“...Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

Romans 5:5
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.
Preparing for a Funeral

As you begin the preparations for the Funeral liturgy, there will be a few people that come into play to assist you and your family in planning the day. Below, you can find a list of anyone who is ready to serve you and your family during this time.

Who’s Who?

We have a great team here at St. Michael the Archangel to assist you in preparing for this celebration of your loved one’s life.

- **Priest** – You will meet with the priest to make arrangements for the funeral Mass. However, you are always free to schedule an appointment for further spiritual direction or guidance.

- **Pastoral Ministry Coordinator**— Our parish Pastoral Ministry Coordinator will assist the priest in guiding the family and funeral home through the Funeral Preparation process, including gathering of necessary details, making luncheon arrangements, and accommodating any unique requests.

- **Liturgy Coordinator**— Our parish Liturgy Coordinator will assist the priest in making the proper liturgical arrangements for the funeral Mass, including recruiting volunteers and altar servers and working with the funeral home director.

- **Music Director** – Our parish Music Director can assist you in making arrangements for the funeral music. All music chosen for the funeral liturgy will be approved by the Music Director.

- **Funeral Coordinator** — Our parish will have a Funeral Coordinator who will be present at the church on the day of the funeral to make sure that the liturgy runs smoothly. This will most typically be either your Pastoral Ministry Coordinator or Liturgy Coordinator, depending upon the day and time of the funeral, so they will be well-versed in the day’s proceedings.

- **Funeral Home Director and Associates** – Your funeral home will provide a Funeral Director to coordinate with the church on the day of the funeral, and make sure that your family is well cared for.
Preparation for a Funeral

General Norms and Considerations

- All baptized members of the Church, as well as catechumens, are eligible for Christian burial. According to Canon Law, the rites may also be celebrated for a child who died before baptism and whose parents intended to have the child baptized.

- Through baptism, the body of the deceased became the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Church believes that just as the body of our Lord Jesus was risen from the dead, so too the body of the deceased will be raised at the end of all time. For this reason, the Church honors the bodies of the dead and the places where they rest. For the final disposition of the body, it is the ancient Christian custom to bury or entomb the bodies of the dead. Cremation is permitted on condition that the remains are interred at a cemetery.

- It is the responsibility of the Christian faithful, and a corporal work of mercy, to bury the dead.

- To fulfill this obligation, the parish will provide:

  - Ministers for all funeral rites
  - Music, including organist and cantor for the funeral Mass
  - An optional catered meal after the funeral liturgy for family and out-of-town guests, for a customary donation of $2-$3 per person.

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep."

1 Thessalonians 4:14
Making Liturgical Selections

The three principal rites that make up Christian burial are:
1. The Vigil and/or Rosary service
2. The Funeral Liturgy, within or outside of Mass
3. The Committal (burial)

1. The Vigil and/or Rosary Service

The Vigil and/or Rosary service is ordinarily celebrated in the early evening (usually between 6:00pm and 7:00pm) before the day of Christian burial. It is recommended that the service coincide with the visitation, and take place at the funeral home. On occasion, a family may receive permission for the service to immediately precede the Funeral liturgy in the Church. Please contact the Pastoral Ministry Coordinator for additional information.

The Vigil/Rosary Service is the appropriate time for friends or family to give a eulogy offer kind words about the person that has passed.

You will choose one of the following:

A Rosary service

A recitation of the Glorious mysteries, contemplating the Resurrection of the Lord, is done to provide hope to mourners. The rosary may be led by a priest, a deacon, or a member of the family of the deceased.

OR

A Vigil prayer service

Includes a greeting, reading from scripture, a brief homily, intercessions, and a blessing. It is usually presided over by a priest or a deacon.
Making Liturgical Selections (continued)

2. The Funeral Liturgy, within or without a Mass

The funeral liturgy may take place within or outside of Mass. When one of its members dies, the Church encourages the celebration of the Mass. In the Eucharist, the participants have a foretaste of the heavenly banquet that awaits them and are reminded of Christ's own words: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood shall live for ever" (John 6:55). The funeral Mass is celebrated in the parish church.

For various reasons, the parish priest may recommend the celebration of the funeral liturgy outside of Mass. In this form, the community gathers to hear the message of Easter hope proclaimed in the liturgy of the word and to commend the deceased to God. This form may be celebrated in the parish church but may also be celebrated at a funeral home, cemetery chapel, or graveside.

