



Funeral Liturgy Planning Guide

***St. Mary's Parish
747 West Bay Avenue
Barnegat, New Jersey 08005
(609) 698-5531***

On behalf of the parish of St. Mary's please accept our deepest condolences over the loss of your loved one. As an expression of our belief in the Resurrection and our hope in eternal life, the Church celebrates the funeral rites to pray for the deceased and bring comfort to those who mourn.

To assist you in planning the funeral Mass, we have prepared this pamphlet to guide your choice of Biblical readings and hymns. Since a funeral Mass is part of the public Liturgy of the Church, there are restrictions regarding readings and songs. This list will help you pick those that are appropriate and approved.

In addition there is a selection sheet for you to make note of your choices and who will be filling the different roles of reading and presenting gifts.

We permit a short remembrance, or eulogy, at the beginning of Mass. This may be done by a family member or friend and should not take any longer than five minutes. Since it is part of the funeral Mass it should also focus on the person's faith and relationship with God. Please remember that it is also appropriate to have a eulogy during the wake in the funeral home. This would be a good time for more lengthy and informal stories and remembrances.

If you have any questions, a member of our Caring Hearts Ministry will be happy to assist you.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

HYMNS FOR FUNERAL LITURGY

Entrance Hymns

*Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Come to Me
Here I Am, Lord
Hosea
I heard the Voice of Jesus
I Have Loved You
Prayer of St. Francis
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

Offertory Hymns

*Eyes Have Not Seen
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
In the Garden
Irish Blessing
Just a Closer Walk With Thee
Lady of Knock
Lord You Have Come
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Remember Your Love
Shelter Me O God
We Remember*

Communion Hymns

*Ave Maria
Behold the Lamb
One Bread, One Body
You Are Near
Gift of Finest Wheat
I, The Lord
I am the Bread of Life
Gift of Finest Wheat
Only in God*

Recessional Hymns

*Fly Like A Bird
Go in Peace
How Great Thou Art
Irish Blessing
Let There Be Peace on Earth
O Loving God
On Eagles Wings*

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

(Please choose one)

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hands 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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord

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 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.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.

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

a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to tear down and a time to build.

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 which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work, which God has done.

I recognize that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life. For every man, moreover, to eat, drink, and enjoy the fruit of all his labor is a gift of God.

I recognize that whatever God does will endure forever; there is no adding to it, or taking from it. Thus has God done that he may be revered. What now is has already been; what is to be, already is; and God restores what would otherwise be displaced. ***The Word 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 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 I will 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

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS
(Please pick one)

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 are 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 the courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were 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.

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

Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

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.

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 with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may be glorified with him.

I consider the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared to 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 firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of 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 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.

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 in 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.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1

A reading from the first 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.

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.

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed upon us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so are we. 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.

FUNERAL PLANNING FORM

Funeral Mass for: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Eulogy: ____ Yes ____ No Given by: _____

First Reading: _____

Read by: _____

Second Reading: _____

Read by: _____

Presentation of Gifts? (Y/N): _____

If yes, Presented by: _____

MUSIC HYMNS

Entrance Hymn: _____

Offertory Hymn: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Recessional Hymn: _____

(For Office use only : Interment Y/N If yes, where?) _____

Someone from our Caring Hearts Ministry will call to assist with your selections. If you have any additional questions, please call (609) 698-5531.

On behalf of St. Mary's Clergy, please accept out sincerest condolences for the loss of your loved one.

