

St. Joseph Catholic Church Funeral Planning Guidelines



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I. Funeral Guidelines

A. Catholic Funeral Rites

The Catholic Funeral Rite celebrates the mystery of our life, death, and resurrection in Christ. Through Baptism we enter into the mystery. We live our lives in the hope of sharing eternal life with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit when we complete our passage through death. As Christians we believe death in Christ results in life in greater abundance. This new life, like a seed which was planted in us at Baptism, flowers during our lifetime, and at death yields a rich harvest. Faith in this mystery should motivate people arranging the funeral of a loved one. With this in mind, praying with you in this time of grief, we present to you the funeral guidelines for our parish.

The parish is open to celebrating funeral liturgies for current or former parishioners and their immediate Catholic relatives. Non-parishioners will be accommodated if staff and resources allow.

B. Times

The Mass of Christian Burial is the primary service, customarily celebrated in the morning, reflecting the theme of resurrection. Procession to the cemetery and burial usually follows the Mass.

Funeral arrangements begin with a meeting with the funeral director of your choice. Next, the funeral home contacts the Pastor to confirm the time for the Mass of Christian Burial. If the family chooses to notify the parish prior to their meeting with the funeral director, they may call (803) 254-7646 Monday through Friday during business hours, or (803) 609-0317 on weekends. No arrangements may be made (time, place, etc.) without contact and clarification with the Pastor (or his designee) as to the availability of the clergy and the church.

Liturgies and/or other activities which are already scheduled for the Church will take priority and cannot be rescheduled. This may

require scheduling the Mass of Christian Burial at a time other than requested.

Due to staff restraints, usually only one Mass of Christian Burial is allowed per day and are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

C. Visitation and Rosary at the Funeral Home

Families may choose to pray the Rosary at the beginning of visitation. These services should begin no later than 6:00 p.m.

Special Notes:

- The Rosary and visitation service are not hosted at the church due to facility and staff restraints.

D. Viewing of the Body

This practice, which should take place at the funeral home, is highly encouraged because it helps remove doubts that the loved one has truly died. At the time of the Mass of Christian Burial, the casket is closed and is not reopened at the conclusion of the Mass. Viewing does not occur at the gravesite.

E. Cremation

If the deceased is to be cremated, it is encouraged that this takes place after the Mass of Christian Burial. However, it is permissible to celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial with the cremated remains present. If the family prefers a Memorial Mass, it may be celebrated in the absence of the cremated remains. Church law requires that cremated remains be laid to rest in consecrated ground; either buried in a cemetery or placed in a columbarium. The Church does not permit the cremated remains to be scattered.

F. Music

Music is an integral part of any liturgy, especially in the funeral rites, but is not central to the funeral rite. Music allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone fail to convey. Music has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love. The music chosen for the funeral rites should accompany the liturgical action appropriately with sanctity, intrinsic beauty, and universality. The texts of the hymns 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. Music must be arranged through the Director of Music Ministry (or a designee) and approved by the Pastor. The musicians for the funeral (organist and cantor) will be provided by St. Joseph Catholic Church and are required for all Masses of Christian Burial.

If you are pre-planning your Mass of Christian Burial, you should schedule a time to meet with the Music Ministry staff prior to planning your music. The Director of Music Ministry (or designee) will walk you through the process.

Special Considerations for Music:

- Bagpipes may not be played in the Church.
- Use of musicians not affiliated with the Music Ministry of St. Joseph Catholic Church must be approved by the Director of Music Ministry.
- Guest cantors are **not** permitted.
- If a visiting musician is requested and approved, a St. Joseph trained cantor is still required.
- Alterations to the funeral rites to accommodate special musical requests are not allowed.

G. Flowers

The parish welcomes donations of two vases of fresh flowers (no artificial flowers are allowed) for the altar. The parish highly recommends that you contact the florist used by the parish. If you choose to use another florist, you must contact the office for the inserts for the vases. These flowers are considered as dedicated to God once they are placed in the Church sanctuary. They are to remain in the sanctuary.

Special Note:

- Additional floral pieces, other than the two vases for the altar, must be approved by the pastor.

H. Photographs and Memorabilia

Memorial displays are allowed at the visitation and at the funeral home but not at the Mass of Christian Burial. A single photograph of the deceased is allowed at a Mass with the cremains present or a Memorial Mass, but due to space limitations, not with a casket present.

I. Incense

Incense is used only at the conclusion of the Mass.

J. Honor Guard

If an honor guard is desired, the family of the deceased must speak with the celebrant regarding their presence at the Mass. The firing of rifles are not permitted on the parish campus.

