



FUNERAL HANDBOOK

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

In the life of the Christian “[a]ll the sacraments, and principally those of Christian Initiation, have as their goal the last Passover of the child of God which, through death, leads him into the life of the Kingdom. Then what he confessed in faith and hope will be fulfilled.”¹ Indeed, for the faithful “the day of death inaugurates, at the end of his sacramental life, the fulfillment of his new birth begun at Baptism, the definitive ‘conformity’ to the ‘image of the Son’ conferred by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and participation in the feast of the Kingdom which was anticipated in the Eucharist...The Church who, as mother, has borne the Christian sacramentally in her womb during his earthly pilgrimage, accompanies him at his journey’s end, in order to surrender him ‘into the Father’s hands.’ She offers to the Father, in Christ, the child of his grace and she commits to the earth, in hope, the seed of the body that will rise in glory. This offering is fully celebrated in the Eucharistic sacrifice.”²

The funeral rites of the Church are liturgical celebrations which occur in the corresponding three places in which they are conducted: the home or funeral home, the church, and the cemetery. Particularly in the Funeral Mass (Mass of Christian Burial), “the Church expresses her efficacious communion with the departed: offering to the Father in the Holy Spirit the sacrifice of the death and resurrection of Christ, she asks to purify his child of his sins and their consequences, and to admit him to the Paschal fullness of the table of the Kingdom.”³ This final greeting and prayer of the Church on behalf of her child is a testament to the faith we hold in eternal life and of our connection with those who have gone before us:

...we sing for his departure from this life and separation from us, but also because there is a communion and a reunion. For even dead, we are not at all separated from one another, because we all run the same course and we will find one another again in the same place. We shall never be separated, for we live for Christ, and now we are united with Christ as we go toward him...we shall all be together in Christ.⁴

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church, § 1680.

² Catechism of the Catholic Church, § 1682-3.

³ Catechism of the Catholic Church, § 1689.

⁴ St. Simeon of Thessalonica, *De Ordine Sepulturae*, §336: PG 155, 684

Funeral Liturgy Outline

Introductory Rites

Greeting
Sprinkling with Holy Water
(Placing of the Pall)
Processional Hymn
Entrance Procession Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Responsorial Psalm Second Reading
Gospel Homily
General Intercessions

Liturgy of the Eucharist

(Offertory Procession)
Offertory Hymn
Eucharistic Prayer
Distribution of Holy Communion
Communion Hymn

Final Commendation

Prayer after Communion
Song of Farewell
Prayer of Commendation
Recessional Hymn

Song list

For the Mass of Christian Burial, there are four hymns to be chosen:

1. Processional Hymn
2. Offertory Hymn
3. Communion Hymn
4. Recessional Hymn

Please consult the below list as suggested hymns:

Amazing Grace
Ave Maria
Be Not Afraid
Blest Are They
Eye has not seen
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Here I am, Lord
How Great Thou Art
I Know that My Redeemer Lives
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
Let there be Peace on Earth
O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
O God, You Search Me
On Eagles' Wings
One Bread, One Body
Prayer of St. Francis
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
You are Mine

Suggested Funeral Readings

OLD TESTAMENT (1st READING OPTIONS)

Wisdom 3:1-6. 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

But 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.

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.

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

NEW TESTAMENT (2ND READING OPTIONS)

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.

Romans 14:7-9. 10-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Knowing 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, 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. Console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of John.

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.

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The Word of the Lord.

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 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.

Funeral Mass General Intercessions

(May be adapted to include particular intentions of the family)

1. In Baptism _____ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our Prayer

2. Our brother/ sister _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our Prayer

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.

Response: Lord, hear our Prayer

4. 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. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our Prayer

5. For the family and friends of our brother/sister _____, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our Prayer

6. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered again in God's Kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our Prayer.

Priest: Concluding prayer -----

(Reader remains in place until the concluding prayer is finished)