

Music for Funeral Liturgies at Holy Family Catholic Church

Updated: March, 2025



I long for you, O LORD, my soul longs for His word. My soul hopes in the LORD more than watchmen for daybreak. More than watchmen for daybreak, let Israel hope for the LORD. For with the LORD there is mercy, in Him is plentiful redemption.

It is He who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. -Taken from Psalm 130

This pamphlet is intended to share with you, the family of the deceased, what is musically done here at Holy Family. The one you mourn today worshipped at a parish known for putting a lot of intentional thought and effort into the Sacred Liturgy, with sacred music being a prominent part of this effort. In keeping with the Church's teachings, we have some beautiful and faithful customs and traditions here which have served us well. This faithfulness does not negate the sadness felt during this time, but points us instead towards a prayerful hope in the mercy and love of God.

Please look through this pamphlet and choose the music from the options given or, if you'd rather, the option to defer these decisions to the Director of Sacred Music, in consultation with the pastor, is also available to you. A selection sheet for you to indicate your musical decisions is on the back page. Please know of our prayers for you and your family.

At the beginning of the Funeral Mass, upon the ringing of the sacristy bell, all sing the Processional Hymn as the altar servers and priest process from the sacristy to the cross aisle (or to the front of the altar in the event of a cremation). The usual selection is ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past***; three other options are ***Be Thou My Vision***, ***Jesus, Lord, Have Mercy***, and ***Jesus, Lead the Way***. The lyrics and links to these pieces can be found on the following pages.

Then, after a brief introductory prayer at the casket and once the pall is placed over it or the cremated remains, the cantor(s) sing the Requiem Introit. The Introit is a brief Gregorian chant which says: *Eternal rest give to them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them* (Ps 64: 2-3). *A hymn to you is fitting, O God in Zion, and a vow made to you in Jerusalem; hear my prayer, all flesh comes to you.* (4 Esdras 2: 34, 35).

After the First Reading, the Cantor leads the congregation in the singing of the Responsorial Psalm, which is usually Psalm 23 – ***The Lord is my Shepherd***. The two other options are Psalm 25 – ***To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul*** and Psalm 27 – ***The Lord is My Light and My Salvation***. The lyrics are on the following pages.

After the Second Reading, the Cantor leads the congregation in the singing of the Gospel Acclamation.

For the ***Holy, Holy/Sanctus*** and the ***Lamb of God/Agnus Dei***, **either Latin or English** can be chosen.

Latin: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n_DUZN3Ahw English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Sc_6tl0wuk

As Father is receiving Holy Communion, we always sing a brief Gregorian chant which says: *May eternal light shine upon them, O Lord, in the company of Your saints for all eternity, for You are full of goodness.*

At the conclusion of the Funeral Mass, the chanter(s) sing the traditional *In Paradisum* in either Latin or English. The text: *May angels lead you into paradise; upon your arrival, may the martyrs receive you and lead you to the holy city of Jerusalem. May the ranks of angels receive you, and with Lazarus, once a poor man, may you have eternal rest.*

Latin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8-CqtaXt0> English: https://youtu.be/9_ZHYG5unoU?t=62

During Offertory and Communion, various pieces can be sung, with some being more doable if sung by a cantor alone, a cantor and congregation, or as a piece a choir would sing alone. All pieces below can be sung at either Offertory or Communion unless stated otherwise. Who can sing them is indicated. NOTE: All musical selections are subject to the availability of the singer(s) able to sing at the Mass.

