

# PLANNING A

# CATHOLIC FUNERAL



# Planning the Funeral Rites

There are occasions when a Catholic person dies before they share with family members or friends their wishes concerning a funeral and burial. In such a case, the person may be buried without a Catholic funeral or even before the parish knows of the death. In order that family, friends and your parish church understand your wishes in regard to the Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church, please prayerfully consider the information and questions provided in this form. A representative from your parish will be happy to meet with you and any family members to explain the Rites and the choices that are available in planning the liturgies.

*“At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of baptism and strengthened at the Eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting word of God and the sacrament of the eucharist.”*  
*Order of Christian Funerals, #4.*

## **THREE PRINCIPAL RITUAL MOMENTS IN CHRISTIAN FUNERALS:**

- *The Vigil and Related Rites and Prayers*
- *The Funeral Liturgy*
- *The Rite of Committal*

*The vigil for the deceased is the principal rite celebrated by the Christian community in the time following death and before the funeral liturgy.*

*Order of Christian Funerals, #54*

The first ritual, the *Vigil*, may take the form of a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word, or some part of the Office for the Dead. The vigil may be celebrated at the church with the body or at a funeral home. Sometimes the family will prefer to pray the Rosary at the vigil. It is possible to have both the Liturgy of the Word or the Office of the Dead and the Rosary. A priest or deacon usually presides at the vigil, but in their absence a lay person may preside.

The related rites and prayers may be used as the family gathers for prayer. They include “Prayers after Death,” “Gathering in the Presence of the Body,” and “Transfer of the Body to the Church or to the Place of Committal.” A priest, deacon or lay person may preside at these rites.



*The funeral liturgy is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased.*

*Order of Christian Funerals, #128*

There are two forms of the second ritual, the *Funeral Liturgy*. They are the “Funeral Mass” and the “Funeral Liturgy outside Mass.” The Church especially encourages the celebration of the Mass.



*The rite of committal, is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member.*

*Order of Christian Funerals, #204.*

The third ritual is the *Rite of Committal*. There are two forms of this rite. The first form “Rite of Committal” takes place at the end of the funeral liturgy. The second form, “Rite of Committal with Final Commendation” is used if the final commendation does not take place during the funeral liturgy. It may take place at the grave, tomb, or crematorium. A priest, deacon or lay person may preside at the rite of committal.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Laywomen and laymen may serve as lectors, musicians, ushers, pallbearers and extraordinary ministers of holy communion. Family members of the deceased are encouraged to fulfill these ministries unless it would be difficult for them due to the circumstances.

## THE WORD OF GOD

During the funeral liturgy biblical readings may not be replaced by non-biblical readings. Non-biblical readings may be used during prayer services in addition to readings from Scripture.

The psalms are designated for use in many places in the funeral rites and, whenever possible, should be sung.

A homily based on the scripture readings is always given after the gospel reading at a funeral liturgy. There is never to be a eulogy. If a family member or friend of the deceased would like to say a few words in memory or tribute, this should occur after the Final Blessing of the funeral Mass before the final commendation.

## MUSIC

*The music at funerals should support, console, and uplift the participants and should help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory.*

*Order of Christian Funerals, #31.*

Music should be provided for the vigil and funeral liturgy, and if possible for the processions and rite of committal. An instrumentalist, a cantor, and a choir if one is available, should assist with leading the assembly in song. *The texts of the songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death and triumph over death and should be related to the readings from Scripture.* Order of Christian Funerals, 30.

## SYMBOLS

It is customary for a *pall* to be placed over the coffin as a reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased. It also signifies that "all are equal in the eyes of God" (James 2:1-9). Family members, if they wish, may assist in placing the pall over the coffin before the funeral liturgy begins.

Only Christian symbols may rest on or be placed near the coffin during the funeral liturgy. A book of the Gospels, a Bible or a cross may be used.

## 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, Appendix-Cremation #413*

Cremation is permitted in the Catholic Church, but it is preferred that cremation take place after the funeral rites with the body. It may be necessary to cremate a body before the funeral rites can be celebrated. The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to a human body. **A worthy vessel should be used to contain the cremated remains. The vessel must be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The church does not permit scattering of cremated remains or keeping them in the home of a friend or relative.**

# Funeral and Burial Instructions

*Please take time to consider the options outlined in this form. You may fill it out yourself or contact a parish representative in order to help you plan your funeral. Once you have completed the form, be sure to share the information with your family and/or friends, especially those you have chosen to carry out a ministerial role in the rites. At the time of death, the contact person should notify the parish priest before making arrangements with the funeral home. Also make sure your parish office has a copy of this form.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I am a parishioner at:** \_\_\_\_\_

