

## **FUNERALS**

### **A TIME TO MOURN - A TIME TO REJOICE**

There are few times in life that bring as many mixed feelings as the time of death of a loved one. Certainly there is sadness and grief, but also, possibly, relief that suffering is ended and joy for those who have found peace. The celebration of the Catholic funeral is meant to assist all the faithful and all who attend in bringing these feelings together. This is accomplished all the more if there is a better understanding of the celebrations and if all, including those about to die, can participate in this process.

### **PLANNING AHEAD**

While it is very difficult for many to discuss death or plan in advance for funeral arrangements, it is always a good idea to do so. Your funeral director can assist you, even years ahead, so that the burden on those left behind is not so great. It also affords you an opportunity to express your wishes concerning these final arrangements. Materials are available in the Parish Office to assist in the selection of readings and hymns for the Funeral Liturgy. (Also see below for information on planning a funeral liturgy at Immaculate Heart of Mary)

### **THE VISITATION**

The customary Catholic funeral usually begins with the time of viewing or visitation in the funeral home. If the family desires, this period may include prayers called the Wake Service. If the deceased was a member of certain organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name, the Sodality of the BVM or a Veterans' group, these organizations might be encouraged to attend or participate in the Wake service to avoid duplication of services that may encroach on the time for visitation with friends and relatives. Having more than one service during a single two hour viewing period should certainly be avoided.

### **THE MASS**

The primary celebration for a Catholic funeral is the Funeral Mass. It would only be for a very serious reason that a Catholic funeral would not include the celebration of Eucharist. Even in the period of the last days of Holy Week or on certain important Holy Days, when this would not be possible, we encourage the family to consider either scheduling the funeral after Easter or the Holy Day or, if is this not practical, arranging for a Memorial Mass soon after the burial. The family is encouraged to participate in the Mass by placing the pall on the casket, selecting and proclaiming the readings, and presenting the gifts for Mass, (the bread and wine). Note: A pall is not used when there are cremated remains. Music is always provided for Funeral Masses and whenever possible our Resurrection Choir will assist with the celebration. Materials are available to help you in the selection of readings and music for the Mass. The priests and Parish staff are ready to assist you with these choices.

At the Catholic Funeral Mass, if the family desires one person may address the assembly with some personal remark. These "Words of Remembrance" (sometimes

referred to as a “Eulogy) may be shared by one friend or family member of the deceased before the Mass begins. While the policies of the Archdiocese of Baltimore limit this to one person, not to exceed four minutes, additional persons may be invited to speak during the viewing, at the Wake, briefly at the graveside or at a gathering following the internment. Words of Remembrance should be respectful of the deceased’s memory and mindful that many present may have been casual acquaintances or did not know the deceased personally but have come to support other family members. Respect should also be shown for the prayerful setting and sacred place in which these remembrances are taking place. Such presentations are a recent phenomenon in the Catholic Church and there is no requirement that this be done.

Cremation is an acceptable option in the Catholic Church as long as provision has been made for their proper internment. While it is preferred that the body be present during the funeral Mass, the cremation may be done prior to the Funeral Mass, if necessary. If the deceased is cremated immediately, the ashes may be brought to Church in a suitable urn for the Mass if the family wishes.

## **THE INTERNMENT**

The final farewell usually takes place at the cemetery where the remains are interred in a grave or above-ground crypt. The prayers at the cemetery should take place, whenever possible, at the actual gravesite. At a Veterans' Cemetery or in inclement weather a chapel may be used and the grave blessed separately. If the deceased has been cremated, the Church still requires that the ashes be interred in a grave or crypt. As a Catholic, it is NOT appropriate to keep the cremated remains at home or to scatter them on land or at sea.

*(A burial at sea, either full body or cremated remains, is acceptable, if done properly. This means in an appropriate casket or container, adequately weighted and in water deep enough to ensure that it will not be disturbed. This means many miles out in the ocean, not the bay or other inland body of water Your funeral director can give you more details on the regulations regarding all internments.)*

### Information for planning the Funeral Liturgy

The following information is provided to aid individuals and families in their preparation for the celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial (also referred to as the Mass of Resurrection or the funeral Mass). Depending on your circumstances, some will use this information as a future plan for themselves to have things selected and arranged in advance for family members, some people, aware of a life-threatening illness, will want to plan with family members, and others will use this to make selections for loved ones who have recently passed away. In whatever situation you find yourself, we hope that this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this material or need more information to select what is most appropriate for yourself or another, please do not hesitate to call the Parish office for assistance. For questions specifically concerning music, please call Mr. Thomas Bozek, our Music Director (410-668-0097).

