

St. Joseph the Worker Roman Catholic Church

Orefield, Pennsylvania



Funeral Liturgy Planning Guide

To Those Who Are Bereaved:

On behalf of our entire parish I wish to extend to you our heartfelt and deepest sympathies at the death of your loved one. This is a difficult and emotional time and I pray that you feel the prayers of our parish assisting you during these days. It is through the power of prayer that we gain our strength in trying times, and there is no more trying time than the time of death. It is our common prayer as a parish that Jesus, through the power of his resurrection, grant unto you peace and understanding.

This booklet is to assist you in the preparation of the funeral liturgy. The liturgy, by its very nature, is a celebration. A funeral liturgy is no different. It is a celebration of new life, the new life that we pray your loved one now shares in. This booklet will aid you in making your final good-bye truly the celebration of life for which it is. The funeral liturgy is also a time of hope. It is with fond hope that we pray for your loved one that God be merciful and grant unto them eternal life.

We stand with you at this time and we are ready to assist you in every way we can. Please let us know how we can help you, and if we possibly can, we will. And once again, on behalf of the parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, I extend to you our prayers and sympathies.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor F. Finelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Reverend Monsignor Victor F. Finelli, V.J., J.C.L.
Pastor

Readings

In the Sacred Scriptures, God himself speaks to his people. It is because of this that the readings are held in great importance within the celebration of the Mass. As Jesus wept for his friend Lazarus, we too weep for the loved one who has passed from this earth. In the Funeral Mass, the readings help us understand and deal with the death of our loved one. We hear Christ's meaning on death proclaimed while they also nourish our faith that we will once again be with them in God's kingdom.

The Catholic Church has a pre-selected number of readings from which to choose that are appropriate for a Funeral Mass. We ask that you please look at each passage carefully and choose those words that you find most meaningful. You will choose a First Reading, Second Reading, and a set of prayers used as the Universal Prayer. The cantor and organist will choose the Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation, which is sung before the Gospel is read. The celebrant of the Mass will choose the Gospel reading. If the deceased or the deceased's family members have a favorite Gospel reading, please let the parish funeral planner know so that it is passed onto the celebrant as a suggestion.

First Reading

Please choose **one** of the following.

C1

He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view. - 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel, 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 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.

C2

I know that my Vindicator lives. - Job 19:1, 23-27a

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite 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.

C3

*As sacrificial offerings he took them himself. - Wisdom 3:1-9 or
Wisdom 3:1-6,9*

(NOTE: There is a short and long version of this reading.)

LONG FORM

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 men, indeed, they be punished, yet 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.

SHORT FORM

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 in the eyes of men, indeed, they be punished, yet 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.

C4

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age. - Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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 is 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 that consideration into account.

The word of the Lord.

C5

He will destroy death forever. - Isaiah 25:6a, 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, 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 to whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The word of the Lord.

C6

*It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord. -
Lamentations 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 this I will call 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 I will hope in him. Good is the Lord to the 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.

C7

*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake. - Daniel
12:1-3*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

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.

During the Easter Season, one of the following should be chosen for the first reading rather than from the above list.

C8

He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. - Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 or Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

(NOTE: There is a short and long version of this reading.)

LONG FORM

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "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 children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened allover 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.

SHORT FORM

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "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 children of Israel 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.

C9

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. - Revelation 14:13

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, 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.

C10

The dead were judged according to their deeds. - Revelation 20:11-21:1

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, 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.

C11

There shall be no more death. - Revelation 21:1-sa, 6b-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, 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.

Second Reading

Please choose **one** of the following.

E1

Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath. - Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

E2

Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more. - Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: If, by 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 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 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 out Lord.

The word of the Lord.

E3

We too might live in newness of life. - Romans 6:3-9 or Romans 6:3-4,8-9

(NOTE: There is a short and long version of this reading.)

LONG FORM

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

SHORT FORM

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

E4

We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. - Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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 was subjected to 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.

E5

What will separate us from the love of Christ? - Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

E6

Whether we love or die, we are the Lord's. - Romans 14:7-9, 10C-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

E7

*So too in Christ shall all be brought to life. - 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
or 1 Corinthians 15:20-23*

(NOTE: There is a short and long version of this reading.)

LONG FORM

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

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through a 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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for he subjected everything under his feet. But when it says that everyone 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.

SHORT FORM

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

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 a man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each on in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

E8

Death is swallowed up in victory. - 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

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

Brothers and Sisters: Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this 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.

E9

*What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.
- 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1*

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

Brothers and sisters: 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.

E10

We have a building from God, eternal in heaven. - 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

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

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.

E11

He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory. - Philippians 3:20- 21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

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.

E12

Thus we shall always be with the Lord. - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

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.

