



# Saint Cecilia Church

*Transforming Lives Through Faith Inspired Relationships*

*"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23, 4)*

**Funeral Liturgy Planning Resource  
Third Edition**

### Funeral Planning Information

*Please use this space to make notes as you plan the Funeral Liturgy with the Funeral Ministry Team Member. If you decide to make changes, please notify the Parish Office.*

Date of the Funeral:

Time of the Viewing:

Time of the Funeral:

Will the Funeral Home Staff be present for the Funeral?

If not, who will coordinate the necessary steps within the family?

Will someone offer Words of Remembrance before the Funeral Liturgy begins?

Will your family assist with placing the Funeral Pall (if there is a casket)?

*Please see notes on page six to assist in choosing the following:*

First Reading (#):

Read by:

Second Reading (#):

Read by:

Which option of the Prayers of Intercession (#)?

Read by:

Who will bring forward the bread and wine? 1.

2.

Gathering Hymn:

Responsorial Psalm:

Presentation of the Gifts Hymn:

Communion Procession Hymn:

Meditation Hymn (if desired):

Recessional Hymn:

Other notes for the Funeral:



God, who raised Jesus from  
the dead, will give new  
life to our own mortal  
bodies through his Spirit  
living in us.

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535 Rhawn Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Parish Office: 215-725-1240  
[www.stceciliafc.org](http://www.stceciliafc.org)

*Funeral Ministry Team Contact Person:*

### **Our Deepest Sympathy**

Please know that you and your family are in the daily prayers of our Parish as you mourn the passing of your loved one and prepare for the funeral. This is a difficult time for you, but you are not alone. Our Church Family will remain at your side through these weeks and in the weeks to come. Our Risen Lord Jesus wants us to stay hopeful with and through one another. The Funeral Services are a crucial part of your grieving process. It allows you to gather with friends and loved ones and honor the memory of the one who passed. It is also a time to draw strength from the Lord, who sustains us, as well as those who gather with you in an expression of support. As you plan the Funeral Service, please be mindful of the policies stated below.

### **Words of Remembrance:**

You may have one person offer remarks before the Funeral Liturgy begins. The Words of Remembrance should include praise and thanksgiving to God for the gifts of the deceased, their life of faith, and other virtues, as well as the way they served others. The person who speaks is required to write down their remarks and submit them to the parish for approval (48 hours before the Funeral). Remarks are limited to 3-5 minutes. If the family desires additional people to offer Words of Remembrance, we urge you to consider having those shared at the Burial or a Funeral Luncheon.

### **Order of Service**

The Funeral Service in the Catholic Church is either a Funeral Mass or a Liturgy of the Word; the decision on which type of Service is made when you meet with the Funeral Ministry from our Church (the difference between these services is that the Mass includes the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Word does not). Please adhere to the agreed Order of Service for the sake of dignity and out of respect for the sacredness of our Church Home. Your options include:

- If the family has the viewing or visitation in the Church, please be aware that there may be individuals who remain in the Church for personal prayer after our morning Mass. In addition, the Parish Office may inform you or the Funeral Director that there will be children from the Parish School celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Church from 9 am to 10 am.
- If a casket is present for the Funeral, the family is welcome to have 2 to 8 people assist the Funeral Director in placing the Funeral Pall over the casket of your loved one at the beginning of the Liturgy. The Pall is a symbol of their baptism.
- Two readings from Sacred Scripture (from the options in this booklet) are to be selected, as well as people to proclaim them. Readers ought to have the ability to proclaim the Word of God with clarity and conviction. The individuals chosen to proclaim the Sacred Scripture at the Funeral Mass ought to be practicing Catholics. If you want to have a person who is not a practicing Catholic, please discuss this with the priest.
- Prayers of Intercession (from options provided; may be adapted with approval) as well as a person to offer them prayerfully
- If the Funeral is within a Mass, two people are to bring forward the bread and the wine
- Music is an important part of our gathering for the Funeral, and both the Funeral Mass and Liturgy of the Word Service require music. Not having music is not an option at

