



6001 Bob Billings Parkway
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Funeral Preparation Guide



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"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

This guide is meant to offer consolation and hope. Its purpose is to aid in the preparation of the funeral service for a loved one or in preplanning your own funeral. Hopefully, you will find it a practical guide in regard to the funeral Mass and burial.

Customs surrounding death change and evolve over the years. The information offered here is based on the Catholic Church's *Order of Christian Funerals* commissioned by our American Bishops and approved by the Vatican in 1989. Thus, it is the "official" Rite of Burial.

Included in this booklet is the general format for the Funeral Mass. In planning the Mass, you will find readings and hymns from which to choose. It is recommended that you complete the center pages in the booklet and give a copy to your family, the parish office and funeral director to be kept on file. This will allow everyone to respect your wishes. This plan will be reviewed with the family by a member of the Corpus Christi Pastoral Staff at the time of the funeral.

May God bless you.

The Corpus Christi Pastoral Staff

THE VIGIL SERVICE

The preferred preparation for the funeral is a vigil or "wake", which is usually celebrated the evening before. (The gathering is so-called from the traditional practice of staying awake to watch over the body of a dead person.) The Vigil Service is the time when the life of the deceased is remembered as God's gift and an opportunity to share this memory with family and friends.

The revised *Order of Christian Funerals* has formulated a ritual to celebrate the Vigil Service in a prayerful way. It is a time to gather and read scripture, reflect, pray, share condolences and celebrate the life of the loved one. The Vigil Service is the appropriate time for the eulogy and testimonies about the life of the deceased.

The new Rite of the Catholic Church does not allow for the recitation of the rosary during the Vigil Service. However, the rosary may be prayed any other time the family desires at the funeral home. A family member, friend, volunteer from the parish or a church minister may lead the rosary.

THE VIGIL SERVICE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Priest, Deacon or Pastoral Associate presides

- Greeting and welcome
- Invitation to prayer
- First Reading
- Psalm Response
- Second Reading
- Gospel Reading
- Reflection
- Optional sharing of memories by family/friends
- Prayers of the Faithful
- The Lord's Prayer
- Blessing

THE FUNERAL MASS

The Funeral Mass is ordinarily held in the parish where the deceased was a member. For most believers, the parish community is the focus for much of their Christian life and the usual place where people celebrate and deepen their faith. Here they find the support and sharing for their growth in faith and in commitment to a Christian life. For these reasons, the funeral takes place in the church.

Staking our lives on the hope of resurrection assured to us by Jesus Christ, we believe that our death is the doorway to a new way of living with God. Baptism celebrates the beginning of our life in Christ and our commitment to God's ways throughout our lives. The funeral ritual celebrates one's earthly life in faithful relationship with God and looks toward the promise of existence with God forever. The funeral then, is both an important celebration of the deceased believer's life and an expression and reaffirmation of the faith of the community.

At the funeral liturgy, we bring the body of our loved one back to the church. Just as he or she was welcomed at the church door on the day of Baptism, washed free of sin in the font and clothed in the white robe of redemption, we welcome his or her body back into the church at this time. We sprinkle the casket with holy water and clothe it in the white cloth (pall)-a reminder of the Baptismal garment.

Following are added notes pertaining to the Funeral Mass:

- The songs at the funeral are to be sacred. Our priest, pastoral associate or parish music director is available to assist you in choosing appropriate songs. Recorded music is not permitted. **(See list of suggested songs.)**
- The suggested readings for Mass are taken from the *Order of Christian Funerals*. **(See list of suggested readings.)**

PLAN FOR THE FUNERAL OF:

Name _____

Date of Funeral _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Death _____

Information on person filling out this form:

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Immediate survivors: (Names and relationships to the deceased)

Funeral Home/Location _____

Visitation at funeral home Yes ____ No ____ *Visitation hours* _____

Funeral Vigil/Service Yes ____ No ____ *Time* _____

Visitation in church
(prior to Funeral Liturgy) Yes ____ No ____ *Visitation hours* _____

Funeral Mass Yes ____ No ____ *Time* _____

Bereavement Meal Yes ____ No ____ *If yes, approximate #* _____

Alternate Meal Arrangements _____

Internment: Name of Cemetery _____

Name of Mausoleum _____

Memorial Contributions to be designated to: _____

FUNERAL MASS - ORDER OF WORSHIP

See lists provided to choose recommended readings and songs.

Blessing of Body with Holy Water

Funeral Pall placed on casket by family (Presider/Deacon assists)

Opening Song _____

First Reading _____ Name of Lector _____

Psalm Response _____

Second Reading _____ Name of Lector _____

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading _____

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful _____ Name of Lector _____

Presentation of Gifts

Names of Gift Bearers (Optional) Minimum of 2 would be needed.

