

**St. Peter Catholic Church
Kirkwood, MO**

Resource for Celebrating The Funeral Liturgy



Through Death To Life

“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.”

Revelation 21:3-4

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Overview of the Funeral Liturgy

The Catholic Funeral Liturgy has a two-fold purpose: to pray for the dead and to offer comfort and hope to the living.

Music: The Order of Christian Funerals highlights the fact that “Music is integral to the funeral rites...it allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey.” (par. 30)

Sprinkling of Casket: We first share in the resurrection of the Lord through baptism. At the font, saving waters poured over our bodies making us Christians and our whole beings new creations filled with the Holy Spirit. When the priest sprinkles holy water over the casket, it should serve to recall the initial washing in baptism.

Placing of Pall: A funeral pall, reminding us of the garment given at baptism and therefore symbolizing our life in Christ, is draped over the coffin at the beginning of the liturgy. Family members or friends are encouraged to do this. The use of this pall also signifies that all are equal in the eyes of God. (Jas 2:1-9)

Opening Song: Music is a vital part of liturgy and the grief experience. As family and friends file in procession and into the pews, that sound assures us that we are not alone.

Scripture Readings: The scriptural readings set the tone for the Mass. The liturgy includes two (2) readings: one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. The Gospel passage stands at the center of Christian belief.

Homily: The homily, following the reading of the Gospel, is given by the priest. During this period, the priest draws on the readings for inspiration. This reflection proclaims the message of life: fidelity, faith, hope, journey.

General Intercessions: Prayer or intentions invite the congregation to prayerful concern for others throughout the world. This naturally includes the deceased and the bereaved and those who are in need of support. The congregation responds to the prayers.

Presentation of Gifts: In setting the table, we present gifts of bread and wine, gifts to be used for the Eucharistic meal. Gifts/symbols of our loved one's life may also be presented. Music accompanies this presentation.

Reception of the Eucharist: Eucharist employs symbols of bread and wine and speaks of the reality of faith – the Lord's presence. As Catholics we believe that the nourishment and sustenance of our soul comes from the reception of this Eucharistic food. Those who are Catholic and believe that this Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ are invited to receive.

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Eulogy or Family Remarks: If a eulogy is to be given, one family member or friend may do so briefly at the beginning of the mass or following the prayer after communion. This is an occasion to cite some of the ways in which the departed has inspired us and deepened our faith through her or his life on earth. Out of respect for those gathered, this is to be brief when giving these remarks.

Final Commendation and Committal: The last ceremony after Mass and at the cemetery is called a liturgy of final farewell or commendation and committal. In some ways, this is the most difficult time, for it is a final good-bye to the one we have loved through life. But again the support of friends and the comfort of faith tell us that it is, and isn't, final. A separation yes, but only a temporary one. An end, yes, but more of a beginning.

Song of Farewell: A song of farewell is sung imploring the heavens to welcome the deceased into everlasting peace and rest.

Incensing of the Body: As Christians we believe the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and one day will be resurrected by God's might and power. The priest walks around the casket and incenses the body as a sign of our respect for the remains, as a symbol of the community's prayers for the deceased rising to the throne of God, and as a final farewell or commendation of the departed one to God.

Recession: A procession is formed leaving the church. Pall bearers carry the deceased, followed by immediate family, relative and friends. Music accompanies the procession.



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Selections of Readings from the Old Testament

1. Job 19:1, 23-27 I know that my Redeemer lives.
2. Wisdom 3:1-9 Long Version – He accepted them as a holocaust.
Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 Short Version
3. Wisdom 4:7-15 A blameless life is a ripe old age.
4. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 The Lord God will destroy death for ever.
5. Lamentations 3:17-26 It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.
6. Daniel 12:1-3 Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake.
7. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46 It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.
8. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 There is an appointed time for everything.