Saint Cecilia Church for a Funeral. Given the solemn nature of a Funeral Service, all music must be “sacred” in nature; thus, while “secular” music belongs in a video tribute or at the Funeral Luncheon, it is not appropriate for the Funeral Liturgy. The Parish must approve all music selections. It is preferred that your family use the musicians and soloists associated with the Parish. If you wish to use another musician or singer, please discuss this with the person assisting with the Funeral Planning. There are FEES associated with the music, and they should be paid through the Funeral Director. The fee for a Soloist is \$150; the fee for an organist is \$150. If you are not using the Funeral Home Staff the day of the Funeral, please deliver the checks (names of the soloist and organist can be provided by the Parish Office) to the Parish Office at least one day before the Funeral. Related fees for the Church should be delivered at that time as well, payable to St. Cecilia Church.

### **Church Donation:**

When the deceased is an active member of St. Cecilia Church, the only donation requested for the Funeral is \$25. If the Church is used for a viewing, we request an additional donation of \$100. If the deceased is not an active member of the parish, the requested donation for the Funeral (including a viewing) is \$300.

### **Preparing for the Liturgy**

The Funeral Ministry Team (or the priest) will review procedures with those offering any Words of Remembrance, proclaiming the Sacred Scriptures, praying the Prayers of Intercession, or bringing up the gifts a few minutes before the Funeral Liturgy. If these individuals have particular questions, they are welcome to call the Funeral Ministry Team representative or the Parish Office.

### **Services without Funeral Home Staff**

Some families, when having their loved one cremated, choose not to have the staff of the Funeral Home present for the Funeral Mass or Liturgy of the Word. In those cases, it is the responsibility of the family to have individuals take care of the following services normally handled by the Funeral Home: bring the urn to the Church 30 minutes before the services beginning (the Parish cannot receive urns before this time); set up a Register Book (if used) and basket to gather cards on the flat surface at the entrance of the Church (where the bulletins normally are placed); arrange any flowers delivered to the Church before the time of visitation and remove the flowers from the Church before the start of the Mass or Liturgy of the Word (some flowers may remain in Church; please discuss with the priest); set up any photo boards and remove from Church before Mass; have people seated and quiet before the service begins; carry the urn out of the Church at the end of the service; assist the Parish Staff in checking the surroundings (for water bottles and tissues) after everyone has left the Church. Please assist in keeping the Church as a place of reverence in praise of God.

We are the Church founded by Jesus Christ, serving the world in His name since the year 33 AD, and we will be here for all the years to come!

## **The Liturgy of the Word for Funerals**

*Please read through the many options for the readings of Sacred Scripture for the funeral of your loved one. You are invited to choose one reading from the Old Testament (marked with an OT) and one reading from the New Testament (marked with an NT). During the Easter Season (the seven weeks following Easter), you will choose one of the New Testament Readings (marked with a \*\*\*) as your First Reading and then a Second New Testament selection as your Second Reading. The priest or deacon leading the Funeral Service will choose a Gospel Reading (if you have input on this, it is welcome). If there are other Scripture readings you would like to use at the service, it is possible. Please discuss with the Parish Office. You will also choose a set of Intercessory Prayers, which are included here.*

### **Readings from the Old Testament (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

#### **(OT 1) A Reading from the Book of Job**

Job 19:1, 23-26

Job answered and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him, and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing. *The Word of the Lord.*

#### **(OT 2) A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

Wisdom 3:1-9

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over peoples and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect. *The Word of the Lord.*

#### **(OT 2B) A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall

abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(OT 3) A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

Wisdom 4:7-15

The just person, though they die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for man, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners transported, snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; for the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account. Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(OT 4) A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said: “Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!” *The Word of the Lord.*

**(OT 5) A Reading from the Book of Lamentations**

Lamentations 3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the Lord. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the Lord says my soul; therefore, will I hope in him. Good is the Lord to the one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(OT 6) A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel**