II. Celebrating the Mass of Christian Burial

A. Reception at the Church

Since the Church is the place where the community of faith assembles for worship, the Rite of Reception of the Body at the Church has great significance. The Rite of Reception takes place at the beginning of the Mass at the entrance to the Church. The casket flower spray or American flag is removed from the casket in preparation for the placing of the pall and Christian symbols. The pall reminds us of the garment given at baptism and therefore signifies life in Christ. After the celebrant greets the family, he then sprinkles the casket with holy water and members of the Bereavement Committee place the pall on the casket. Then, the celebrant places the Christian symbols.

B. Entrance Procession

The order of entrance is as follows: Altar servers, celebrant, casket, pallbearers, followed by the family. The same order is used when leaving the church.

Special Note:

- If an Honor Guard has been allowed, the celebrant will designate their location for the procession and during the Mass of Christian Burial.

C. Liturgy of the Word

The reading of the Word of God is an essential element of the celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial. The readings proclaim the Paschal Mystery, remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourage the witness of Christian life.

At the request of the family of the deceased, the celebrant will meet with the family prior to the funeral. At this time, you may choose your readings for the Mass of Christian Burial. It is preferable to have a different reader for the Old and New Testament readings.

Only lectors from St. Joseph Catholic Church or family members who are trained and familiar with the procedure for liturgies are permitted to proclaim the readings. The Responsorial Psalm, which is sung, is chosen in conjunction with the celebrant or a member of the Music Ministry staff and is led by the cantor.

The homily, based on the readings, is given after the Gospel. The homilist will dwell on God's compassionate love and on the Paschal Mystery of the Lord as proclaimed in the Scripture readings. Examples from the life of the deceased may be used in the homily. Eulogies, poems, letters, etc. are not part of the Mass of Christian Burial and therefore not allowed. These may be given at the funeral home or after the committal at the cemetery.

The Universal Prayer is to be read by one of the lectors or priests. The approved intercessions from the Rite are to be used.

D. Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist takes place in the usual manner at the Mass of Christian Burial. Members of the family or friends of the deceased may bring the gifts to the altar. If necessary, members of the Bereavement Committee will fulfill this responsibility. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from St. Joseph Catholic Church or commissioned family members may distribute the Eucharist (if needed).

E. Committal Rite

The Committal Rite usually occurs immediately after the Mass of Christian Burial. A visitation with friends is more appropriate after the committal rather than immediately after the Mass of Christian Burial. Special requests may be honored after the Rite of Committal, but only after the Rite. The celebrant or a deacon will officiate at the committal.

F. Other Considerations

- Normally, the Pastor or the Parochial Vicar is the main celebrant and homilist. Visiting priests are welcomed as concelebrants.
- Altar servers are provided by the Church.
- The funeral liturgy, Mass of Christian Burial, is the only liturgy allowed at the Church. There are no diversions from the Mass of Christian Burial (i.e. no deletions or additions).
- Funeral Masses are not permitted on Sundays, Holy Days, or the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) and never celebrated at a funeral home.
- Orders of Worship are supplied by St. Joseph Catholic Church, provided that all selections are made in a timely manner and staff resources allow.
- Greeters are provided by the Bereavement Committee of St. Joseph Catholic Church.
- Memorials may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Joseph Catholic School, or to a charity of one's choice.
- Pre-planning packets containing forms, Scripture, and Music considerations are available in the parish office or online. You may request an appointment with the Pastor and Director of Music Ministry to discuss future arrangements.

III. 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 Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

There is an appointed time for everything.

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every thing 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.

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 his toil?
I have considered the task that God has appointed
for the sons of men to be busied about.
He has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timeless into their hearts,
without man's ever discovering,
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

Longer form:

3a. 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.

Shorter form:

3b. 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
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

4. 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 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.

5. 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 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.

6. 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.

7. A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel 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 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.

8. 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.

IV. NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Longer form:

1a. 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 witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

Shorter form:

1b. 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 Romans 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 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.

3. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 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 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.

Longer form:

4a. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 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:

4b. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 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

We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.

Those who are led 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 8:31b-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, 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.

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.

Longer form:

**8a. 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 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 every thing 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:

**8b. 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 first fruits; then, at His coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

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 clothes itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal clothes 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 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 forever.

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

It 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 second letter of Paul to Timothy 4: 1-8

I am already being poured out and the crown of righteousness awaits me which the Lord will award to me.

Beloved:

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who will judge the living and the dead,
and by his appearing and his kingly power:
proclaim the word;
be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient;
convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.
For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine
but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity,
will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth
and will be diverted to myths.
But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances;
put up with hardship;
perform the work of an evangelist;
fulfill your ministry.

For I am already being poured out like a libation,
and the time of my departure is at hand.
I have competed well;
I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.
From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,
which the Lord, the just judge,
will award to me on that day, and not only to me,
but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Word of the Lord.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

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

The Word of the Lord.

20. 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 the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.

The Word of the Lord.