E12

If we have died with him we shall also live with him. - 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

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 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 unfaithful. For he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

E14

We shall see him as he is. -1 John 3:1-2 (Lectionary page number 1111)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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.

E15

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. - 1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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.

Universal Prayer

Please choose one of the two options below.

Option 1

Priest: Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his.

Family Member/Lector: The response is 'hear our prayer'.

Family Member/Lector: 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:

R: Hear our prayer.

Family Member/Lector: 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:

R: Hear our prayer.

Family Member/Lector: 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:

R: Hear our prayer.

Family Member/Lector: 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:

R: Hear our prayer.

Family Member/Lector: The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. Lord, in your mercy:

R: Hear our prayer.

Family Member/Lector: 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:

R: Hear our prayer.

Priest: Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Option 2

Priest: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead.

Family Member/Lector: The response is 'Lord, hear our prayer'.

Family Member/Lector: For N., who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Family Member/Lector: For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Family Member/Lector: For our deceased relatives and friends, and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Family Member/Lector: For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Family Member/Lector: For the family and friends of our brother/sister N., that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Family Member/Lector: For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Hymns

Music holds a special place in any Mass. It is through music that we, as God's faithful, are able to transcend words, ultimately leading to more spiritual prayer. Hymns chosen at any Mass should be done with this in mind and should be sacred in nature. Secular (popular, non-church) music is not allowed in the Mass. The following hymns are appropriate for a Funeral Mass. Please choose a hymn for each piece of the Mass: Processional, Presentation (Offertory), Communion, and Recessional. As previously mentioned, the Gospel Acclamation will be chosen by the cantor and organist.

A Meditation piece is permitted, but not necessary to the Mass. It may be a hymn from the hymnal or something else appropriate, such as the Ave Maria. The meditations listed below are only suggestions, but others may be chosen as long as they are liturgically correct. If you choose to have a meditation hymn, please consult with the bereavement committee member.

Any last wishes of the deceased regarding any hymn not listed below should be discussed with the bereavement committee member, who will then make the decision whether it is to be used during the Mass after consultation with either the Director of Music and/or the celebrant. In addition, during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Lent, season specific hymns may be used during its respective time of year, but only within those seasons. Hymns that contain the word 'Alleluia' may not be used during Lent.

Processional Hymns

Please choose one hymn.

- 680 Amazing Grace
- 673 Be Not Afraid
- 481 Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
- 529 Hosea
- 614 How Great Thou Art
- 623 I Have Loved You (Joncas)
- 557 The Lord is my Light
- 801 Unless a Grain of Wheat

Presentation (Offertory) Hymn

Please choose one hymn.

- 673 Be Not Afraid
- 785 Behold the Lamb
- 667 Faith of Our Fathers
- 566 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
- 529 Hosea
- I Am The Bread of Life
- 556 I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- Just a Closer Walk With Thee
- Panis Angelicus
- 702 Prayer of St. Francis

Communion Hymn

Please choose one hymn.

- 713 All I I Ask of You
- 680 Amazing Grace
- 547 Be Still My Soul
- 785 Behold the Lamb
- 791 Gift of Finest Wheat
- 551 How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place

- I Am The Bread of Life
 556 I Know That My Redeemer Lives
 O Loving God (Danny Boy melody)
 671 On Eagle's Wings
 793 One Bread, One Body
 689 Shelter Me, O God
 774 Supper of the Lord

Meditation Hymn Suggestions

- 791 Gift of Finest Wheat
 793 One Bread, One Body
 You Are Mine
 Other hymns such as *Ave Maria*

Recessional Hymn

Please choose one hymn.

- 713 All I I Ask of You
 Be Thou My Vision
 813 City of God
 818 Here I Am Lord
 In Every Age (Whitaker)
 575 Joyful, Joyful
 Just a Closer Walk With Thee
 703 Let There Be Peace on Earth
 O Loving God (Danny Boy melody)
 Shepherd Me O God

Other Hymn Suggestions

- 848 Eternal Father Strong to Save (Navy Hymn)
 In the Garden
 685 Seek Ye First
 820 Servant Song (McGargill)
 759 Sing with all the Saints (tune of Joyful, Joyful)
 829 The Cry of the Poor (Foley)

Eulogies and Remarks

Eulogies are not permitted during the funeral liturgy as prescribed by the universal liturgical law of the Church. We ask that any eulogy, prepared by a family member or friend of the deceased, be given at another time than during Mass. It can be appropriate to offer eulogies at either the viewing (wake), at the cemetery, or at the funeral luncheon, if there is one.

St. Joseph's has multiple options for on-site catering for funeral lunches from 20 to 200 people! If you wish to explore this option, please contact Jessica Mueller, the Parish Center Administrator, at 610-395-2876 ext. 176 for availability.