TITLE OF PIECE	WHO CAN SING IT	SUITABLE TIMES TO SING IT
<p><i>O God, Our Help, in Ages Past</i> https://youtu.be/rsHIwXTjAOU?t=1</p> <p>1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.</p> <p>2. Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure; Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.</p> <p>3. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same. <i>(Paraphrase of Psalm 90 by Isaac Watts)</i></p>	Cantor Cong.	Processional
<p><i>Be Thou My Vision</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8v8FnoHbDgY</p> <p>1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art; be Thou my best thought in the day and the night, both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.</p> <p>2. Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight; be Thou my whole Armor, be Thou my true Might; be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r, O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.</p> <p>3. High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun, O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won; Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be Thou my Vision, O Ruler of all.</p>	Cantor Cong.	Processional Offertory Communion
<p><i>Jesus, Lord, Have Mercy</i> <i>(set to the melody of Humbly We Adore Thee)</i></p> <p>1. Jesus, Lord, have mercy on the souls so blest, who in faith gone from us now in death find rest. Here 'mid stress and conflict toils can never cease; There the warfare ended, bid them rest in peace.</p> <p>2. Sorely were they wounded in the deadly strife; Heal them good Physician, with the balm of life. Ev'ry taint of evil, frailty and decay, good and gracious Savior, cleanse and purge away.</p> <p>3. Grant them rest eternal after weary fight; Shed on them the radiance of Thy heav'nly light. Lead them onward, upward to Thy holy place where Thy saints, made perfect, gaze upon Thy face.</p>	Cantor Cong.	Processional Offertory Communion
<p><i>Jesus, Lead the Way</i> https://youtu.be/tF2y-ZOkDc8?si=ypFBTsWlvi8h2bYz</p> <p>1. Jesus, lead the way through our life's long day, and with faithful footstep steady, we will follow, ever ready. Guide us by Thy hand to the Fatherland.</p> <p>2. Should our lot be hard, keep us on our guard; Even through severest trial make us brave in self-denial; Transient pain may be but a way to Thee.</p> <p>3. When we need relief from an inner grief, or when evils come alluring, make us patient and enduring: Let us follow still Thy most holy will.</p> <p>4. Order Thou our ways, Savior, all our days. If Thou lead us through rough places, grant us Thy sustaining graces. When our course is o'er, open heaven's door.</p>	Cantor Cong.	Processional Offertory Communion
<p><i>Domine Jesu Christe</i> – Offertory Gregorian Chant for Requiem Masses https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYEa21YqWP4</p> <p>O Lord, Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hell and the deep pit; deliver them from the lion's mouth, that hell engulf them not, nor they fall into darkness, but that Michael, the holy standard-bearer, bring them into the holy light which You once promised to Abraham and his seed.</p>	Any Cantor	Offertory

<p>Lord Jesus Christ, O Glorious King – the Offertory Proper set to hymnody (sung to the tune of <i>Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All</i>)</p> <p>1. Lord Jesus Christ, O Glorious King out of th’eternal dark abyss and from the sufferings of hell deliver souls unto Thy bliss. Leave them not in the’ternal flame; from lions’ mouth deliver them, from lions’ mouth deliver them.</p> <p>2. Let them not into darkness fall; But, may St. Michael in his might, bearing Thy standard, bring their souls into Thy wondrous, holy light; As Thou hast promised long ago, Abraham and his progeny, Abraham and his progeny.</p> <p>3. O Lord, we offer unto Thee our sacrifices and our prayers for the poor souls whom we recall; From death, make them Thy life to share. As Thou hast promised long ago, Abraham and his progeny, Abraham and his progeny.</p>	Cantor Cong.	Offertory
<p>Ave Maria Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.</p> <p>J.S. Bach/Charles Gounod: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9w2JKlSSbc0 Franz Schubert: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsBt9yZDsIA</p>	Cantor Female Male	Offertory
<p>Pie Jesu - Gabriel Faure https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6ePmrZDTfw Sweet, merciful Jesus, grant them everlasting rest.</p>	Cantor Female	Offertory or Communion
<p>If With All Your Hearts (from <i>Elijah</i>) – Felix Mendelssohn https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0PVVcWocos</p> <p>If with all your heart ye truly seek Me, ye shall ever surely find Me, thus saith our God. Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might even come before His presence. If with all your heart ye truly seek Me, ye shall ever surely find Me, thus saith our God.</p>	Cantor Male	Offertory or Communion
<p>Ave Verum Corpus – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDKCK_6WLTg</p> <p>Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary: You who truly suffered and were sacrificed on the cross for the sake of man. From whose pierced side flowed water and blood: Be a foretaste for us in the trial of death.</p>	Any Cantor	Offertory or Communion
<p>Panis Angelicus – Cesar Franck https://youtu.be/xNHmpMnLwEI?t=7</p> <p>The bread of the angels becomes the bread of mortals; the bread of heaven puts an end to prefigurations. O wondrous thing! the poor, the slave and the humble feed on their Lord. Of You, threefold and one God, we ask: Come to visit us as we worship You; lead us on Your paths to where we want to go: to the light in which You dwell.</p>	Any Cantor	Offertory or Communion
<p>The Souls of the Righteous – Eric Thiman https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNBttL6sfCk</p> <p>The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die but they are in peace. The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God.</p>	Any Cantor	Offertory or Communion
<p>Comfort, O Lord – William Crotch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpceCp6c7KY</p> <p>Comfort, O Lord, the soul of Thy servant. For unto Thee do I lift up my soul.</p>	Any Cantor	Offertory or Communion