Daniel 12:1-3

I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord: “At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and

disgrace. But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.” *The Word of the Lord.*

**(OT 7) A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees**

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

Judas, the ruler of Israel, then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus, he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(OT 8) A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah**

Jeremiah 29: 11-13

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord; plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(OT 9) A Reading from book of Ecclesiastes**

Ecclesiastes 3: 1 -15

There is an appointed time for everything. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time for love, and a time for hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What advantage has the worker for his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for us to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time and has put the timeless into their hearts, without humankind ever discovering from the beginning to end the work which God has done. I recognize that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life. For every woman and man, moreover, to eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor is a gift from God. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(OT 10) A Reading from the book of Proverbs**

Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-26,28-31

Who can find a valiant woman? She is worth more than precious rubies. Her husband can trust her and she will greatly enrich his life. She will not hinder him, but help him. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs with no fear of the future. When she speaks, her words are wise and kindness is the rule when she gives instructions. Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her. There are many virtuous and capable women in the world. But you surpass them all! Charm is deceptive



and beauty does not last; but a woman who loves the Lord will be greatly praised. Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise. *The Word of the Lord*

**Readings from the New Testament (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

*Readings marked with an \*\*\* are to be selected as a 1<sup>st</sup> Reading during the Easter Season (the seven weeks from Easter to Pentecost). They may also be chosen as a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at any funeral.*

**(NT 1) A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles\*\*\***

Acts 10:34-43

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.” *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 2) A Reading from the Letter to the Romans**

Romans 5:5-11

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 3) A Reading from the Letter to the Romans**

Romans 5:17-21

If, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one-person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made

sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 4) A Reading from the Letter to the Romans**

Romans 6:3-9

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 5) A Reading from the Letter to the Romans**

Romans 8:14-23

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “Abba, Father!” The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 6) A Reading from the Letter to the Romans**

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 7) A Reading from the Letter to the Romans**

Romans 14:7-12

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother or sister? Or you, why do you look down on your brother or sister? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So, then each of us shall give an account of himself to God. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 8) A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians** 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 9) A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians** 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall all be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 10) A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians** 2 Cor 4:13-5:1

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we

look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 11) A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians** 2 Cor 5:1, 6-10

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. So, we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 12) A Reading from the Letter to the Philippians** Philippians 3:20-21

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 13) A Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians** 1 Thess. 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 14) A Reading from the Second Letter to Timothy** 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 15) A Reading from the First Letter of John**

1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 16) A Reading from the First Letter of John**

1 John 3:14-16

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that Jesus laid down his life for us; so, we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 17) A Reading from the Book of Revelation\*\*\***

Revelation 14:13

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them." *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 18) A Reading from the Book of Revelation\*\*\***

Revelation 20:11-21:1

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. This pool of fire is the second death. Anyone whose names were not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 19) A Reading from the Book of Revelation\*\*\***

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be

no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.” The one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.” *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 20) A Reading from the 1st Letter to the Corinthians** 1 Cor 12, 31-13: 8, 13

Set your hearts on the greater gifts, and I will show you the way which surpasses all others. Love is patient; love is kind, love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger, neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. But faith, hope and love remain and the greatest of these is love. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 21) A Reading from the Letter to the Colossians** Colossians 3: 12-17

Because you are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect. Christ’s peace must reign in your hearts, since as members of the one body you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. In wisdom made perfect, instruct and admonish one another. *The Word of the Lord.*

**(NT 22) A Reading from the 2nd Letter to Timothy** 2 Timothy 4: 7-8

I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth, from now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the last judge, will give me on that day, and not only me, but to all who have longed for his appearance. *The Word of the Lord*

**(NT 23) A Reading from the Letter to the Philippians** Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord Always. I shall say it again: Rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. *The Word of the Lord*

## **Prayer of Intercession – Option #1**

**Priest:** With confidence in God's goodness and love, we offer these prayers:

*Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer*

God, you are faithful. We pray for N. In baptism, he/she died with Christ, may he/she now share in the fullness of his resurrection with you. We pray to the Lord.

