A Message from Our Parish Family

We understand that if you have recently experienced the death of a loved one, you may be feeling confused, sad, lonely, or even overwhelmed by your loss. We offer you comfort and a certain hope. It is our Catholic belief that at death, our life is changed, not ended, and that we and our loved ones will find eternal life with God.

As you prepare a Funeral Liturgy or Memorial Mass, we hope that these resources assist you in preparing a liturgy that truly celebrates the great gift of a life that God has given us. If you are preparing a funeral for a loved one who has passed away, please make sure you are in touch with a Funeral Director and do contact our parish office at (414)918-1000.

Music in Catholic Funerals

“Sacred music has an integral role in the funeral rites, since it can console and uplift mourners while, at the same time, uniting the assembly in faith and love. (OCF #30) Funeral music should express the Paschal Mystery and the Christian’s share in it. (OCF #30) Since music can evoke strong feelings, it should be chosen with care. It should console the participants and ‘help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ’s victory over death and in the Christian’s share in that victory.’” (OCF #31)

In the reference notes, OCF refers to the Order of Christian Funerals – 1989

Selecting Music

In a general sense, music that is appropriate for a Catholic Mass is appropriate for a Funeral Liturgy. Recorded music is not permitted during the liturgy; however, if there is a recording that is especially meaningful to the family, we would like to accommodate this. Recorded music can greatly enhance the visitation at the funeral home, or it can be used before the liturgy begins. Once the mass or service has begun, however, recorded music is not appropriate. Family members or other guests who are musicians may be welcome to participate in the liturgy. If you would like to include any guest musicians, please discuss this with our Director of Music & Liturgy. We have assembled a list of common songs used at Funeral Liturgies. We encourage families to select music from our hymnals, in order to facilitate the congregation’s ability to participate in the prayer (we currently use the Gather, Third Edition hymnal). If you have questions, please contact our Director of Music & Liturgy.

We have listed suggestions for the various points in the mass below. These are not the only songs that would be appropriate; these are simply suggestions. Additionally, some pieces of music that are in one category may be appropriate in another (for example, a song in the Offertory section may also be used at Communion, etc.). If you have any questions or would like to include music that is not listed below, please make sure to contact our Director of Music & Liturgy, Mitchell Owens, at st.eugene.music.ministry@gmail.com or at (414)918-1104.
Funeral Music Planning – St. Eugene Parish, Fox Point, WI

Below is the Order of Mass, which will help you to see where in the liturgy the music you have selected will be used. The music selections are italicized.

**Introductory Rites**
Sprinkling of the body with Holy Water
Placing of the Pall
_Entrance Procession – Processional Hymn_

**The Liturgy of the Word**
First Reading
_Responsorial Psalm – The psalm is usually sung_
Second Reading
Gospel Reading
Homily
Prayer of the Faithful

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**
_The Offertory – Offertory Hymn_
The Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer and The Sign of Peace
_Communion – Communion Hymn_
_Communion Meditation (optional)_
Prayer After Communion

**Final Commendation and Farewell**
_Song of Farewell (Typically used during the incensing of the casket or cremains)_
Concluding Prayer
_Recession – Recessional Hymn_

***All hymn numbers refer to the blue Gather, Third Edition hymnal.***

**Processional Hymns**

#949 - Alleluia! Sing to Jesus *
#645 - Amazing Grace
#683 - Be Not Afraid
#884 - For All the Saints *
#777 - Here I Am, Lord
#578 - How Great Thou Art
#527 - I Know That My Redeemer Lives
#870 - Jerusalem, My Happy Home
#663 - Lord of All Hopefulness
#688 - O God, Our Help in Ages Past
#539 - Sing With All the Saints in Glory (Tune of “Ode to Joy”)
#790 - The Summons

* Denotes songs not to be used during Lent because they use the word “Alleluia.”
Funeral Music Planning – St. Eugene Parish, Fox Point, WI

**Responsorial Psalms**

#30 - Psalm 16: You Will Show Me the Path of Life
   *You will show me the path of life, you, my hope and my shelter; In your presence is endless joy, at your side is my home forever.*

#35 - Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God
   *Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.*

#34 - Psalm 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd
   *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Psalm 25: To You, O Lord
   *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul, my God.*

#41 - Psalm 27: The Lord Is My Light
   *The Lord is my light and my salvation; of whom should I be afraid?*

#65 - Psalm 91: Be With Me, Lord
   *Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble, be with me, Lord, I pray.*

#75 - Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful
   *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

#91 - Psalm 138: Lord, On the Day
   *Lord, on the day that I cried out for help, you answered me.*

**Offertory Hymns**

#679 - Center of My Life
#584 - Come to the Water
#728 - Eye Has Not Seen
#889 - Hail Mary: Gentle Woman
#588 - I Have Loved You
#402 - Like a Shepherd
#828 - Make Me a Channel of Your Peace *(Prayer of St. Francis)*
#819 - Peace Is Flowing Like a River
#717 - Shelter Me, O God
#47 - The Cry of the Poor
#712 - The King of Love My Shepherd Is
#784 - We Have Been Told
#721 - You Are Mine
#695 - You Are Near

**Communion Hymns**

#925 - All Who Hunger
#735 - Blest Are They
#941 - Eat This Bread
#940 - Gift of Finest Wheat
#945 - I Am the Bread of Life
#785 - Now We Remain

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#691 - On Eagle’s Wings
#932 - One Bread, One Body
#653 - There Is a Longing
#783 - Unless a Grain of Wheat
#681 - We Remember

_Additionally, many of the songs from the Offertory Hymns could work for Communion, and vice versa._

Communion Meditation (optional)

Ave Maria (either Franz Schubert or Bach/Gounod)
In Christ Alone
Panis Angelicus

Song of Farewell

I Know That My Redeemer Lives
In Paradisum * (“May the angels welcome you to paradise, may the martyrs greet you on your way, etc.”)
#978 – May Holy Angels Lead You (The tune of “O Danny Boy”)
Song of Farewell  (“May the choirs of angels come to meet you, may the lead you to paradise, etc.”)

Recessional Hymns

Many hymns from the Processional Hymns would also work well here. Below are additional options.

#766 - City of God
#615 - Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
#492 - Jerusalem, My Destiny
#881 - Lift High the Cross
#691 - On Eagle’s Wings
#644 - There’s a Wideness In God’s Mercy

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