<p>O Divine Redeemer – Charles Gounod https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF0tiuas02o</p> <p>Ah! Turn me not away, Receive me tho' unworthy; Hear Thou my cry, Behold, Lord, my distress! Answer me from thy throne, Haste Thee, Lord to mine aid, Thy pity shew in my deep anguish! Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, Though righteous thine anger, O Lord! Shield me in danger, O regard me! On Thee, Lord, alone will I call.</p> <p>O Divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not, remember not my sins! Forgive me, O Divine Redeemer! Night gathers round my soul; Fearful, I cry to Thee; Come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me! Hear my cry! Save me Lord in Thy mercy; Come and save me O Lord Save, in the day of retribution, From Death shield Thou me, O my God! O Divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Saviour!</p>	Cantor Female	Communion
<p>With the Shepherd – Mary Downey https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlJS5SHE4Hw</p> <p>Lord, as the shepherd guide his sheep dost Thou Thy children guide unto life's river brimming deep and pastures green and wide. My feet into the shining way of justice Thought hast brought; for Thy name's sake let me not stray from Thee in deed or thought. Lord, as the shepherd guide his sheep dost Thou Thy children guide.</p>	Any Cantor	Offertory or Communion
<p>The Lord is My Shepherd – Anton Dvorak https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWg4MiugiZc</p> <p>The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He doth lead me where the green pastures grow, By the quiet waters of comfort. He restoreth my soul, and doth lead me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of Death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art my guide; And Thy rod and Thy staff, they shall comfort me.</p>	Any Cantor	Offertory or Communion
<p>Salve Regina – Gregorian Chant https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAmydVsNMqM</p> <p>Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.</p>	Any Cantor	Offertory or Communion
<p>May the Grace of Christ our Savior – Franz Schubert https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fylkcl9VR3A&list=PL4kpOrP31YjwSgbSR69gfgw6l5F07VISA&index=12</p> <p>May the grace of Christ our Savior and the Father's boundless love, with the Holy Spirit's favor, rest upon us from above. Thus may we abide in union with each other and the Lord, and possess in sweet communion joys which earth cannot afford. Peace be to this congregation, peace to every heart therein. Peace the earnest of salvation, peace the fruit of conquered sin, peace to every heart therein.</p>	Any Cantor	Communion
<p>I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me, and rest; Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon My breast." I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, and worn, and sad; I found in Him a resting-place, and He has made me glad. 2. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give the living water: thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live." I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him. 3. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's Light; Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright." I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun; And in that Light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done. <p>Hymn Tune: KINGSFOLD: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEYcj3VDzpl Hymn Tune: TALLIS: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVwM9h_2azw</p>	Cong. Cantor	Offertory Communion

