



*Every human being Has a great,
yet often unknown, gift
To care,
To be compassionate,
To become present to the other,
To Listen, to hear and
To receive.*

*If that gift would be set free and made
available
Miracles could take place.*

Henri T. M. Nouwen.

Dear Bereaved,

Our parish community extends our deepest sympathy to you and your family on the death of your loved one.

In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God created each person for eternal life. At the death of a Christian, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end, nor does it break the bonds forged in life. Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has been returned to God. The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral.

As ministers of consolation, our main focus is to assist you in planning the funeral liturgy of the Mass. We have included the forms used for planning the funeral Mass. They include information about the deceased, and the music and reading choices.

Once you have talked with the Funeral Director and scheduled a date/time with the Parish Office for the Funeral Mass, you should begin to complete the necessary forms. You may download and print out the forms, complete them as much as possible and bring them with you when you meet with a consolation minister. A member of the Ministry of Consolation will contact you by phone to schedule your appointment to review the choices you have made and/or assist you to complete them in person.

You are encouraged to enlist the support of other family members to make the choices required on the planning forms if you wish.

Please direct any questions to our parish office at: 609-654-8208 ext.

1. Pick the Scripture Readings:
These readings set the tone for the Mass. You will select the First Reading from the Old Testament. Take your time and get a feel for the message of God's word and how it relates to your loved one. In addition, please think about the two people you will choose to do these readings at the Funeral Mass. Please review "Suggested Readings" section. Enter Choices on "Funeral Mass/Service Planning Sheet" under Readings/Music Selection.
2. Choosing the Music:
Music is a vital part of the funeral liturgy. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. Please see "Suggested Music" and enter your choices on "Funeral Mass/Service Planning Sheet" under Readings/Music Selection.
3. Placing of the Pall:
During the opening rite of a funeral, at the back of the church, a long white cover is placed over the casket by the Funeral Director before processing to the front. Would family members, 1 or 2 like to assist with this? Note Choice on "Funeral Mass/Service Planning Sheet".
4. Gift Bearers at Offertory:
The bread and wine are carried from the rear of the church and presented to the priest. Members of family or friends may do this. Note choice on "Funeral Mass/Service Planning Sheet".
5. Eulogy- In Memoriam
As a final memorial/remembrance to the loved one, a family member or friend may be invited to read their thoughts. Please see the "Guidelines" suggested by Father Dan, our Pastor, and share them with the Eulogist. Note information on "Funeral Mass/Service Planning Sheet".
6. Homily/Sermon Form:
In an effort to make the homily/sermon more personal, Father Dan requests that you complete the Homily form included for this purpose.
7. Book of Remembrance
A tradition here at SML is to have a family member record the deceased loved one's name in our Book of Remembrance before the conclusion of the funeral liturgy. Note choice on the "Funeral Mass/Service Planning Sheet".

Thank you. A member of the Ministry of Consolation will call you to arrange an appointment to discuss the planning choices you have made. At that time, everything will be finalized for the Funeral Liturgy.



40 Jackson Road
Medford, New Jersey 08055
Phone: (609) 654-8208 Fax: 609-654-1734

Funeral Mass/Service Planning Sheet

For: Name of Deceased _____ Date of Death: _____

First Last M.I.

Select One Casket or Creains

Priest _____ Assisted by: _____

Bereavement Minister _____ Phone _____

Date/Time of Funeral _____

Funeral Home _____ Phone _____

Survived by _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

City State Zip Code

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Church Visitation/Time _____

Cemetery _____ Request Priest? _____

Simulcast Service? Yes No

Readings/Music Selections

First Reading _____ Read by _____

Responsorial Psalm _____ Read/Sung by _____

Second Reading _____ Read by _____

Entrance Hymn _____

Offertory Hymn _____

Communion Hymn _____

Meditation Hymn _____

Recessional Hymn _____

Family Placing Pall Yes No

Gift Bearers Yes No

Relationship: _____

Eulogy Yes No

Given By: _____ Relationship: _____

Book of Remembrance signed by: _____

Special Notes:

SUGGESTED MUSIC SELECTIONS FOR FUNERAL MASSES

Selections can be found in 2023 Breaking Bread *(except where noted)*

NAME _____ DATE/TIME _____

FUNERAL MASS _____ MEMORIAL MASS _____ REMAINS _____

Gathering Songs (Choose One)	
	Be Not Afraid
	Gather Us In
	Here I Am, Lord (Schutte)
	Hosea
	On Eagle's Wings
	Sing a New Song (Schutte)
	Sing With All the Saints in Glory

Responsorial Psalms	
	Be With Me Lord
	I Lift Up My Soul Ps. 25
	The Lord is My Shepherd
	Like A Child Rests
	My Soul Thirsts
	Shepherd Me, O God Ps. 23
	The Goodness of the Lord
	You are Near

Preparation (#1) and Communion (#2) Selections (Choose total of two)			
	Amazing Grace		Loving and Forgiving
	Be Not Afraid		My Soul Thirsts (Schutte)
			One Bread, One Body
	Center of My Life		One Love Released
	Come To Me		Only This I Want
	Eye Has Not Seen		Prayer of St. Francis
	Gift of Finest Wheat		Taste and See (Moore)
	Like A Child Rests		The Lord is My Light (Walker)
	Here I Am, Lord		You Are Near
	Hosea		We Remember
	I Am The Bread of Life (Angrisano/Booth)		
	I Have Loved You		

SUGGESTED MUSIC SELECTIONS FOR FUNERAL MASSES

Selections can be found in 2023 Breaking Bread (*except where noted*)

Meditation Hymns (Choose One)	
	Ave Maria (Schubert) ***Not found in 2023 Breaking Bread
	I Have Loved You
	Let There Be Peace on Earth
	Where My Father Lives
	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
	O Loving God (Melody Danny Boy)
	Hail Mary: Gentle Woman

Recessional Hymns (Choose One)	
	Glory in the Cross
	City of God
	Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
	How Great Thou Art
	I Am The Bread of Life
	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
	On Eagle's Wings
	Sing With All the Saints in Glory

Homily Sheet

St. Mary of the Lakes
40 Jackson Rd., Medford, NJ 08055
Telephone: 609-654-8208
Fax: 609-654-1734

In an effort to make the homily/sermon at the Funeral Mass of your loved one more personal, it would be very helpful to the homilist if you would complete the form below and return it to the funeral director, the parish office either in person or by fax. Thank you very much for your cooperation and know you and your family are remembered in prayer.

Name of Deceased _____ Age _____

From what did the deceased die? _____

How long was the deceased sick? _____

How were his/her spirits during this time? _____

Was there anyone who took special care of the deceased during their illness? _____

Describe the deceased's occupation. _____

Describe any special interests the deceased had. _____

Describe the kind of person the deceased was. _____

Describe how the deceased led a life of faith; how their life exemplified gospel values. _____

Please list survivors and their relation to the deceased. _____

Other Comments: _____

Person Completing Form/Relation to Deceased: _____ Phone: _____



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Dear Eulogist:

The following guidelines will help you write or prepare your thoughts regarding a eulogy for your loved one.

1. Please be respectful of time and limit your eulogy to a maximum of five minutes.
2. Only one eulogy will be given during the Mass. Additional eulogies should be given at the viewing in the funeral home.
3. The purpose of a eulogy at a Mass of Christian Burial is to praise the faith life of your loved one. It is appropriate to talk about:
 - the prayer life of the deceased;
 - how they taught you about God;
 - how their life exemplified the life of Christ; and
 - how they lived Gospel values.
4. Eulogies commenting on the deceased's secular interests or funny stories would be more appropriate for a eulogy given at the viewing in the funeral home.

If the eulogy does not reasonably adhere to these guidelines, you will be asked to be seated.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Assuring you of my prayers and asking yours in return, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Daniel F. Swift
Pastor