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# FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE



**St. Jude of the Lake Catholic Church**



The Funeral Liturgy

The planning of a funeral liturgy brings an important, and sometimes complicated, emotional experience of remembering, celebrating, mourning, and giving of life over to our God. The liturgy at a funeral is a beautiful expression in ways that are spiritual and meaningful. It is our belief that one’s life has meaning and purpose on this earth and in the eternal one. It is our hope that you will find this guide helpful in assisting in this act of love.

Readings

There are **three readings** in a funeral liturgy: an Old Testament, a New Testament and a Gospel reading. You may select one passage from each group. Other Scripture passages may be used upon approval.

(1)First Reading

Options outside of Easter season: Old Testament

Wisdom 3:1-9 “The souls of the just are in the hand of God...”  
Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 “He will destroy death forever...”  
Laminations 3:17-26 “Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord. ...”

Options during Easter season: New Testament

Acts 10: 34-43 “He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead...”  
Revelation 14:13 “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...”  
Revelation 20:11- 21:1 “The dead were judged according to their deeds...”  
Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 “There shall be no more death...”

(2) Second Reading (all seasons): New Testament

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 “Nothing can come between us and the love of God...”  
2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10 “We have a building from God, eternal in heaven...”  
Philippians 3: 20-21 “He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory...”  
Revelation 21:1-7 “He will wipe every tear from their eyes...”  
1 John 3:1-2 “That we may be called children of God...”

(3) Gospel Reading (all seasons)

Matthew 5:1-12 “Blessed are they...”  
Matthew 25:31-46 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, ...”  
John 6:37-40 “All who believe in the Son will have eternal life...”  
John 11:17-27 “I am the Resurrection and the Life...”  
John 14:1-6 “There are many rooms in my Father’s house...”

“The souls of the just are in the hand of God  
and no torment shall touch them.  
They are at peace.”  
Wisdom 3: 1-9



Funeral Mass Planning Worksheet

Prelude	Instrumental		
Eulogy (Optional)	*See Eulogy Guidelines		
Sprinkling of Holy Water		Fr. Chad	
Processional/Gathering Hymn			
First Reading		Lector Name:	
Responsorial Psalm			
Second Reading		Lector Name:	
Gospel Acclamation			
Gospel Reading		Fr. Chad	
Homily		Fr Chad	
Prayers of the Faithful		Lector Name:	
Preparation of the Gifts			
Presentation of the Gifts		No gift bearers	
Eucharistic Acclamations			
Holy Communion			
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion		Needed? y/n	
Incensing of the Body		Fr. Chad	
Song of Farewell			
Prayer of Commendation		Fr. Chad	
Sending Forth			

	Music		Readings		Other
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Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and  
let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.

May their souls and the souls of all the  
faithful departed, through the mercy of  
God, rest in peace. Amen.



**Funeral Fees and Luncheon options**

**Basic Fee \$550**

Included in this fee is the use of the church facilities, memorial worship aids, staff assistance, and musicians.

An honorarium for the priest is optional, but appreciated.

Please note that a funeral luncheon is not included in the basic fee. *An additional administrative fee of \$100 will be charged if no funeral home staff will be present.*

**Luncheon**

A funeral reception or luncheon may follow immediately after the liturgy in Kohler Hall. A luncheon hosted by our funeral committee includes three options: (a) turkey, ham, and cheese deli tray, (b) pulled pork sandwiches or (c) shredded beef sandwiches. Buns and condiments are included. Salads and desserts are provided by parishioners. Also included are coffee, lemonade, water, paper products and plastic ware. The cost of this luncheon is \$4.50 per person. This cost is added to the funeral home bill.

If no funeral home is used, a check is needed, payable to St. Jude of the Lake.

A second option is to have the luncheon catered by a vendor and served in Kohler Hall. Salads and desserts from parishioners may supplement a catered lunch. A few local vendors who provide delivery service to St. Jude of the Lake are Donatelli’s, Roma’s, and Kowalski’s Market, but you are free to choose any vendor you want. There is no fee for a catered luncheon, even if you request salads and desserts from the church.