<p><i>Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQaxLiC4RVg</p> <p>1. Jesus, my Lord, my God, my all! How can I love Thee as I ought? And how revere this wondrous gift, so far surpassing hope or thought? R. Sweet Sacrament, we Thee adore! Oh, make us love Thee more and more. Oh, make us love Thee more and more.</p> <p>2. Had I but Mary's sinless heart to love Thee with, my dearest King, Oh, with what bursts of fervent praise, Thy goodness, Jesus, would I sing! R.</p> <p>3. Oh, see upon the altar placed, the Victim of divinest love! Let all the earth below adore, and join the s of heaven above. R.</p>	Cong. Cantor	Offertory Communion
<p><i>Soul of My Savior</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tO_is6VPn3w</p> <p>1. Soul of my Savior sanctify my breast, Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest, Blood of my Savior, bathe me in thy tide, wash me with waters gushing from thy side.</p> <p>2. Strength and protection may thy passion be, O blessed Jesus, hear and answer me; deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me, so shall I never, never part from thee.</p> <p>3. Guard and defend me from the foe malign, in death's dread moments make me only thine; call me and bid me come to thee on high where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.</p>	Cong. Cantor	Offertory Communion
<p><i>Spirit Seeking Light and Beauty</i> (set to the melody of <i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>)</p> <p>1. Spirit seeking light and beauty, heart that longest for Thy rest, soul that asketh understanding, only thus can ye be blest.</p> <p>2. Through the vastness of creation though your restless thought may roam, God is all that you can long for, God is all His creatures' home.</p> <p>3. Taste and see Him, feel and hear Him, hope and grasp His unseen hand; though the darkness seem to hide Him, faith and love can understand.</p> <p>4. God, who lovest all Thy creatures, all our hearts are known to Thee; lead us through the land of shadows to Thy blest eternity.</p>	Cong. Cantor	Offertory Communion

There are other pieces, appropriate for different liturgical seasons, which are possible to program for Offertory and/or Communion. These pieces include:

Advent	Christmas	Lent	Easter	Military
<p>+ <u>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</u></p> <p>+ <u>Creator of the Stars of Night</u></p> <p>+ <u>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</u></p>	<p>+ <u>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</u></p> <p>+ <u>Silent Night</u></p> <p>+ <u>What Child is This</u></p>	<p>+ <u>O Sacred Head, Surrounded</u></p> <p>+ <u>Jesu Dulcis Memoria</u></p> <p>+ <u>Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days</u></p>	<p>+ <u>O Sons and Daughters</u></p> <p>+ <u>Jesus Christ is Risen Today</u></p> <p>+ <u>At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing</u></p>	<p>+ <u>Eternal Father, Strong to Save</u></p> <p>+ <u>God of Our Fathers</u></p> <p>+ <u>This is My Song</u></p>

FUNERAL MASS MUSIC PLANNING SHEET

Please mark if desired or continue to select the options below...

We prefer to defer these musical selections to the Director of Sacred Music and the Pastor. _____

OR...

PROCESSIONAL: Please select from the options given above:

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Either Psalm 23, 25, or 27: _____

PSALM 23

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PSALM 25

To You, O Lord, I lift my soul. Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me Your paths, guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior. Good and upright is the Lord; thus He shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble His way. All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep His covenant and His decrees. The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and His covenant, for their instruction.

PSALM 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid? Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me. Of You my heart speaks; You my glance seeks. Your presence, O Lord, I seek. Hide not Your face from me; do not in anger repel Your servant. You are my helper: cast me not off. I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

OFFERTORY: Please select from the options given above:

MASS ORDINARY: Taken from Mass XVI. Please indicate Latin or English: _____

COMMUNION: Please select from the options given above:

RECESSIONAL: *In Paradisum*. Please indicate Latin or English: _____

Do you prefer a:

_____ Male Cantor _____ Female Cantor _____ No Preference on Cantors