## FUNERAL MASS PLANNING SHEET

Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

All will be invited to be seated when they arrive.

**If you wish, one** family member or friend may speak briefly (3 to 4 minutes) before the beginning of the funeral Mass. Since the homily given by the priest will focus on the Scripture and the hope of Resurrection, this is a good time to welcome family and friends and offer some personal reflections. Since **this must be limited to only one person** in Church, additional persons may be invited to speak during the visitation period at the funeral home or at some other time. If you wish to have someone do this, please enter his/her name here.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

After the opening hymn, the prayers for the blessing of the body and the covering of the casket with the pall will take place.

Please choose two family members or friends to assist in the covering of the casket with the pall.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you wish**, you may choose a friend or family member to read each of the first two scripture readings. (Chose two people or one person may read both.)

(Since pallbearers enter church only as the Mass begins, it is preferred that pallbearers not be selected as readers.)

Reading I: OT or NTE (Reader) \_\_\_\_\_

Reading II: NT \_\_\_\_\_ (Reader) \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: G \_\_\_\_\_ Read by the Deacon or Priest

After the homily and General Intercessions, the gifts of bread and wine for the Mass will be presented. Please ask two people from among your family or friends to bring up the bread and wine (located on a small table behind the back pew).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

other requests:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please be aware that the interment ceremony should take place at the actual graveside and NOT in a cemetery chapel.)

If you have questions or special requests please call Fr. Michael Carrion at 668-793 ext. 203.

**The Scripture readings that are recommended for funerals may be found at:**

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/readings-for-the-funeral-liturgy.cfm>

## MUSIC FOR FUNERAL LITURGIES

The church today places paramount importance on music in the Liturgy. This emphasis is in fact so strong that music is deemed to be as important as the Eucharist itself. Music at Funeral Liturgies is no less important, with particular emphasis being placed on the participation of the assembly.

Many people believe that the most important selection is that of the hymns or songs, when in fact the most important music is that of the Mass Responses: The Responsorial Psalm, The Gospel Acclamation and the Eucharistic Acclamations (The Holy, Holy, The Memorial Acclamation and The Concluding Acclamation). These parts rightfully belong to the congregation as their response. For this reason these settings are never recited at Masses with music.

*The General Instruction of the Roman Missal and "Sing To the Lord: Music in Divine Worship"*, which are the documents that guide our decisions with regard to Liturgy and Music offer options, guidelines and suggestions for Liturgy in general as well as for Funeral Liturgies. It is important to remember in making choices of hymns and songs for the Funeral Liturgy, that these selections be appropriate to the theme of the liturgy and relate to the readings selected. For this reason, music must reflect the sacred nature of the liturgy. This is why secular, popular and recorded music is never permitted. These types of music would be better suited at the Christian Wake Service, following the Committal Service or other time outside of the Liturgy in the church.

The choice of hymns or songs for the Funeral Liturgy should convey the themes of "Eternal Life" and "Resurrection" with the best examples being those hymns and songs that would ordinarily be sung during the Easter Season. It would therefore be best to avoid selecting hymns or songs mainly because they may be a favorite, or something we simply like to hear, rather, opting for selections that fit the above criteria more closely.