God, you are full of mercy and compassion. Please forgive N. any sins he/she committed through human frailty. We pray to the Lord.

God, you are kind. We pray for the family, relatives, and friends of N.; may they find strength and consolation in their Christian faith and the love and support of one another, and through your grace. We pray to the Lord.

God, you are mighty. We pray for those who care for the sick and dying, especially those who cared for N. during his/her illness; bless them in wonderful ways and allow them to be instruments of your mighty power to heal. We pray to the Lord.

God, you are always present to us. We pray for those gathered here today that the memory of N., whom we loved, may inspire us with a renewed love for all of our brothers and sisters and inspire us to live more and more as your children. We pray to the Lord.

God, you are generous. We pray that you grant the prayers we offer from the silence of our heart today (pause 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10). We pray to the Lord.

**Priest:** Gracious God, we thank you for hearing us and granting what is best. Renew us in faith, hope and love that we may join you one day in glory. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Prayer of Intercession – Option #2**

**Priest:** With confidence in God's goodness and love, we offer these prayers:

*Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer*

We pray for the Church. Lord God, please bless all Christians that we might be light in the darkness and hope for all of the world through our faith, hope, and love. We pray to the Lord...

We pray for our nation; renew the United States of America in ways that please You. Guide our leaders in ways that allow us to be a light to all the nations of the world. We pray to the Lord...

We pray for N, a child of God and valued member of the human family; have mercy, Lord, and grant her/him a place in your kingdom. We pray to the Lord...

We pray for the family, relatives, and friends of N; that they may find strength and consolation in turning to You, dear God, and the community of the Church for love and support in their grief. We pray to the Lord...

*If the deceased was a member of our Armed Forces or a First Responder, you may pray:*

We pray in thanksgiving for N.'s faithful service to our nation as a member of the (United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force) (Phila. Fire Dept; Phila. Police Dept.) may his/her generous service for the common good be prized in Your Kingdom. We pray to the Lord...

We pray for those who struggle with depression, anxiety, or addiction; for those who have lost their way in the journey of life, and all who need help today; may they know your love and grace in new ways, God. We pray to the Lord...

We pray for those gathered here today that the memory of N., whom we loved, inspire us with a renewed love for all of our brothers and sisters. We pray to the Lord.

We pray that N. and all who have died may be judged in mercy on the last day, and may all of us, the living and the dead, rise in glory and grace on that great day. We pray to the Lord.

**Priest:** Gracious God, we thank you for hearing us and granting what is best. Renew us in faith, hope and love that we may join you one day in glory. Through Christ our Lord. Amen



### **Prayer of Intercession – Option #3**

**Priest:** With confidence in God's goodness and love, we offer these prayers:

*Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer*

We pray for N.; in baptism, he/she died with Christ, may he/she now share in the fullness of his resurrection. We pray to the Lord...

We pray for N.'s relatives and friends that you may find strength and consolation in your faith and the love and support of one another. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for the members of our Armed Forces and all who promote peace and justice throughout the world, protect them, Lord God, and bring them home safely to their friends and family. We pray to the Lord...

*If the deceased was a member of our Armed Forces, you may pray:*

We pray in thanksgiving for N.'s faithful service to our nation as a member of the (United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force) (Phila. Fire Dept; Phila. Police Dept.); may his/her generous service for the common good be prized in Your Kingdom. We pray to the Lord...

We pray for those who care for the sick and dying, especially those who cared for N. during their/his illness; may they be rewarded for their goodness. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for renewal in our nation that N. loved so dearly; guide us in through all division and difficulties and allow us to be a light for the nations of the world. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those gathered here today that the memory of N., whom we loved, may inspire us with a renewed love for one another and inspire us in our service to all of our brothers and sisters. We pray to the Lord.

