

When someone close to you has died, there are many decisions to make. You may be thinking “What should I do first?” We are here to help! Start by calling the Ascension parish office at (708) 848-2703 to tell us that your loved one has died so we can add them to our parish prayer list. If you are ready to schedule the funeral or memorial Mass, one of our office staff will take down all the necessary information while you are on the phone.

Once we have a definite date, time, and presider for the service, you will receive an email confirming the details of the liturgy and asking you to contact our funeral coordinator, who will arrange a planning meeting. We suggest that you take some time to review the resources on the funeral page of our parish website before the meeting. **A list of the resource documents and a description of each one is included below.** Even if you don't make any choices based on this information, sometimes it helps to read through the files briefly so you have a sense of what will be discussed during the meeting.

### **Planning Material for Funeral and Memorial Masses**

1. **ASE (Ascension and St. Edmund) Funeral Planning Sheet** This document is used to record your choices of readings, music, and the people who will assist during the funeral. You might find it helpful to print the file and take notes as you look at the other material.
2. **ASE Readings for Funerals** There are many readings you can use for funeral and memorial Masses. The readings included on this list are those recommended by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and used most often by families.
  - First Readings
  - Second Readings
  - Gospel Readings
3. **ASE Music for Funerals** This is a list of the hymns and liturgical songs often used for funerals and memorial Masses. As with the readings, it is not an exhaustive list, but it includes enough options to get you started.
4. **ASE Intercessions Template for Funerals** This Microsoft Word file is a template for the Prayer of the Faithful (aka the intercessions or petitions) for

## Family Funeral Resources

### Planning a Funeral at ASE

funeral and memorial Masses. It is just a starting point. You may add to or edit the suggested prayers just so you maintain the basic format. Brevity is best when it comes to the Prayer of the Faithful!

5. **ASE Words of Remembrance (WOR)** During a Catholic funeral or memorial Mass, it is permitted for **one person** to share a brief reflection about the deceased. This document provides recommendations for preparing the Words of Remembrance, which is distinct from a eulogy. Eulogies may be given outside the Catholic liturgy, during the wake service at the funeral home or at a gathering following the funeral. WOR should be focused on the Christian life of the deceased and last no longer than three minutes.
6. **ASE Funeral Honorariums** This resource lists the basic costs for the funeral or memorial Mass and possible "add-ons," like visitation before the liturgy, live streaming/recording the service, worship aids (programs), and additional musicians. It also includes instructions for paying online.

We know the funeral planning process can feel overwhelming. If you are feeling stressed, don't worry about choosing readings and music before the meeting. One of our ministers will guide you through the process and help you choose everything in about an hour.

To schedule a meeting or ask a question, contact our funeral coordinator, JaneAnne Campbell at [ja.campbell@ascensionoakpark.com](mailto:ja.campbell@ascensionoakpark.com). You may also call JaneAnne directly at 708-434-1533.

Blessings to you and your family!

Fr. Carl, Fr. Rex and the pastoral staff  
Ascension and St. Edmund parish