

Funeral Liturgy Planning Booklet



Saint Matthias Parish
Bala-Cynwyd, PA

My dear friends,

In this time of loss, we rightfully turn to the Lord and ask for His loving care and mercy for our departed loved one. Our prayer is that you loved one will soon be accepted into the eternal joy of heaven. Also, we pray that we who mourn will be comforted by the consoling grace of God.

You are invited to select certain aspects of the Funeral Liturgy. Please use this booklet to help you make these selections. Once you have made your selections of readings and hymns, please return the enclosed form to the Rectory as soon as possible.

Please decide the following:

- Placement of the Pall (will family members participate?)
- The two readings: one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. In the Easter Season (Easter Sunday to Pentecost), the first reading is from the New Testament, as indicated in this booklet (*please select readers who are able to proclaim the scriptures well so that all will understand the messages; otherwise, the Parish can provide a reader.*)
- A reader for the Prayer of the Faithful / General Intercessions (*please select a reader; otherwise, the Parish can provide.*)
- Participants (*usually two*) for the Offertory Procession
- Four Hymns & Responsorial Psalm (*The Parish's Director of Music will be more than happy to plan the hymn and Responsorial Psalm selections for you. However, if you have any particular hymns you'd like to request, a listing of hymns suitable for the Funeral Mass is included in this booklet*)

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Rectory at 610-664-0207.

Sincerely in the risen Christ
Monsignor Gerard C. Measure,
Pastor

Guidelines for Words of Remembrance

Eulogies are not permitted within the Funeral Mass. Eulogies are better presented and encouraged at the Vigil Service, at the Cemetery, or at the Funeral Luncheon.

Words of Remembrance are not required or encouraged. If desired, however, they may be offered by one person only and before the Funeral Mass begins. Words of Remembrance are not the same as a Eulogy. **Words of Remembrance are to follow the criteria below:**

- Please inform the Priest Celebrant if someone plans to offer Words of Remembrance.
- The person delivering the Words of Remembrance is to keep his/her remarks brief. They should not be longer than three minutes. These Words are to be read from a written text, rather than be extemporaneous, and are read from the cantor's podium.
- The Words of Remembrance must focus on the deceased's belief in God and how his/her faith was lived out in this life. They should also express thanks to the gathered faithful for their presence at the Funeral Liturgy. **The Words should NOT be a history of the deceased person's life, or a testimonial about the speaker's relationship with the departed. The person delivering the Words should avoid anecdotal or other more "secular" content concerning the life of the deceased, which are better suited for a Eulogy. The point of the Words of Remembrance is to speak of God's glory that shined through the departed, rather than recount a person's life story.**

First Reading – Old Testament

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 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.

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 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.

Additional Old Testament Readings (First Reading)

2 Maccabees 12: 43-46 Job 19: 1, 23-27a Wisdom 3: 1-9
Wisdom 4: 7-15 Lamentations 3: 17-26 Daniel 12: 1-3

**During the Easter Season (from Easter Sunday through Pentecost),
the First Reading should be chosen from among the following
New Testament Readings:**

Revelation 14: 13

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, 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.

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

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, 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.

Second Reading – New Testament

Romans 5: 5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,

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.

Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

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 for 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, 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.

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 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 accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

Philippians 3 20-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

1 John 3: 1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

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.

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

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.
The word of the Lord.

2 Timothy 2: 8-13

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:
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.

1 Corinthians 15: 20-23

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.
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 firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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 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.

2 Corinthians 4: 14 – 5: 1

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Knowing 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.

2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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.
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 may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

Music Selections

The Parish's Director of Music will be more than happy to plan the hymn and Responsorial Psalm selections for you. However, if you have any particular hymns you'd like to request, please let us know. Some hymns appropriate for the Funeral Liturgy are listed below. The Pastor or the Director of Music must approve all music selections and outside musicians before any final plans are made. Please contact the Rectory or Berthilla Wiscount, Director of Music and Organist at 215-307-7569 or bwiscount@gmail.com for further assistance.

Opening Hymn:

Be Not Afraid (450) Amazing Grace (430)
Prayer of St. Francis (724) The Strife is O'er (787)

Responsorial Psalm: (Please select one of the following)

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."

Hymn During the Preparation of the Gifts:

I Know That My Redeemer Lives (573) Song of my Savior (759)
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (609)

Communion Hymn:

Behold the Lamb (454) Panis Angelicus (709)
Gift of Finest Wheat (528) Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist (624)
Shepherd of Souls, In Love, Come Feed Us (745)

Recessional Hymn:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise (424)
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (426) For All the Saints (523)
Crown Him with Many Crowns (499) On Eagle's Wings (698)
How Great Thou Art (569) We Walk by Faith (823)
Lord of All Hopefulness (622) The Strife is O'er (787)

Prayer of the Faithful / General Intercessions

The Priest Celebrant will say the Opening Prayer.

Reader: Please respond, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Reader: For N., who in Baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the Saints. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Reader: For our brother/sister, who ate the body of Christ, the Bread of Life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Reader: For the family and friends of our brother/sister N., that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

Reader: For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord. **R.**

The Priest Celebrant will say the Closing Prayer.