



# *Celebrating a Life*

*I will give  
you rest*

Matthew 11:28



**St. Damien of Molokai Parish  
Funeral Planning Guide**



## St. Damien of Molokai Parish **Funeral Planning Guide**



*Your Funeral Ministry Contact:*

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## Planning a personal funeral service

*“Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Matthew 5:4*

The Mass of Christian Burial celebrates liturgical rites to help us through the immediate days of our grieving, to express our belief in eternal life, and to help us pray for the one who has died.

This booklet contains a variety of prayers, readings and traditions included in the *Order of Christian Funerals*. The rite encourages you, working with a member of the Funeral Mass Ministry, to select those most suitable. The priest will give a brief homily, and will make every effort to personalize the celebration of your loved one’s funeral Mass.

### Readings

In this booklet is a list of prayers and scriptural readings. You may select one for each of the following:

- Old Testament
- Responsorial Psalm
- New Testament
- Prayers of the Faithful

### Music

A selection of hymns is suggested for the following:

- Entrance
- Presentation of Gifts
- Communion
- Recessional

*Please keep in mind, secular music is not appropriate.*

### Color of the priest’s vestments

The priest’s choice of white vestments symbolizes Christian hope. Purple may also be worn as a sign of mourning.

### Placing of the pall

The pall reminds us of the garment given at baptism, which symbolizes our life in Christ. It is draped over the casket at the beginning of the liturgy. Family members or friends are invited to place the pall, although, it may be done by the funeral personnel. The pall is omitted when cremains are present.

### Sprinkling of the Casket

We first share in the resurrection of the Lord through baptism. The priest sprinkles holy water over the casket or urn, recalling the initial washing in baptism.

### Easter or Paschal Candle

The paschal candle symbolizes the risen Christ and tells us He has conquered sin and death and now lives in our midst. In the Mass of Christian Burial, the candle is placed before the casket or urn as a reminder that the deceased shares in Jesus' victory over death.

### Presentation of Gifts

The church encourages family members or friends to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine to the altar.

### Holy Communion

The Eucharist is the most perfect way to share in the Funeral Mass. We welcome to Holy Communion those who practice the Catholic faith and are properly disposed.

### Remarks of Remembrances (Eulogy)

At the end of the Funeral Mass, and before the final commendation, a family member or friend may speak up to *five minutes* in remembrance of the deceased. The eulogy should not overshadow the principal focus of the Church's Liturgy. This is an occasion to cite some of the ways in which the effects of Christ's death and resurrection in the life of the departed have inspired us and deepened the faith of others during his or her life. Others wishing to speak may do so at the funeral home during calling hours or at the reception following the burial.

### Incensing of the Body

During the Mass of Christian Burial, the priest walks around the casket or urn and incenses the remains as a sign of our respect for the remains. Incensing symbolizes our prayers for the deceased, rising to the throne of God, and it is a final farewell and commendation of the departed to God.

### Cremation

When a family selects cremation, it is appropriate the cremated remains of the body be present for the full course of the funeral rites.

## Readings from the Old Testament (OT)

**OT-1** As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.  
*Wisdom 3:1-9*

### **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 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.**

**OT-2** 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, 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.**

**OT-3** 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 for whom we looked; Let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

**The Word of the Lord.**

**OT-4** Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the Earth, many will awake.  
*Daniel 12:1-3*

**A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel**

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, other 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.**

**OT-5** 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 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, say 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.**

**OT-6** A time for everything.  
*Ecclesiastes 3:1-11*

**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 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 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.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## Responsorial Psalms (R)

The Responsorial Psalm is usually sung by the organist with the congregation responding. However, if you prefer, it may be read.

**R-1      Psalm 23      *The Lord is my shepherd.***

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
He refreshes my soul.  
He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

**R. *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
with your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

**R. *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**R. *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
for years to come.

**R. *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***



The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?  
The Lord is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid?

R. *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

One thing I ask of the Lord;  
this I seek:  
To dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord  
and contemplate his temple.

R. *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;  
have pity on me, and answer me.  
Your presence, O Lord, I seek.  
Hide not your face from me.