**Priest:** Gracious God, we thank you for hearing us and granting what is best. Renew us in faith, hope, and love that we may join you one day in glory. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **Prayer of Intercession – Option #4**

**Priest:** With confidence in God's goodness and love, we offer these prayers:

*Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer*

Our sister/brother, **N.**, was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome her/him into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord...

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. We pray to the Lord...

Many people die from violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly from these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. We pray to the Lord...

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. We pray to the Lord...

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister **N.** Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. We pray to the Lord...

**Priest:** Gracious God, we thank you for hearing us and granting what is best. Renew us in faith, hope, and love that we may join you one day in glory. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Musical Selections for Funeral Liturgy**

### **Gathering Hymn**

How Great Thou Art  
I know that my Redeemer Lives  
Hosea (Come Back to Me)  
On Eagles Wings

How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place  
I Heard the Voice of Jesus  
Jesus Remember Me  
We Walk by Faith

### **Responsorial Psalms**

The Lord is My Shepherd (Ps. 23)  
As The Deer Longs (Ps. 42)  
The Lord is Kind and Merciful (Ps 103)

The Lord is My Light & Salvation (Ps. 27)  
Be With Me Lord (Ps. 91)  
To You O Lord I Lift up My Soul (ps. 25)

### **Presentation of the Gifts Hymn**

Be Not Afraid  
Eye Has Not Seen  
We Remember  
Precious Lord Take My Hand

Amazing Grace  
How Great Thou Art  
Prayer of Saint Francis  
Shelter Me, O God

Here I Am Lord  
Just a Closer Walk  
Seek Ye First

### **Communion Processional Hymn**

Behold the Lamb  
Here At This Table  
Loving and Forgiving  
Take and Eat  
Fly Like a Bird

Eat This Bread  
I Am the Bread of Life  
One Bread One Body  
Taste and See  
How Beautiful

Gift of Finest Wheat  
I Have Loved You  
Shepherd Me, O God  
Like a Child Rests

### **Meditation Hymn (if requested)**

Ave Maria  
Lady of Knock  
These Alone are Enough

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman  
Precious Lord, Take my Hand  
Go in Peace

Amazing Grace  
Mary's Song  
How Beautiful

### **Recessional Hymn**

Celtic Farewell  
How Great Thou Art  
We Walk by Faith  
I know that my Redeemer Lives

City of God  
Sing with all the Saints in Glory  
O, Loving God  
America the Beautiful

For all the Saints  
Joyful, Joyful  
Just a Closer Walk

### **Additional Hymns**

*Those providing music are open to requests for other hymns and songs. This is especially appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. During Lent, we do not sing songs that include the word "Alleluia". Please discuss any special requests with the parish representative assisting you with Funeral Planning (no secular music is to be included with the Liturgy).*



#### *Prayer for Deceased Loved Ones*

Loving and merciful God, we entrust our brother/sister to your mercy. You loved him/her greatly in this life; now that he/she is freed from all its cares, give him/her happiness and peace forever. The old order has passed away; welcome him/her into paradise where there will be no more sorrow, no more weeping or pain, but only peace and joy with Jesus, your Son, and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

#### *Prayer in Time of Grief*

Dearest Jesus, who wept at the death of your friend and taught that they who mourn shall be comforted, grant us the comfort of your presence in our loss. Send Your Holy Spirit to direct us lest we make hasty or foolish decisions. Send Your Spirit to give us courage lest through fear we recoil from living. Send Your Spirit to bring us your peace lest bitterness, false guilt, or regret take root in our hearts. The Lord has given. The Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.

*As your family grieves the loss of your loved one, St. Cecilia Church desires to accompany you. You and your loved one are remembered in our prayers at Mass each day. In addition, we invite you to join us for a Coffee Social that features conversations about the grief process and faith that occur throughout the year (your Funeral Ministry Team can provide more information). If you desire to speak individually with a priest or deacon or desire a recommendation for a Grief Support Group, please contact the Parish Office.*

*Resources to assist with your grief process can be found on our website: [www.stceciliafc.org](http://www.stceciliafc.org) under the “Our Parish” and “Funeral Planning” banners.*