

PLANNING SHEET FOR CATHOLIC FUNERAL MASS

Dear Families: This planning sheet is designed to help guide you through some of the different choices you can make as you plan the funeral Mass for a loved one.

The areas shaded in gray designate where you can select a song or Scripture reading or where family members can assist in the funeral liturgy. Please note that families can be involved as much or as little as they like in these selections. Our clergy and funeral ministry team are ready to assist in any way needed.

For Scripture selections, please see our PDF at www.stjohnsp.org/funeral_planning

For music selections, please see pages 4-5 of this planning sheet.

Please Note: We encourage families who would like to share memories of loved ones to use the time of visitation at the funeral home, the wake service, or a funeral reception to do so. With the pastor's permission, a single speaker may share words of remembrance immediately before the start of the funeral Mass. Families must submit a written copy two days before the funeral for review. The length must not exceed 550 words.

The Order of a Catholic Funeral Mass:

Welcome/Introduction (Offered by Priest)

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession

Entrance Hymn: _____

Sign of Cross, Greeting, Sprinkling of the Casket/Urn

Placing of Pall on Casket: _____

(2 or 4 family members may assist. Omitted if Mass is celebrated with an urn.)

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading from the Old Testament:

Read by: _____

Responsorial Psalm (Check one)

Psalm 23: The Lord is my Shepherd

Psalm 25: To You, O Lord, I lift my soul

Psalm 27: The Lord is my light and my salvation

Second Reading from the New Testament: (or First Reading when no Old Testament Readings are selected):

Read by: _____

Gospel Reading: _____

Proclaimed by Priest or Deacon

Homily: Priest/Deacon

Prayer of the Faithful

Read by: _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: _____

Gift Bearers (Offering of the Bread and Wine): _____

Two individuals may be selected to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine, or the gifts may be set in place at the altar beforehand if gift bearers are not available.

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Hymn: _____

Prayer after Communion

Prayer of Commendation

Recessional Hymn: _____

SELECTING MUSIC FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

Revised summer 2019

The Role of Music in the Funeral Liturgy

As you begin to plan the funeral of a loved one, you will be called upon to make important choices about the readings and prayers to be used during the rites. As you make these decisions, consider also the incredible power of music in the funeral Mass. Music may help us to express feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It may console and uplift us in times of sadness, and unite us with other mourners in faith and love. The music to be sung during the funeral liturgy need not necessarily be sad; rather, it can express our faith and joy in the resurrection. The Music Ministry of St. John the Evangelist is committed to providing you with music that will offer comfort and hope to those who gather to remember a loved one.

Selecting the Music

If you have any questions regarding music, please contact Helen Kirby, Director of Music and Worship. She will be able to advise you about the musical selections, arrange for musicians, and answer any questions you may have. The best way to contact her is via email (hkirby@stjohnsp.org).

Sacred and Secular

The music to be used in any Catholic funeral liturgy must first and foremost be liturgical music – that is, music that expresses the faith of the church and has been approved for use in worship. Sacred music exists in a variety of styles, from chant to traditional hymns to contemporary songs. Music from secular sources is not permitted in church, but can be incorporated outside of the funeral Mass during the wake or at a meal following the burial service.

Recorded Music

According to a recent document published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Recorded music lacks the authenticity provided by a living liturgical assembly gathered for the Sacred Liturgy." (*Sing to the Lord*, 93) It is for this reason that the use of recorded music during the funeral Mass is strongly discouraged.

Suggested Musical Selections

A list of the most appropriate and most widely-requested liturgical music for funerals is provided. Many of these hymns can be found in the church's *Gather III* or *One In Faith* hymnals. Congregational singing is a sign of our unity and is strongly encouraged, but a solo piece sung by the cantor may be appropriate at other times during the liturgy. The suggested liturgical use for all of the traditional musical selections is provided. Contemporary songs found in the worship supplement booklets may also be used. Helen can provide you with a list of the songs in the current booklet.

We hope that this information is helpful. If you have any questions about music or the funeral liturgy, please contact Helen Kirby or the church.

SUGGESTED MUSIC

Gather III (G) or One In Faith (F) Number	Title	Liturgical Use			
		Entrance	Offertory	Communion	Recessional
G 645	Amazing Grace	•	•		•
solo	<i>Ave Maria</i> – Franz Schubert		•		
solo	<i>Ave Maria</i> – J.S.Bach/Charles Gounod		•		
G 683	Be Not Afraid	•	•		
G 735	Blest Are They		•		
G 574	Crown Him With Many Crowns	•			•
G 728	Eye Has Not Seen		•	•	
G 777	Here I Am, Lord	•	•		
G 567	Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty	•			•
G 578	How Great Thou Art				•
G 945	I Am the Bread of Life			•	
G 588	I Have Loved You		•		
G 724	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	•	•		
G 527	I Know That My Redeemer Lives				•
G 916	I Receive the Living God			•	
G 593	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	•	•		•
G 870	Jerusalem, My Happy Home	•	•		•
F 934	Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All			•	
G 510	Jesus, Remember Me	•			
G 663	Lord of All Hopefulness	•	•		•
G 828	Make Me a Channel of Your Peace		•		
G 581	O God, You Search Me		•		
F 940	O Lord, I Am Not Worthy			•	
G 691	On Eagle's Wings		•		•
G 932	One Bread, One Body			•	
solo	<i>Panis Angelicus</i> – Cesar Franck		•	•	
solo	<i>Pie Jesu</i> – Andrew Lloyd Webber		•	•	
solo	<i>Pie Jesu</i> – Gabriel Faure		•	•	
G 955	Precious Lord, Take My Hand				•
G 539	Sing with All the Saints in Glory	•			•
G 930	Taste and See			•	
G 712	The King of Love My Shepherd Is		•		
G 525	The Strife Is O'er*				•
G 644	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy				•
G 642	What Wondrous Love is This		•		•
G 721	You Are Mine	•	•	•	
G 695	You Are Near		•		
G 940	You Satisfy the Hungry Heart			•	

*Not permitted during Lent