V. GOSPEL READINGS

1. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12a

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

When he saw the crowds, Jesus went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and
utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

2. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:25-30

Come to me ... and I will give you rest.

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

3. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25: 1-13

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps

are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves. 'While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked.

Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you. 'Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

4. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 7:11-17

Young man, I say to you, arise.

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." he stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.

5. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 12:35-40

Be prepared.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord.

6. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 5:24-29

Whoever hears my word and believes, has passed from death to life.

Jesus said to the Jews:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."

The Gospel of the Lord.

7. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:37-40

All who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them to life again on the last day.

Jesus said to the crowd:

"Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord.

8. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:51-58

All who eat this bread will live forever; and I will raise them up on the last day.

Jesus said to the crowd:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

9. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:17-27

I am the resurrection and the life.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

10. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 12:23-28

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Jesus told His disciples:

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

The Gospel of the Lord.

11. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6

There are many rooms in my Father's house.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

VI. Responsorial Psalms

Psalm 23

The Lord Is My Shepherd

† The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 25

To You, O Lord

† To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Psalm 27

The Lord Is My Light

† The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom should I be afraid?

Psalm 42

Like A Deer

† Like a deer that longs for a running stream, my soul longs for you my God.

Psalm 103

The Lord Is Kind

† The Lord is kind and merciful.
The Lord is kind and merciful.

Psalm 116

I Will Walk Before The Lord,

† I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

VII. Liturgy Planning Guide

Scripture Selections

Family members and friends often have difficulty reading at the funeral of a loved one. Therefore, the parish provides a trained lector for the Funeral Mass.

Entrance

The Funeral Mass begins at the back of the church with a short rite. Following this rite, clergy, altar servers, casket, and family process to the front of the church. If it is difficult for friends who have gathered to say farewell to your loved one or to join in congregational singing, they may prefer to stand silently in respect for your loved one and your family during the procession. The organist provides appropriate processional music that will add beauty and dignity to the Funeral Mass.

Preparation of the Gifts

Like weekly Sunday Holy Mass, the cantor sings a Proper for the Preparation of the Gifts. After the Proper has been completed, if necessary, the organist provides appropriate musical improvisation until preparation of the altar is complete.

Communion Rite

A Proper is sung by the cantor during communion. Following the Proper, a congregational hymn or a cantor solo may be sung. The following selections are recommended to add beauty and sanctity to your loved one's funeral liturgy. Links to these songs and hymns are provided on the St. Joseph website. Visit www.stjosephcolumbia.org and navigate to Our Parish Family > Funeral Planning & Prayer Garden.

Recessional

Following the Rite of Final Commendation, clergy, altar servers, casket, and family members recess to the front doors of the church. It is often difficult for those attending your loved one's Funeral Mass to join in congregational singing and it is recommended that our organist provides music appropriate for this recession. However, if desired, a hymn may be sung. Links to these hymns are provided on the St. Joseph website. Visit www.stjosephcolumbia.org and navigate to Our Parish Family > Funeral Planning & Prayer Garden.

Hymn Recommendations

- Abide With Me
- Adoro Te Devote
- All Creatures of Our God and King
- Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
- Amazing Grace!
- America the Beautiful
- Be Still My Soul
- Be Thou My Vision
- Christ, The Life of All the Living
- Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
- Eat this Bread
- Eye Has Not Seen
- For All the Saints
- God of Our Fathers
- How Firm a Foundation
- How Great Thou Art
- I Am the Bread of Life
- I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord
- I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- I Received the Living God
- Is It Well
- Jerusalem My Happy Home
- Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
- Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All
- Jesus Shall Reign
- Jesus Still Lead On
- Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
- Let There Be Peace on Earth
- Lord of All Hopefulness
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
- May the Grace of Christ Our Savior
- My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
- Now Thank We All Our God
- O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- Praise My Soul the King of Heaven
- Shelter Me O God
- Shepherd of Souls
- Spirit Seeking Life and Beauty
- Sing with All the Saints in Glory
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- The Strife is O'er
- There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
- Ubi Caritas
- What Wondrous Love Is This
- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- When Peace Like A River

Optional Cantor Solos

Dependent on cantor availability

- Ave Maria (Bach/Gounod)
- Ave Maria (Caccini)
- Ave Maria (Schubert)
- Ave Verum (Mozart)
- Do Not Be Afraid (Stopford)
- I Know That My Redeemer Liveth (Handel)
- In Paradisium (Fauré)
- Nunc Dimittis in B Flat (Stanford)
- O, for the Wings of a Dove (Mendelssohn)
- Panis Angelicus (Franck)
- Pie Jesu (Fauré)
- Pie Jesu (Webber) *Need two soloists*
- Pie Jesu (Rutter)
- The Lord is My Shepherd (Goodall)
- The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended (Scholefield)

*For a more complete list or further recommendations,
please contact our Director of Music Ministry*