Selections of Readings from the New Testament

1. Acts 10:34-43 Long Version – God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.
Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 Short Version
2. Romans 5:5-11 Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.
3. Romans 5:17-21 Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.
4. Romans 6:3-9 Long Version – Let us walk in the newness of life.
Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 Short Version
5. Romans 8:14-23 We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.
6. Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?
7. Romans 14:7-12 Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.
8. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 Long Version – All people will be brought to life in Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:20-23 Short Version
9. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 Death is swallowed up in victory.
10. 2 Corinthians 4:14-18, 5:1 What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.
11. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 We have an everlasting home in heaven.
12. Phillipians 3:20-21 Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours to be like his glorious body.
13. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 We shall stay with the Lord for ever.
14. 2 Timothy 2:8-13 If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.
15. 1 John 3:1-2 We shall see God as he really is.
16. 1 John 3:14-16 We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.
17. Revelation 14-13 Happy are those who die in the Lord.
18. Revelation 20:11-21:1 The dead have been judged according to their words.
19. Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

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Funeral Mass Planning Sheet

Name of Deceased: _____

Date of Mass: _____ Time: _____

Songs are taken from the Breaking Bread hymnal, found in the pews of the church. This allows for community participation in song. Below are the suggestions for each part of the Funeral Liturgy. If there are other songs you would like to use in place of these, please indicate them on the appropriate line in each category. *All alternate selections must be approved by the Pastor and Music Director.*

Processional Hymns Options:

Amazing Grace	How Great Thou Art	Gather Us In	Lord of the Dance
We Walk By Faith	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	Be Not Afraid	On Eagles' Wings
Here I Am, Lord	Alleluia! Sing to Jesus	Sing a New Song	The Strife is O'er

Our Selection _____

Eulogy (optional)/ Delivered by: _____

Reading I: _____ Read by: _____

Responsorial Psalms Options:

Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd (Colsen/Haugen)	Psalm 25: To You, O Lord (Soper/Joncas)	Psalm 91: Be with Me Lord (Haugen)
Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God (Haugen)	Psalm 27: The Lord is My Light (DeBruyn)	Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful (Crandal/Alstott)

Our Selection: _____

Reading II: _____ Read by: _____

Gospel: _____

Petitions - Read By: _____

Hymns for the Preparation of the Gifts Options:

Amazing Grace	Prayer of Saint Francis	You Are Mine
Sacred Silence	Be Not Afraid	Irish Blessing
We Remember	We Walk By Faith	Now We Remain
Open My Eyes	I Am the Bread of Life	Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Whatever You Do	Eye Has Not Seen	Lord of All Hopefulness

Our Selection: _____

Presentations of the Gifts by: _____

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Hymns During Holy Communion Options:

Blest Are They
Now We Remain
One Bread, One Body
You Are Near
Open My Eyes
Behold the Lamb

Here I Am, Lord
Prayer of Saint Francis
On Eagles' Wings
Here I Am
Sacred Silence
Table of Plenty

I Am the Bread of Life
You Are Mine
Taste and See – Moore
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Be Not Afraid
Eat This Bread

Our Selection: _____

Song of Farewell: (only used in funeral liturgies)

Song of Farewell – Old Hundredth O Loving God In Paradisum

Our Selection: _____

Hymns for the Recessional Options:

Alleluia! Alleluia!
On Eagles' Wings
Irish Blessing
Amazing Grace
City of God

How Can I Keep from Singing
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Let There Be Peace on Earth
O Loving God
Canticle of the Sun

How Great Thou Art
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Go In Peace
The Strife is O'er
Crown Him With Many Crowns

Our Selection: _____

Special Notes:

Livestream: (Yes/No)

Please contact the Music Director, Ryan Bolinger, if you have any questions regarding the music for the Funeral Liturgy.

Office: 314-822-1347 or 314-966-8600 x 1022

Email: rbolinger@stpeterkirkwood.org

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Funeral Planning

Fee Schedule

Church - \$200

Livestreaming of Mass (if requested) - \$75

Musician: Musician (Includes piano and singer) -\$250

Servers - \$15 each

Funerals – 3 servers

Memorial Masses – 2 servers

Fees are payable as follows:

Church and livestreaming (if requested) - one check payable to St. Peter Church

Musician: Check payable to individual – musician's name will be provided to family or funeral home during the planning process

Servers – paid with cash in separate envelopes for each server

Questions: Please contact the Parish Office 314-966-8600