**Musical Selections**

An accompanist and cantor will provide all of the musical leadership for all funerals as part of the basic fee.

Visiting/guest musicians may also participate in funeral liturgies, if approved by Rita Bagley. The family will pay that musician directly to him/her. Our staff musicians will still be present even in the case when you opt to add your own visiting musicians.

Please choose from the following options for your funeral liturgy.

**Prelude**

Ave Maria  
Panis Angelicus

**Processional/Gathering Hymn**

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty  
Amazing Grace  
On Eagles Wings  
There is a Place  
*In Paradisium*/May Choirs of Angels

**Responsorial Psalm**

#23: The Lord is My Shepherd  
#103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

**Preparation of the Gifts:**

Be Not Afraid  
Eye Has Not Seen  
Make Me A Channel of Your Peace/  
Prayer of St. Frances  
The Hand of God Shall Hold You  
Quietly, Peacefully  
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

**Holy Communion:**

Here I Am Lord  
Rest Now in Me  
In the Arms of God  
With A Shepherd’s Care  
Only You, O God (Melody to ‘Balm in Gilead’)

**Sending Forth:**

How Great Thou Art  
O God You Search Me  
May Holy Angels Lead You (Melody to ‘Londonderry Air/O Danny Boy’)  
Jesus, Lead the Way  
Come, Holy Ghost

***Please note:***  
*The Processional and Recessional suggestions are interchangeable.*

*The Offertory and Communion suggestions are interchangeable*

*The Mass responses (Gospel Acclamation, Holy Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen & Lamb of God) sung at funerals will be the current responses being sung at St Jude at weekend Masses.*







# Funeral Liturgy

## Liturgical Roles

*Please note that Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, and gift bearers must be Catholic.*

### Lectors

We encourage extended family members or friends to lector at the funeral liturgy. You may have up to three lectors (readers) at the liturgy; one for the first reading, one for the second reading, and one for the reading of the petitions (Prayers of the Faithful). You may also have the same person read all three selections. *Lectors must be baptized Catholics.*

Please note that funeral liturgies are often a difficult experience for immediate family members. A wide variety of emotions are present. When choosing lectors, please be certain that they are comfortable reading in front of an audience during this time.

Please let us know if you have a special petition to add for the Prayers of the Faithful.

### Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

If celebrating a funeral Mass with many practicing Catholic guests, an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will be provided for you. If you have a trained and commissioned Catholic who wishes to fill this role, please let us know. This individual should be an experienced minister at his/her respective Catholic parish.

### Gift Bearers

Two or three adults/children to carry the gifts of bread and wine in the offertory procession.

**Pall Bearers:** Please inform us if you will be having pall bearers. We will need to know the number of pall bearers and their names.



# Funeral Liturgy

## Funeral Rite

### Eulogy/Words of Remembrance

Giving a eulogy at a funeral is strictly optional. The purpose is to provide inspiration and reflection and should be well-thought out and prepared. **A loving and effective eulogy of 3-4 minutes** can touch the hearts of everyone, but is required to be brief. The funeral Mass is not the best time for a life story.

It is also appropriate to give longer eulogies or remembrances at a wake at the funeral home, at the burial site, after the liturgy is over, or at the reception after Mass. If you choose to read a brief eulogy at the funeral liturgy, it will be done prior to the start of the Mass.

### Visitation

The purpose of a visitation is for loved ones to spend some brief moments of silence with the deceased, to console the family, to remember fond times, and to strengthen the bonds of friendship the deceased brought together within the community. Visitations normally occur one hour prior to the funeral liturgy in our Gather Space. Two tables and easels are available for flowers, photo boards, and mementoes a family may wish to display.

### Presence at the Burial Site

If you wish Fr. Chad to be present at the burial, please let us know. We will check with his schedule to see if this is possible. Funeral homes may also provide a burial site service. In addition, lay men and women are able to preside at a gravesite service. We are able to offer you those prayers in booklet form.