R. *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted,  
and wait for the Lord.

R. *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

## Readings from the New Testament (NT)

**NT-1** We too might live in newness of life.  
*Romans 6:3-9*

### **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. 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. 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.**

**NT-2** 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 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 creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**NT-3**    **Whether we live 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 judgement 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.**

**NT-4**    **So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.**  
*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.**

**NT-5**    **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 the 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 those words.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**NT-6**    **A crown awaits me.**  
*2 Timothy 4:6-8*

**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy**

I, for my part am already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. from now on a merited crown awaits me: on that day the Lord, just judge that He is, will award it to me—and not only to me, but to all who have looked for His appearing with eager longing.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**NT-7    We shall see him as he is.**  
*John 3:1-2*

**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.**

**NT-8    There shall be no more death.**  
*Revelation 21:1-5a, 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 and 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 away 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 made 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.**

**NT-9 Love is patient, love is kind.  
1 Corinthians 13:4**

**A reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians**

**If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.**

**Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

**Love never fails.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

### **General Intercessions - Prayers of the Faithful**

*Please select Option A, B, or C (pages 17 - 19).*

***The Priest will announce the Prayers of the Faithful. The Reader will then approach the ambo (lectern). After the Priest has said an opening prayer:***

*Please read Prayers of the Faithful.*

***Please wait at the ambo (lectern) until after the priest concludes with the closing prayer.***

*Please return to your seat.*

## **Prayers of the Faithful - Option A**

**The response will be:      LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

- 1. In baptism,...N...received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 2. Our brother/sister,...N...was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 3. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 4. The family and friends of...N...seek consolation. Heal their pain and comfort them in their grief.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 5. 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.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 6. For those who rendered loving care to...N...in his/her final days. May they be blessed for their compassion.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

## **Prayers of the Faithful - Option B**

**The response will be: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

- 1. 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.**

- 2. 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.**

- 3. For our deceased relatives and friends who have gone before us, grant them an everlasting home with your Son.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 4. For...N's...family and friends that they may be consoled in their grief.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 5. 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.**

- 6. For the dedicated nurses and staff who cared for...N...that they may be blessed for their patience and compassion.**

**We pray to the Lord.**



## **Prayers of the Faithful - Option C**

**The response will be: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

- 1. That...N...may rejoice in the gift of eternal rest and everlasting life.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 2. That the family and friends of...N...may find solace from their sorrow through their faith in Jesus who conquered death for us all.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 3. That the ill and the dying and all who are heavily burdened may receive Jesus' gift of comfort.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 4. That God may welcome into His glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 5. The family and friends of...N...seek consolation. Heal their pain and comfort them in their grief.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

- 6. Lord Jesus, gentle Shepherd who brings rest to our souls. Grant peace to...N...forever.**

**We pray to the Lord.**

## Hymns

*Please select four*

Entrance,      Offertory,      Communion,      Recessional

All I Ask Of You		O	C	
Alleluia, Sing To Jesus	E			R
Amazing Grace	E	O	C	R
Ave Maria (solo)		O	C	
Be Not Afraid	E	O	C	R
Blest Are They (The Beatitudes)		O	C	
Bread of Angels		O	C	
Come To Me		O	C	
Eat This Bread		O	C	
Eye Has Not Seen		O	C	
Fly Like a Bird		O	C	
Gift Of Finest Wheat		O	C	
Hail Mary: Gentle Woman		O	C	
Here I Am, Lord	E			R
Hosea (Come Back To Me)		O	C	
How Great Thou Art	E			R
I Am The Bread of Life	E	O	C	
I Have Loved You	E	O	C	
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	E		C	R
Irish Blessing (May The Road Rise...)				R
Jesus, Remember Me	E			R
Just A Closer Walk With Thee (solo)		O	C	
Let There Be Peace On Earth		O	C	R
On Eagle's Wings	E	O	C	R
One Bread, One Body		O	C	
Panis Angelicus (solo)		O	C	
Pie Jesu (solo)		O	C	
Prayer of St. Francis		O	C	
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	E	O	C	
Serdeczna Matko		O	C	
Sing With All The Saints In Glory				R
Taste and See		O	C	
The Prayer		O	C	
The Strife Is O'er				R
We Remember		O	C	
We Walk By Faith	E			R
We Will Rise Again				R
Where Charity And Love Prevail		O	C	
You Are Mine		O	C	

## Record of Selections

**Placing of the Pall: by family**

**Yes**    \_\_\_\_\_                      **No**    \_\_\_\_\_

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Old Testament**

**No.**    \_\_\_\_\_                      **Pg.**    \_\_\_\_\_

**Read by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Responsorial Psalm: by organist**

**No.**    \_\_\_\_\_                      **Pg.**    \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – New Testament**

**No.**    \_\_\_\_\_                      **Pg.**    \_\_\_\_\_

**Read by:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Mass Summary Sheet

## **General Intercessions – Prayers of the Faithful:**

A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Presentation of the Gifts:**

Brought forward by \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Hymn Selections:**

Entrance \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation of Gifts \_\_\_\_\_

Communion \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Remarks of Remembrances (Eulogy):**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

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*God of all consolation,  
in your unending love and mercy for us,  
you turn the darkness of death  
into the dawn of new life.  
Show compassion to your people in sorrow.  
Be our refuge and our strength  
to lift us from the darkness of this grief  
to peace and joy in your presence.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.*



St. Damien of Molokai Parish  
Windsor, CT