

Liturgy of Christian Burial



St. Joseph Church

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PLANNING THE FUNERAL MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

This booklet has been prepared by the parish community of St. Joseph to assist you in planning the Mass of Christian Burial. We hope that by choosing the readings, music, and ritual expressions, you might share more fully in the liturgy, and show your care and love for the deceased.

Enclosed with this booklet is a planning form to be returned to the priest or deacon presiding at the funeral liturgy. Please fill out the form and return it as soon as possible. If you need assistance, a parish staff member will gladly provide help.

In regards to the music selections, we regret that cannot accommodate any musical choices that are not in one of our approved hymnals. We also strongly discourage the use of pre-recorded music, as the liturgy is always deserving of live music. If there is a particular non-Catholic song that is meaningful to you or your family, we recommend playing it at the calling hours. Our *New Life Choir* volunteers to sing at Funeral Masses.

Our parish secretary will contact both the music director and the altar servers. Visiting clergy are most welcome. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office at 440-238-5555.

Be assured of the prayers and concern of our parish during this time.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting

Sprinkling with Holy Water

Placing of the Pall: After the body has been blessed with holy water, a white cloth, the “pall,” is placed on top of the casket. This cloth symbolizes the baptismal garment of our Catholic faith. Family members are encouraged to take part in this ritual at the liturgy.

Placing of Christian Symbols: Family members may choose to place a Christian symbol on top of the casket during the Mass. A favorite cross or bible of the deceased would be appropriate.

Processional Song: Please choose an opening song from the music insert page. These selections have been chosen from the hymnal

used at St. Joseph. (Other Catholic songs are acceptable, yet please make every effort to assure that they can be found in our music books)

Grant Them Eternal Rest (*Recommended*) 170

Amazing Grace 75

Be Not Afraid 169 Holy, Holy, Holy 60

Eye Has Not Seen 130

Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior 59

Seasonal Songs:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 22 (*Advent*)

Hosea 40 (*Lent*)

At the Lamb's High Feast 49 (*Easter Season*)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Catholic family members or friends are encouraged to proclaim the readings at the funeral mass. It is helpful to choose people who can read well so that the words of scripture offer comfort. Give your readers a copy of the scripture so that they can practice. If you need one of our ministers to proclaim the Word just indicate that on the form.

First Reading

The first reading is always taken from the Old Testament.

#1 Wis 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 humanity, 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, God 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 God shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with God in love: because grace and mercy are with God's holy ones and God's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

#2 Wis 4:7-14

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just ones, though they 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 humanity, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. The one 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.

#3 Is 25:6,7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain God will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; God 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 God has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

#4 Lam 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.

#5 Ec 3:1-12

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace. What advantage has the worker from their toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for humanity to be busied about. God has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without our ever discovering it, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

The psalm is always sung at the funeral liturgy. Please choose one of the following which will be lead by the song leader.

Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want 136

Psalm 42: Like a deer that longs for running streams,
my soul longs for you, my God 138

Psalm 103: The Lord is kind and merciful

Psalm 84: Happy (*blessed*) are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second Reading

The second reading is always taken from the New Testament.

#1 Rom 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Hope will not leave us disappointed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. At the appointed time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us god-less people. It is rare that anyone should lay down his life for a just person, though it is barely possible that for a good person someone may have the courage to die. It is precisely in this that God proves his love for us: that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Now that we have been justified by his blood, it is all the more certain that we shall be saved by him from God's wrath. For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him by the death of his Son, it is all the more certain that we who have been reconciled will be saved by his life. Not only that; we go so far as to make God our boast through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. The Word of the Lord.

#2 Rom 6:3-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection. This we know: our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer. A person who is dead has been freed from sin. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no power over him. The Word of the Lord.

#3 Rom 8:31-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who can be against us? Is it possible that he who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for the sake of us all will not grant us all things besides? Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones? God, who justifies? Who shall condemn them? Christ Jesus, who died or rather, was raised up, who is at the right hand of God and who intercedes for us? Who will separate us from

the love of Christ? Trial, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or danger, or the sword? Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of him who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels or principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor powers, neither height nor depth, nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the Love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

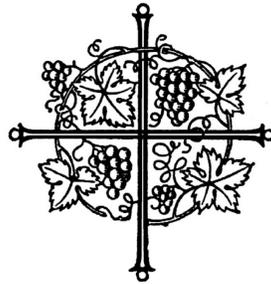
The Word of the Lord.