The family is encouraged to invite family members or friends to undertake the following liturgical roles:

Altar Servers – 3 Servers from the parish will be provided, if the family does not name servers.

Lectors – 1, 2 or 3 Lectors are needed for the 1st reading, 2nd reading, and Petitions

Presentation of the Gifts - up to 4 people may be selected.

To ensure the sacred nature of the liturgy, it is recommended that your musicians be selected from those already trained within the parish. If outside musicians are selected, the Director of Music for St. Michael will still need to be present to ensure the proper functioning of our sound system and the flow of the funeral liturgy.

The musical choices for the funeral liturgy within Mass are listed below; the reading selections can be found in your green “Through Death to Life” book.

3. The Committal

The committal is a short rite to be celebrated at the graveside, tomb, or place or internment. It is the conclusion of the funeral rites.
Recommended Music for Funeral Masses

**ENTRANCE SONG**
327 – Lord of All Hopefulness
336 – On Eagle's Wings
343 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past
346 – Be Not Afraid
356 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
357 – You Are Mine
368 – Keep in Mind
406 – Day is Done
409 – Soon and Very Soon
410 – Shall We Gather at the River
411 – Steal Away to Jesus
424 – For All the Saints
425 – Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
426 – Baptized in Water
463 – Precious Lord, Take My Hand

**Seasonal Options:**
190 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Advent)
209 – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Christmas)
225 – As with Gladness Men of Old (Epiphany)
242 – Tree of Life (Lent/Holy Week)
246 – Jesus, Remember Me (Lent/Holy Week)
256 – At the Lamb’s High Feast (Easter)
259 – I know That My Redeemer Lives (Easter)
262 – Sing with All the Saints in Glory (Easter)
266 – The Strife Is O’er (Easter)

**OFFERTORY SONG**
297 - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
327 – Lord of All Hopefulness
346 – Be Not Afraid
353 – What Wondrous Love is This
355 – Eye Has Not Seen
356 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
357 – You Are Mine
368 – Keep in Mind
377 – The Love of the Lord
380 – Now We Remain
381 – We Have Been Told
392 – Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
408 – Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
411 – Steal Away to Jesus
412 – Jerusalem, My Happy Home
463 – Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Recommended Music for Funeral

**COMMUNION SONGS**
- 336 – On Eagle’s Wings
- 344 – Shepherd Me, O God
- 346 – Be Not Afraid
- 355 – Eye Has Not Seen
- 357 – You Are Mine
- 359 – Blest Are They
- 361 – This Is My Body
- 368 – Keep in Mind
- 377 – The Love of the Lord
- 380 – Now We Remain
- 381 – We Have Been Told
- 411 – Steal Away to Jesus
- 435 – Eat This Bread
- 437 – Taste and See
- 441 – Take and Eat
- 449 – I Am the Bread of Life

**Seasonal Options:**
- 192 – Like a Shepherd (Advent)
- 221 – What Child is This (Christmas/Epiphany)
- 29 – Psalm 63: Your Love is Finer Than Life (Lent)
- 246 – Jesus, Remember Me (Lent/Holy Week)
- 264 – Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks (Easter)

**FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL**

*When Body/Cremains are present*
- 76 – Song of Farewell

**Recommended**

- 368 – Keep in Mind
- 456 – I know That My Redeemer Lives

**CONCLUDING SONGS**

*Only when body is NOT present*

- 306 – Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
- 336 – On Eagle’s Wings
- 343 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- 353 – What Wondrous Love is This
- 356 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- 408 – Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
- 409 – Soon and Very Soon
- 425 – Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

**PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF REPOSE**

*When Body/Cremains are present*
- 454 – May the Angels (English)

**Recommended**

- 457 – May Choirs of Angels (Latin)

**Seasonal:**
- 193 – The King Shall Come (Advent)
- 198 – Come, O Long Expected Jesus (Advent)
- 209 – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Christmas)
- 215 – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (Christmas)
- 225 – As with Gladness Men of Old (Christmas)
- 259 – I know That My Redeemer Lives (Easter)
- 262 – Sing with All the Saints in Glory (Easter)
- 266 – The Strife Is O’er (Easter)
- 264 – Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks (Easter)