

My dear parishioners and friends,

In this time of grieving and loss, the Church wishes to accompany you so as to ease your sadness and strengthen your hope in our Risen Lord. Our parish community's prayer is that your loved one will enjoy the peace and eternal joy of Heaven. In the Church's funeral liturgy, we pray for those who have died so that they will be embraced by the loving arms of God in his eternal kingdom. We pray, as well, for ourselves that we will be comforted by the consoling grace of God.

The Funeral Mass is the principal prayer of the Church at the time of death. Your participation in planning certain aspects of the Funeral Mass is welcomed and encouraged. Relatives and friends of the deceased are invited and encouraged to participate in a variety of ways:

- Reading the Sacred Scriptures at the Funeral Mass
- Reading the Prayer of the Faithful/General Intercessions
- Presenting the gifts of bread and wine that will be offered in the Sacrifice of the Mass
- Selecting the hymns that will be sung at the Mass
- If it is so desired, a family member or friend may offer *Words of Remembrance* prior to the beginning of Mass

Please, use the attached documents to help make your selections regarding the Funeral Mass. More specifically, you need to decide the following:

- The Old Testament Reading and the New Testament Reading
- Reader(s) who will proclaim these readings
- Reader(s) for the Prayer of the Faithful/General Intercessions
- The names of those people who will present the gifts of bread and wine for the Offertory Procession (2-4 people)
- The hymns that will be sung at the Funeral Mass

Once you have made these choices, a member of our parish staff will collect this information and assist you in your preparations for celebrating the Funeral Mass. Our parish staff is happy to assist you in answering any other questions that you may have. Do not hesitate to contact the parish offices at 610-664-0207. Please, be assured of our parish family's ongoing prayers for you and your loved ones during this difficult time.

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,

Rev. Sean Bransfield
Parochial Administrator
Saint Matthias Parish

Funeral Mass Bible Readings
First Reading-Select One (1)

_____ **Wisdom 3:1-6, 9**

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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 thought to be an affliction and their going forth from us utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if in the eyes of 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 the 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.

_____ **Wisdom 4:7-15**

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he dies 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 of men, and an unsullied life the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was 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. The Word of the Lord.

_____ **Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts
will provide for all the 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.

Funeral Mass Readings
Second Reading-Select One (1)

Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Are you not aware that we who are 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. 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.

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: If God is with us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own son but handed him over for us all, 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, who 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 persecutions, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loves 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.

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: No one 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 you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgement 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 accounting of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of John

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.

Funeral Mass, Prayer of the Faithful/General Intercessions

Priest: Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his.

Reader: Our Response will be “Lord, Hear Our Prayer”

Reader: In baptism (Name) received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord...

Reader: Our brother/sister (Name) was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord...

Reader: 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...

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

Reader: 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...

Reader: The family and friends of (Name) seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord...

Reader: We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister (Name) Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son’s coming. We pray to the Lord...

Priest Concludes with Final Prayer...

Hymns for Funerals and Memorial Mass

Name of Deceased: _____

Date & Time of Mass: _____

Would you like the Director of Music to choose music for you? Y/N

Would you like to choose the music? Y/N

Music can be found in the Heritage Missal. Please pick one from each section.

Processional Hymns

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Heard the Voice of Jesus (457) | <input type="checkbox"/> The King of Love My Shepherd Is (458) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid (557) | <input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings (558) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amazing Grace (559) | <input type="checkbox"/> Here I am, Lord (533) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I know that my Redeemer Lives (380) | |

Responsorial Psalm

- ☐ Psalm 19 – Lord, You have the words of everlasting life
- ☐ Psalm 23 – The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want
- ☐ Psalm 27 – The Lord is my light and my salvation
- ☐ Psalm 103 – The Lord is kind and merciful

Preparation Hymns

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Lord is My Light (381) | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer of St. Francis (436) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The King of Love My Shepherd is (458) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd Me, O God (459) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There is a Balm in Gilead (463) | <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea (363) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling (365) | <input type="checkbox"/> Precious Lord, Take my Hand (371) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lord, You have come (431) | <input type="checkbox"/> Come to Me (461) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> O God, You Search Me (565) | <input type="checkbox"/> Soul of my Savior (320) |

Communion Hymns

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Bread, One Body (401) | <input type="checkbox"/> Behold the Lamb (402) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Look Beyond (406) | <input type="checkbox"/> I am the Bread of Life (407) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taste and See (409) | <input type="checkbox"/> Eat this Bread (413) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I received the Living God (421) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift of Finest Wheat (426) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Supper of the Lord (427) | <input type="checkbox"/> We Remember (497) |

Meditation Hymns

- ☐ Ave Maria

Recessional Hymns

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I know that my Redeemer Lives (380) | <input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid (557) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings (558) | <input type="checkbox"/> For all the Saints (325) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Let there be Peace on Earth (437) | <input type="checkbox"/> How Great Thou Art |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We Walk by Faith (500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Christ, Be our Light (545) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem, My Happy Home (547) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing with All the Saints in Glory (550) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How Can I Keep from Singing (561) | <input type="checkbox"/> I am the Bread of Life (407) |