## *If You Are Planning a Funeral For Someone Else*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact person at time of death:** (Family member or friend who understands your wishes regarding your funeral and will help coordinate details with the parish)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact phone # - Home:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship of contact person to you:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you made arrangements with a particular funeral home? If so, which one?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Have you made arrangements with a particular cemetery? If so, which one?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**If your preference is cremation,** please indicate that here and speak with your parish priest or deacon for more details. Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Members** (names and addresses):

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Son(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Daughter(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Grandchildren: \_\_\_\_\_

Brothers/Sisters: \_\_\_\_\_

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE VIGIL AND RELATED RITES AND PRAYERS**

If circumstances allow, would you like for your family to gather for:

*Prayers after Death* (this rite may be used when the minister first meets with the family after death) and/or *Gathering in the Presence of the Body* (this rite may be used when the family first gathers in the presence of the body).

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Vigil**

Place (church or funeral home): \_\_\_\_\_

Liturgy of the Word: \_\_\_\_\_ Office of the Dead: \_\_\_\_\_ Rosary: \_\_\_\_\_

Who would you prefer to preside at the vigil? Please give name.

Priest: \_\_\_\_\_ Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_

*(If clergy is not available, a family member or friend may preside. Please give name and contact information.)*

Music preferences (instrument, cantor, specific hymns/psalms – *discuss with the parish representative*):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THE FUNERAL MASS**

Place (your parish church): \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Concelebrating Priest/s (other priests you would like to invite to celebrate the Funeral Mass):

\_\_\_\_\_

Music preferences (instrument, choir, cantor, specific hymns – *again, discuss with parish representative*):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*If you do not know trained liturgical ministers to fill the roles of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion or servers, contact your parish office for assistance.*

Servers (names and contact information): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like family members or friends to place the pall on the coffin, indicate their names and contact information here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pall Bearers - the usual number is 6, there can be 4 or 8 - (names and contact information):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Readings from Scripture - Family members or friends may serve as lectors. A copy of readings from the *Order of Christian Funerals* is attached.

Old Testament: \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament: \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

Lectors (please include contact information):

Old Testament Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Homily Notes for the Priest (Is there anything you would like the priest to mention during his homily pertaining to your life in Christ?):

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Gift Bearers (two or more, these ministers should be Catholic): \_\_\_\_\_

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (names and contact information): \_\_\_\_\_

Following the prayer after communion, if a member or friend of the family wishes to speak words of remembrance of the deceased, the funeral rite indicates this should be done before the Final Commendation begins. Guidelines for such words are:

- Clearly not a eulogy
- Very brief (Parish should suggest a definite length of time.)
- Be positive in nature
- Demonstrates how the faith life of the deceased was portrayed in their lived experience
- Speaks to the Christ-like attitudes/values that were important in their life.
- A copy of the text is shared ahead of time with a member of the parish staff.

Do you wish to have someone speak? No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_

If so, indicate a name and contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

### **RITE OF COMMITTAL**

If the Final Commendation takes place at the end of the Funeral Mass, the Rite of Committal is used at the graveside. In this case, the intercessions may be led by a family member or friend. Do you wish to indicate who that will be? No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_

If so, name and contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please share this information with your family and/or friends, and leave a copy in your parish office. Be sure to update this form with your parish staff and/or family and friends when necessary.*

*These are general guidelines. If you have questions that have not been addressed, speak with your pastor, deacon or parish representative.*

I have given this information to (please indicate family members or friends who have a copy of this document and their contact information):

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Suggested Readings for Funeral Liturgy

## Old Testament Readings

1. A reading from the book of Job

19:1, 23-27

*I know that my Redeemer lives.*

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.

2. A reading from the book of Wisdom

3:1-9

*He accepted them as a holocaust.*

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

A reading from the book of Wisdom

3: 1-6, 9

*He accepted them as a holocaust.*

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  
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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. A reading from the book of wisdom

4: 7-15

*A blameless life is a ripe old age.*

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 as unsullied life, the attainment of old age.  
He who pleased God was loved;  
he who lives 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. A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

25: 6a, 7-9

*The Lord God will destroy death for ever.*

On this mountain the Lord of host  
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. A reading from the book of Lamentations 3: 17-26

*It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.*

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. A reading from the book of the prophet Daneil 12: 1-3

*Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake.*

[ 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 the 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. A reading from the second book of Maccabees 12: 43-46

*It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.*

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

During the Easter season, reading 1,17,18, or 19 is used as the first reading instead of a reading from the Old Testament.

1. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-43

*God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.*

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 witness 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.”