Song for Preparation of Gifts _____

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Song _____

Incensing/Final Commendation

Closing Song _____

Pallbearers for Mass _____

Notes

SUGGESTED READINGS

Old Testament Readings (First Reading) (Choose one)

Job 19:1,23-27 (I know that my Redeemer lives)
Wisdom 3:1-9 or 3:1-6, 9- Short form (The souls of the just are in the hand of God)
Wisdom 4:7-15 (God's care is with us)
Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 (The Lord God will destroy death forever)
Lamentations 3:17-26 (Hope in the Lord)
Daniel 12:1-3 (The just will shine like stars)
Maccabees 12:43-46 (A splendid reward awaits us)
Other Old Testament Reading _____

New Testament Readings (Second Reading) (Choose one)

Acts 10:34-43 or 10:34-36, 42-43 (God has appointed Jesus as judge for everyone)
Romans 5:5-11 (God gives us hope)
Romans 5:17-21 (Jesus brings us life)
Romans 6:3-9 or 6:3-4, 8-9 --Short form (Let us walk in newness of life)
Romans 8:14-23 (Those that are led by the Spirit of God are children of God)
Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 (Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?)
Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12 (Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord)
1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 24b-28 or 20-23 (All will be brought to life in Christ)
1 Corinthians 15:51-57 (Death is swallowed up in victory)
2 Corinthians 4:14-15:1 (What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal)
2 Corinthians 5:1,6-10 (We have an everlasting home in heaven)
Philippians 3:20-21 (We will be remade in Christ)
Thessalonians 4:13-18 (We shall stay with the Lord forever)
2 Timothy 2:8-13 (If we have died with Him, we shall live with Him)
1 John 3:1-2 (We shall see God as He really is)
1 John 3:14-16 (We have passed from death to life)
Revelation 14:13 (Happy are those who die in the Lord)
Revelation 20:11-21:1 (The dead have been judged according to their works)
Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 (There will be no more death)
Other New Testament Reading _____

Gospel Readings (Choose one)

Matthew 5:1-12a (The Beatitudes)
Matthew 11:25-30 (Come to me...and I will give you rest)
Matthew 25:1-13 (Stay awake...for you do not know the day nor the hour)
Matthew 25:31-46 (Come, you whom my Father has blessed)
Mark 15: 3-39; 16:1-6 or 15:33-39 (Jesus breathes his last)
Luke 7:11-17 (Young man, I say to you, arise)
Luke 12:35-40 (Be prepared)
Luke 23:33,39-43 (Today you will be with me in paradise)
Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a or 23:44-46, 50, 52-53 (Father, I put my life in your hands)
Luke 24:13-35 or 24:13-16,28-35 (The road to Emmaus)
John 5:24-29 (Whoever hears my word and believes, has passed from death to life)
John 6:37-40 (All who believe in the Son will have eternal life)
John 6:51-58 (All who eat this bread will live forever; and I will raise them up on the last day)
John 11:17-27 or 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
John 11:32-45 (The raising of Lazarus from the dead)
John 12:23-28 or 23-26 (If a grain of wheat falls and dies, it yields a rich harvest)
John 14:1-6 (There are many rooms in my Father's house)
John: 17 :24-26 (Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am)
John 19: 1-18, 25-30 (Jesus dies on the cross)
Other Gospel Reading _____

SUGGESTED SONGS

OPENING SONG: *(choose one)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (closing also) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem My Happy Home (closing also) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amazing Grace (closing also) | <input type="checkbox"/> Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (closing also) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid-Dufford (closing also) | <input type="checkbox"/> The King of Love My Shepherd Is (closing also) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> God of Day and God of Darkness (closing also) | <input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings- Joncas (closing song) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Am the Bread of Life-Toolan (closing also) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing With All the Saints in Glory (closing song) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Know That My Redeemer Lives-Soper (closing also) | |

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *(choose one)*

- Shepherd Me, O God (Psalm 23) by Marty Haugen
"Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life."
- The Goodness of the Lord (Psalm 27) by Scott Soper
"I believe, I believe, I shall see the goodness of the Lord, in the land, in the land of the living."

*Others available upon request

PREPARATION OF GIFTS: *(choose one)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amazing Grace | <input type="checkbox"/> Sacred Silence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because the Lord is My Shepherd | <input type="checkbox"/> Servant Song-McCargill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid -Dufford | <input type="checkbox"/> Softly and Tenderly (communion also) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Has Not Seen-Haugen | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Here I Am, Lord-Schutte | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Heard the Voice of Jesus | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer of St. Francis | |

COMMUNION SONG: *(choose one)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Because the Lord is My Shepherd | <input type="checkbox"/> I Am the Bread of Life—Toolan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid -Dufford | <input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings- Joncas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behold the Lamb—Willett | <input type="checkbox"/> Taste and See- Moore |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bread for the World—Farrell | <input type="checkbox"/> The Supper of the Lord-Rosania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Here I Am, Lord-Schutte | <input type="checkbox"/> We Remember- Haugen |

CLOSING SONG : *(choose one)*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christ the Lord, Is Risen Today | <input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings- Joncas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For All the Saints | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing With All the Saints in Glory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Am the Bread of Life-Toolan | <input type="checkbox"/> The Day of Resurrection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Know That My Redeemer Lives- Soper | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem, My Happy Home | |



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Should you have any questions or concerns about this planning process, please contact one of our parish staff at the phone number above or at the E-mail addresses below:

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