

PREPARING FOR A FUNERAL LITURGY



**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS**

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Special Note: Two readings plus a sung responsorial psalm precede the Gospel. The family, in collaboration with the priest, select one Old Testament reading and one New Testament reading. Your priest will select a Gospel reading based on the conversations he has with family members about the deceased’s life. Non-biblical texts may not replace scriptural readings at Mass.

FIRST READING: OLD TESTAMENT

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break 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 throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain has the worker from his toil?

I have seen the business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with.

He has made everything beautiful in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

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 in the eyes of 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.**

A reading from the Book of Wisdom 4:7-15

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.**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

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.**

A reading from the Book of Lamentations 3:17-26

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.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel 12:1-3

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.**

SECOND READING: NEW TESTAMENT

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 5:5-11

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.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 5:17-21

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.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 6:3-9

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.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

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.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 8:14-23

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.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

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.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

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.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-28

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.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-23

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. **The word of the Lord.**

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

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.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians 3:20-21

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.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.**

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy 2:8-13

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.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 3:1-2

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.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 3:14-16

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.**

Funeral Intercessions:

The response to our intercessions is: Hear our prayer.

In baptism, N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Our brother/sister N. was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

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

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

The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that comes from grief. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

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

Funeral Music Suggestions

The sacred and communal nature of our Catholic Funeral Celebrations requires careful planning in the selection of music. This planning will insure the ability of all those gathered to actively participate in the celebration. Because of the sacredness of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, secular instrumental or vocal music, or the use of recorded music of any kind may not be used.

You may choose up to **four** from the following list:

Amazing Grace	O Beauty Ever Ancient
Be Not Afraid	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Behold the Lamb	O God, You Search Me
Blest are They	On Eagle's Wings
City of God	Only This I Want
Come to the Water	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Crown Him with Many Crowns	Shelter Me, O God
Deep Within	Shepherd of My Heart
Eye Has Not Seen	Sing With All the Saints in Glory
Faith of Our Fathers	Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
For All the Saints	Song of Farewell
Gift of Finest Wheat	Take and Eat
Hail Mary: Gentle Woman	Take Me Home
Here I am, Lord	Taste and See
Holy God We Praise Thy Name	The Cloud's Veil
How Great Thou Art	The Hand of God Shall Hold You
I Am the Bread of Life	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	Unless A Grain of Wheat
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	We Have Been Told
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	We Remember
In Paradisum/May Choirs of Angels	We Walk By Faith
Let There Be Peace on Earth	Without Seeing You
Lord of All Hopefulness	Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace	You are Mine
Now We Remain	You are Near

Contemporary Christian Hymns:

I Can Only Imagine
What a Beautiful Name
How Beautiful
I Will Rise

You may also choose one of these as a communion meditation:

Ave Maria

Panis Angelicus

Pie Jesu

Other Considerations

✝ Eulogies are encouraged at the vigil service at the funeral home, if one is being celebrated. If the family wishes, a short eulogy may be given by one individual at the end of Mass. Words of remembrance, or a eulogy, as understood within the context of the Christian funeral, should be a short **(3-4 minutes in length)** expression of how the deceased lived a Christian life, how that person was a witness to Christ in the world, how he or she lived his or her baptismal call or vocation. Eulogies must be approved by the priest.

✝ If your family is preparing an order of worship for the funeral, please contact your clergy at 815-398-4280 for directions and assistance in following the funeral rite and the guidelines for music acknowledgements and copyrights.

✝ Each year, during November, the Church makes a special effort to remember and pray for our deceased brothers and sisters who have gone before us. Scrolls are displayed for parishioners to inscribe the names of their beloved dead, so that the entire community can pray for them. Mass is also celebrated on November 2 (All Souls Day) and is an opportunity to pray for all who have died. Your family is invited to participate in these events.

✝ During this time of mourning and loss, we realize how important it is to come together with family and friends after a funeral. If available, our Family Room may be used for funeral luncheons. Please have a family member contact the parish office at 815-398-4280 to determine availability.

*May the souls
of the
faithful departed
through the
mercy of God
rest in peace. Amen.*

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