#4 I Cor 15:51-57

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

I am going to tell you a mystery. Not all of us shall fall asleep, but all of us are to be changed in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, this mortal body with immortality. When the corruptible frame takes on incorruptibility and the mortal immortality, then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law. But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.



#5 II Cor 5:1,6-10

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

We know that when the earthly tent in which we dwell is destroyed we have a dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling in the heavens, not made by hands but to last forever. Therefore we continue to be confident. We know that while we dwell in the body we are away from the Lord. We walk by faith, not by sight. I repeat, we are full of confidence and would much rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. This being so, we make it our aim to please him whether we are with him or away from him. The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ so that each one may receive their recompense, good or bad, according to his life in the body.

The Word of the Lord.

#6 Phil 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

We have our citizenship in heaven; it is from there that we eagerly await the coming of our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body, by his power to subject everything to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

#7 I Thes 4:13-18

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

We would have you be clear about those who sleep in death, brothers and sisters; otherwise you might yield to grief, like those who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, God will bring

forth with him from the dead those also who have fallen asleep believing in him. We say to you, as if the Lord himself had said it, that we who live, who survive until his coming, will in no way have an advantage over those who have fallen asleep. No, the Lord himself will come down from heaven at the word of command, at the sound of the archangel's voice and God's trumpet; and those who have died in Christ will rise first. Then we, the living, the survivors, will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thenceforth we shall be with the Lord unceasingly. Console one another with this message. The Word of the Lord.

#8 Rev 21:1-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw new heavens and a new earth. The former heavens and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no longer. I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God, beautiful as a bride prepared to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne cry out: "This is God's dwelling among humanity. He shall dwell with them and they shall be his people, and he shall be their God who is always with them. He shall wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the former world has passed away." The One who sat on the throne said to me, "See, I make all things new! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To anyone who thirsts I will give to drink without cost from the spring of life-giving water. He who wins the victory shall inherit these gifts; I will be his God and he shall be my son." The Word of the Lord.

Gospel

The Gospel is always proclaimed by a priest or deacon. Please choose one of the following Gospel readings.

#1 Mt 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up on the mountainside. After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them: "How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs. Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled. Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land. Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Blest are the single-hearted, for they shall see God. Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God. Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs. Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great.

The Gospel of the Lord.

#2 Mt 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

On one occasion Jesus said: "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise; for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever you have revealed to the merest children. Father, it is true. You have graciously willed it so. Everything has been given over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son but the Father, and no one knows the Father but the Son – and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

#3 Mt 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, he will sit upon his royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. Then he will separate them into two groups, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The sheep he will place on his right hand, the goats on his left. The king will say to those on his right: 'Come. You have my Father's blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the just will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we welcome you away from home or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?' The king will answer them: 'I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

#4 Lk 12:35-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told his disciples: "Let your belts be fastened around your waists and your lamps be burning ready. Be like those awaiting their master's return from a wedding, so that when he arrives and knocks, you will open wide for him without delay. It will go well with these servants whom the master finds wide awake on his return. I tell you, he will put on an apron, seat them at table, and proceed to wait on them. Should he happen to come at midnight or before sunrise and find them prepared, it will go well with them. You know as well as I that if the head of the house knew when the thief was coming he would not let him break into his house. Be on guard, therefore. The Son of Man will come when you least expect him." The Gospel of the Lord.

#5 Lk 23:44-49

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was around midday, and a darkness came over the whole land until midafternoon with an eclipse of the sun. The curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two. Jesus uttered a loud cry and said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." After he had said this, he expired. The centurion, upon seeing what had happened, gave glory to God by saying, "Surely this was an innocent man." After the crowd assembled for this spectacle witnessed what had happened, they returned beating their breasts. All his friends and the women who had accompanied him from Galilee were standing at a distance watching everything. On the first day of the week, at dawn, the women came to the tomb bringing spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled back from the tomb; but when they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were still at a loss over what to think of this, two men in dazzling garments stood beside them, "Why do you search for the Living One among the dead? He is not here; he has been raised."

The Gospel of the Lord.

#6 Jn 11:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would never have died. Even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask of him." "Your brother will rise again," Jesus assured her. "I know he will rise again," Martha replied, "in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though they should die, will come to life; and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied. "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God: he who is to come into the world." The Gospel of the Lord.