Shorter form:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10: 34-36, 42-43

*God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.*

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

2. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Roman's

5: 5-11

*Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.*

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, we were 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. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Roman's

5: 17-21

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

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 sine 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

4. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Roman's 6: 3-9

*Let us walk in newness of life.*

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

Shorter form

4. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Roman's 6: 3-4, 8-9

*Let us walk in newness of life.*

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. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8: 14-23

Those who are lead 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

6. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8: 1b-35, 37-39

*Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?*

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, not 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. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

14: 7-9, 10b-12

*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

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

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

15: 20-23, 24b-28

*All people will be brought to life in Christ.*

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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the One who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

- The Word of the Lord

Shorter form

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

15: 20-23

*All people will be brought to life in Christ.*

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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ

9. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15: 51-57

*Death is swallowed up in victory.*

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 corruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that 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. A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians 4: 14 – 5: 1

*What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.*

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. A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10

*We have an everlasting home in heaven.*

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 are 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. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 3: 20-21

*Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours to be like his glorious body.*

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. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 4: 13-18

*We shall stay with the Lord for ever.*

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. A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy 2: 8-13

*If we have died with him, we shall live with him.*

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. A reading from the first letter of John 3: 1-2

*We shall see God as he really is.*

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. A reading from the first letter of John 3: 14-16

*We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.*

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. A reading from the book of Revelation 14: 13

*Happy are those who die in the Lord.*

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. A reading from the book of Revelation 20: 11- 21: 1

*The dead have been judged according to their works.*

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 new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

-The Word of the Lord

19. A reading from the book of Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7

*There will be no more death.*

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 a 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

## Music for the Funeral Rites

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

Order of Christian Funerals, 30-31.

Each parish has a particular repertoire, a group of songs that the music director, cantors, musicians and parishioners are familiar with. For this reason it is important that as you plan your funeral liturgy, you are in contact with the music director or parish representative from your church. That person can help you determine if a particular piece of music that you would like to use is appropriate, part of the parish repertoire or easily learned by the parish musicians and cantor. *The texts of the songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death and triumph over death and should be related to the readings from Scripture.* Order of Christian Funerals, 30.

A list of common titles taken from the 'Music Supplement' included in the *Order of Christian Funerals* follows. These are suggestions. A wide range of music is available for funerals. Speak with your parish representative for more titles.

### Responsorial Refrains

The Lord Is Kind and Merciful	Christopher Willcock, S.J.	Pastoral Arts Associates of North America
The Lord Is My Shepherd	Joseph Gelineau	The Grail (England)
The Lord Is My Light and Salvation	David Haas	GIA Publications
In the Shadow of Your Wings	Michael Joncas	GIA Publications
He Will Raise You Up On Eagle's Wings	Michael Joncas	North American Liturgy Resources
To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul	Marty Haugen	GIA Publications

### Songs of Farewell

Come to His/Her Aid	Dennis Smolarski, S. J.	Tune: Old Hundredth
Saint of God	Phillip Duffy	ICEL
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	Howard Hughes, S. M.	ICEL

### Procession to the Place of Committal

May the Angels	Howard Hughes, S.M.	ICEL
May Flights of Angels Lead You	William Henry Monk	Geoffrey Chapman, London

### Responsorial Pieces

Psalms 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd	Joseph Gelineau	The Grail (England)
Psalms 25: To You, O Lord	Marty Haugen	GIA Publications
Psalms 27: The Lord Is My Light	David Haas	GIA Publications
Psalms 42: Like the Deer That Yearns	Joseph Gelineau	The Grail (England)
Psalms 63: In the Shadow of Your Wings	Michael Joncas	GIA Publications
Psalms 63: My Soul Is Thirsting	Richard Proulx	GIA Publications
Psalms 84: How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place	Stephen Somerville	Stephen Somerville
Psalms 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful	Christopher Willcock, S.J.	Pastoral Arts Association of North America

### Hymns

All Creatures of Our God and King	Ralph Vaughn Williams	Oxford University Press
All You On Earth	The English Hymnal	Oxford University Press
Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds	The English Hymnal	Oxford University Press
Come to Me	Delores Dufner, O.S.B.	Sisters of St. Benedict
For All the Saints	The English Hymnal	Oxford University Press
Now Thank We All Our God	Martin Rinkart, 1586-1649	
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	Isaac Watts, 1674-1748)	
Peace Prayer	John Foley, S.J.	North American Liturgy Resources
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	The English Hymnal	Oxford University Press
Stand Firm in Faith	Delores Dufner, O.S.B.	Sisters of St Benedict
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	Gerard Wojchowski, O.S.B.	The Order of St. Benedict
Amazing Grace!	Early American Melody	Text: John Newton, 1725-1807
What Wondrous Love Is This	Sister Theophane Hytrek, O.S.F.	ICEL