For Funeral Liturgies at Immaculate Heart of Mary, an organist is always provided. The stipend for the organist is included in the Mass Offering made to the church. Our "Resurrection Choir" also assists with providing music at most of our Funeral Liturgies. They are a group of competent volunteers who minister to families offering a Funeral Liturgy here at I.H.M. A cantor is not normally provided, however, a professional cantor may be requested, if available, for an additional fee. Please be sure to contact the director as soon as possible with this request. Some families do not wish to make particular selections of music at a Funeral Liturgy. For those families we have a preselected program of appropriate Liturgical Music, which can be found on the next page. Other families may wish to select all or some alternate liturgical music selections. A list of other appropriate selections follows, along with the part of the liturgy where they would be most appropriate. If you wish, you may make alternate selections from this list. This list is compiled from our in-pew hymnal *RitualSong*. If you have music requests that are not on the list, or other special requests, these must be discussed with the director, however, these requests must be in keeping with the above mentioned criteria. We will do our best to accommodate special requests, however, please remember that due to scheduling, time constraints, unavailability of music, etc. some things may not be possible. When making alternate selections, we request that you please contact the Director of Music, Mr. Thomas Bozek at 410-668-0097 or [tbozek@tmmaculateheartofmary.com](mailto:tbozek@tmmaculateheartofmary.com) at least 24 hours prior to the Funeral Liturgy. There is a voice mail system to take your call in the event that the director is not available. Please remember that as the director is here on weekends, the office is not usually staffed on Mondays. Due to the parish schedule, this day may change to Tuesday or Friday. Occasionally, the director is not available on Mondays and Tuesdays consecutively, however, the voice mail is monitored especially when there is a Funeral scheduled, therefore, please leave a detailed message with phone numbers where the director may reach you. If you have difficulty in reaching the director, you may also contact the parish office at 410-668-7935. It is also not advisable to send an email request as the email cannot be monitored from outside of the office and this system is sometimes unreliable. Email would be best used as a follow up to a phone call.

We hope that this information will be helpful in arranging the music for the Funeral Liturgy.

## FUNERAL MUSIC SELECTIONS

**Gathering:** "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES" (RitualSong Hymnal 582)

**Responsorial Psalm:** "TO YOU, O LORD" (Marty Haugen)(RitualSong Hymnal 53 refrain I)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "ALLELUIA" (Gregorian)(RitualSong Hymna1273)

*NOTE: During Lent the acclamation: "GLORY, PRAISE AND HONOR TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST"(Steven Janco, from Mass of the Angels and Saints) will be used. Items with a \* may not be used during Lent*

**Presentation of Gifts:** "LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS" (RitualSong Hymnal 713)

**Communion:** "YOU ARE MINE" (RitualSong Hymnal 762)

**Rite of Final Commendation:** "SAINTS OF GOD" (RitualSong Hymnal 284B) as the casket is incensed

**Concluding Hymn:** "SING WITH ALL THE SAINTS IN GLORY" (RitualSong Hymnal 595)

## FUNERAL MUSIC ALTERNATIVE SELECTIONS

**G=Gathering (processional) P=Presentation of Gifts**

**C= Communion R=Recessional**

**670: ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING· G,P,R \***

**914: ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS - G,P,R \***

**737: AMAZING GRACE - G,P,R**

**578: AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING •G,P,R**

**734: BE NOT AFRAID - P,C**

**626: CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS • G,P,R**

**758: EYE HAS NOT SEEN· P,C**

**889: FOR ALL THE SAINTS • G,P,R \***

**663: HOW GREAT THOU ART - G,P,R**

**931: I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE - P,C**

**913: I RECEIVED THE LIVING GOD - C**

**593: JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY - G,P,R \***

**884: LIFT HIGH THE CROSS - G,P,R**

**874: LORD, BID YOUR SERVANT GO IN PEACE - P,R**

**830: MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE (Prayer of St. Francis) P**

**735: O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST - G,P,R**

**740: ON EAGLES WINGS - P,C**

**754: PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND - P**

**756: SHEPHERD ME, O GOD - P,C (may not be used as a responsorial psalm response)**

**686: SING A NEW SONG - P,R**

**587: THE STRIFE IS O'ER - G,P,C,R \***

**764: THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD - P,C**

**629: TO JESUS CHRIST, OUR SOVEREIGN KING - G,P,R**

**489: WAKE, O WAKE, AND SLEEP NO LONGER· P**

**723: WE WALK BY FAITH - G,P,R**

**886: YE WATCHERS AND YE HOLY ONES - G,P,R \***

**44: Psalm 23: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD - alternative responsorial psalm**

**AVE MARIA (Arcadelt) P (available as a choir only selection)**

**NOTE: Hymns/songs dedicated to the Blessed Mother are not generally appropriate to the Funeral Liturgy. If requested, certain selections may be used during the Presentation of Gifts only. Please consult the director regarding Marian hymns and songs at the Funeral Liturgy.**