#7 Jn 14:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be. You know the way that leads where I go." "Lord," said Thomas, "we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus told him: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me." The Gospel of the Lord.

Homily

The priest or deacon will meet with the family to gather ideas for the homily. Family members may wish to write down some notes about the deceased to share with the priest or deacon. These notes may be written on the planning form.

General Intercessions

These prayers may be offered by a family member or friend. Suggested petitions are listed below; please choose one from each Roman Numeral. The response is usually, "Lord, hear our prayer." The priest or deacon will introduce and conclude the intercessions with a prayer.

- I
 - A. In baptism, _____, received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her to new life. We pray to the Lord.
 - B. For _____, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of saints. We pray to the Lord.
- II
 - A. Our brother/sister was nourished at the table of the savior. Welcome him/her to the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord.
 - B. For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.
- III
 - A. Many friends and family have gone before us in faith. Grant them

- an everlasting home in paradise. We pray to the Lord.
- B. Those who trusted in the Lord now rejoice with the Lord. Give refreshment, peace, and rest to all whose faith is known to you alone. We pray to the Lord.
- IV A. For the family and friends of _____, that they may know God's care at this time of sorrow. We pray to the Lord.
- B. For all who have helped us during this time of sorrow, that they may know the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.
- V A. For those who have fallen asleep with the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.
- B. For all of us gathered here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.
- C. For those who care for the sick and suffering, that God may bless and strengthen them in their ministry. We pray to the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Processional: To be sung as gifts are presented.

The Lord is My Light 114	Amazing Grace 75
O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God 115	Eye Has Not Seen 130
You Are Mine 96	Let There Be Peace on Earth 102
Prayer of St. Francis 110	Hail Mary, Gentle Woman 149
Shelter Me, O God 62	Center of My Life 126

Gift Bearers: Family members or friends are strongly encouraged to present the gifts of bread and wine at Mass. Please choose two to four individuals to bring up the gifts.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

These will be sung with the musical selection chosen by the music director.

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Eucharistic Ministers: Family members or friends who are commissioned Eucharistic Ministers are welcome to serve at this time. Please let the priest know the number of ministers available; either one, two or three (please note that ordained clergy will distribute first, then family and friends if needed).

Communion Processional: Please choose one of the following songs to be sung during the Communion procession.

May Light Eternal Shine Upon Them (*Recommended*) 170

Taste and See 159

I Am the Bread of Life 165 Blest Are They 84

Draw Near! 161

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart 163

Shepherd Me, O God 136 Holy is Your Name 127

One Bread, One Body 158

Humbly, Lord, We Worship You 156

Shepherd of My Heart, 92

Your Words Are Spirit and Life 135

Worthy is the Lamb 51

Remarks of Remembrance: We allow the option of someone offering “words of remembrance” after Communion at funerals. These are meant to be remarks on the life of their loved one, not just a recollection of stories from the speaker. While Mass provides a setting for these remarks, these can also be done most effectively during the calling hours. When done there, it affords more time and flexibility in sharing thoughts about your loved one while allowing the opportunity for multiple speakers. If the choice is made to speak at Mass, remarks should be limited to one speaker who is willing to provide a written text of the remarks on the day before the funeral to the priest who will be pressing at the funeral. This will allow him the opportunity to check the remarks for duplication with his homily, appropriateness for use within Mass, and in line with our Church’s understanding of death and dying. These remarks should be limited to 3 or 4 minutes (two pages) at most. We regret that we cannot honor requests to include "last minute" speakers or those wanting to give "off the cuff" remarks. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to ask the Presider.

Prayer after Communion

FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell

Prayer of Commendation

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

Closing Song: Please choose one of the following selections for the closing hymn.

“May Choirs of Angels Escort You Into Paradise” (*recommended*)

“May the Choirs of Angels come to Greet You” (*also recommended*)

On Eagles Wings 171

Amazing Grace 75

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name 67

How Great Thou Art 66
Lead Me, Lord 125
Hail, Holy Queen 152

Our entire Parish Staff extends their prayers and sympathy to you and your family during this time of sorrow. In the days and months that follow, please know that all the staff is available for visits, prayer, and grief resources. Various reading materials as well as support groups are offered. Please call the office for information.

As we go forward on our journey of faith, may we comfort one another with our faith in Jesus Christ.

