
| ○ How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place (<i>Randall DeBruyn</i>) | * (not available during the Lenten Season) |
| ○ I Am the Bread of Life (<i>Suzanne Toolan, RSM</i>) | ○ Seed, Scattered and Sown (<i>Dan Feiten</i>) |
| ○ I Received the Living God (<i>Living God</i>) | ○ Shepherd of Souls (<i>St. Agnes</i>) |
| ○ Let Us Break Bread Together (<i>Randall DeBruyn</i>) | ○ Taste and See (<i>Bob Hurd</i>) |
| ○ Like A Shepherd (<i>Bob Dufford, S.J.</i>) | ○ Taste and See (<i>James Moore, Jr.</i>) |
| ○ Look Beyond (<i>Darryl Ducote</i>) | ○ The Cry of the Poor (<i>John Foley, S.J.</i>) |
| | ○ Turn to Me (<i>John Foley, S.J.</i>) |
| | ○ Unless a Grain of Wheat (<i>Bernadette Farrell</i>) |

FINAL COMMENDATION

- | | |
|--|--|
| ○ Celtic Song of Farewell (<i>Catherine O'Connell</i>) | ○ May the Angels Be Your Guide (<i>Michele MacAller</i>) |
| ○ I Know that My Redeemer Lives (<i>Duke Street</i>) | ○ Pastures of the Lord (<i>Curtis Stephan</i>) |
| ○ I Know that My Redeemer Lives (<i>Scott Soper</i>) | ○ Song of Farewell (<i>Ernest Sands</i>) |
| ○ In Paradisum (<i>Gregorian Chant</i>) | ○ Song of Farewell (<i>Old Hundreth</i>) |
| ○ Irish Blessing (<i>Bob Fabing, S.J.</i>) | |

RECESSIONAL HYMNS

- | | |
|---|---|
| ○ A Mighty Fortress (<i>Ein' Feste Burg</i>) | ○ I Know That My Redeemer Lives (<i>Scott Soper</i>) |
| ○ All Creatures of Our God and King* (<i>Lasst Uns Erfreuen</i>) | ○ Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (<i>Hymn to Joy</i>) |
| *(not available during the Lenten Season) | ○ Lead Me, Lord (<i>John D. Becker</i>) |
| ○ Alleluia! Alleluia!* (<i>Hymn to Joy</i>) | ○ Let There Be Peace on Earth (<i>Sy Miller</i>) |
| *(not available during the Lenten Season) | ○ Lift High The Cross (<i>Crucifer</i>) |
| ○ Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise* (<i>Holy Anthem</i>) | ○ Lord, You Give the Great Commission (<i>Abbot's Leigh</i>) |
| *(not available during the Lenten Season) | ○ Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (<i>Hyfrydol</i>) |
| ○ Alleluia! Sing To Jesus* (<i>Hyfrydol</i>) | ○ Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven* (<i>Lauda Anima</i>) *(not available during the Lenten Season) |
| *(not available during the Lenten Season) | ○ Sent Forth by God's Blessing (<i>Ash Grove</i>) |
| ○ America the Beautiful (<i>Materna</i>) | ○ Sing With All the Saints in Glory (<i>Hymn to Joy</i>) |
| ○ Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* (<i>Battle Hymn of the Republic</i>) | ○ Soon and Very Soon* |
| *(not available during the Lenten Season) | *(not available during the Lenten Season) |
| ○ Blest Be the Lord (<i>Dan Schutte</i>) | ○ The Strife is O'er* (<i>Victory</i>) |
| ○ City of God (<i>Dan Schutte</i>) | *(not available during the Lenten Season) |
| ○ Eternal Father, Strong to Save (<i>Navy Hymn</i>) | ○ Though the Mountains May Fall (<i>Dan Schutte</i>) |
| ○ Go Make a Difference (<i>Steve Angrisano</i>) | ○ We Are the Light of the World (<i>Greif</i>) |
| ○ Go Make of All Disciples (<i>Ellacombe</i>) | ○ We Walk by Faith (<i>Marty Haugen</i>) |
| ○ How Great Thou Art (<i>Stuart K. Hine</i>) | ○ Ye Sons and Daughters* (<i>O Filii et Filiae</i>) |
| ○ I Know That My Redeemer Lives (<i>Duke Street</i>) | *(not available during the Lenten Season) |

FINAL NOTE ON MUSIC SELECTIONS

Some of these hymns may be used in other parts of the Mass, except for the Responsorial Psalm and Final Commendation. If you have any questions regarding your music selections, feel free to contact the organist through the parish contact. Whether the Funeral Mass is being scheduled for St. John Vianney Church or St. Louis Church, you may contact Patty Boyne (203) 934-5249 | patricia.stjohn23@gmail.com



_____ Funeral Home
Date: _____
Time: _____
Location: _____
of St. John XXIII Parish

FUNERAL MASS

for

☐ CASKET -or- ☐ URN

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: _____

*WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE (EULOGY): _____

**[Please read Guidelines for Words of Remembrance in the Funeral Mass Preparation Booklet]*

1ST READING: _____ READER: _____

[Options 1-7 from the Old Testament, unless it is during the Easter Season (options 8L-11)]

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: _____

[sung by the organist or cantor]

2ND READING: _____ READER: _____

[Options 12-26 from the New Testament]

PRESENTERS OF GIFTS: _____ AND _____

OFFERTORY HYMN: _____

COMMUNION HYMN: _____

FINAL COMMENDATION: _____

RECESSIONAL HYMN: _____

NOTATIONS

*Please feel free to note below any memories of the deceased and/or any personal details
which will help the priest celebrant in crafting his homily.*



*“God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy for us
you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.
Show compassion to your people in their sorrow.*

*Be our refuge and our strength
to lift us from the darkness of this grief
to the peace and light of your presence.*

*Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying for us, conquered death
and by rising again, restored life.*

*May we then go forward eagerly to meet him,
and after our life on earth
be reunited with our brothers and sisters
where every tear will be wiped away.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”*

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS
(PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: RITES OF ANOINTING AND VIATICUM)