

Mass for Christian Burial Planning Sheet

Name of Deceased: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____

Name/Relation of person planning the Funeral Mass: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Date/Day/Time of Viewing/Visitation: _____

Casket or Cremains (please circle one)

Date/Day/ time of Funeral: _____

Celebrant: _____

PLEASE NOTE: *Out of respect for the deceased, Cremains MUST be buried or placed within a columbarium (a room, building, or wall that designated for the interment of ashes of people who have died and have been cremated.) Cremains are not to be stored at home nor should they be scattered – The remains are to be buried.*

Place and Date of Burial _____

Bereavement Member: _____

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS: Located online at <https://sainthelena-centersquare.net/> under Funeral Preparation Package. (OT: pages 26-34; NT: pages 45-55)

(OT) FIRST READING: # _____. Proclaimed by: _____

(NT) SECOND READING: # _____. Proclaimed by: _____

GOSPEL READING (Chosen by the priest or deacon)

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (Samples located on the last page.)

Set A or Set B (CIRCLE ONE)

Reader: _____

The Readings and Intercessions should be provided to readers in advance for review. Please give a copy of the Readings/Intercessions to the readers, in advance of the Liturgy.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERTORY GIFTS (2 or 3 people)

If more than 3, Flowers may be placed at the BVM or St. Joseph Statues

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WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE- *(optional)*

- Yes ___ No ___ If yes, by whom? _____
- The order of Christian Funerals provides for the possibility of a member or a friend of the family speaking Words of Remembrance for the deceased before the Mass begins.
- As with the homily, these “words of remembrance” are not to constitute a eulogy as such. Rather, they are to express appreciation for the life of the deceased, or take the form of a prayer or other inspirational text.
- Only one family member or friend is to speak. He/she is to be brief, speaking no more than 3 minutes.
- Because of the intensity of the emotions at the time of a funeral, the “words of remembrance” should be consigned to writing. To ensure that these words are in harmony with the celebration, the script should be given to the priest celebrant in advance of the Funeral Liturgy.
- Those who wish to give a eulogy or to share a story about the deceased more fittingly should do so during the Vigil (viewing/wake/calling hours) at the funeral home, or following the Committal at the cemetery or at the funeral luncheon. A biography of the deceased could be included in the printed worship aid if one is prepared for the Funeral Liturgy.

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1. Entrance Hymn:

2. Responsorial Psalm:

3. Offertory Hymn:

4. Communion Hymn:

5. Hymn of Praise/ Meditation Hymn: (Optional) (From Offertory & Communion Hymns):

6. Recessional Hymn:

Other:

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Funeral Mass Music Options – choose 5 or 6

Entrance Hymn:

[Amazing Grace](#)
[Be Not Afraid](#)
[Be Still, My Soul](#)
[Be Thou My Vision](#)
[Christ Be Our Light](#)
[Come to Me](#)
[Here I Am, Lord](#)
[Holy, Holy, Holy](#)
[Hosea](#)
[Lift High the Cross](#)
[O God Beyond All Praising](#)
[Shepherd of Souls](#)
[Sing with All the Saints in Glory](#)

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 23:
“The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing
I shall want.”

Psalm 25:
“To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.”

Psalm 27:
“The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

Psalm 103:
“The Lord is kind and merciful.”

Offertory and Communion Hymns:

[Because the Lord is My Shepherd](#)
[Behold the Lamb](#)
[Eye Has Not Seen](#)
[Gift of Finest Wheat](#)
[I Am the Bread of Life](#)
[I Received the Living God](#)
[One Bread, One Body](#)
[Spirit and Grace](#)
[Table of Plenty](#)
[Taste and See, Hurd](#)
[Taste and See, Moore](#)
[The King of Love My Shepherd Is](#)
[The Supper of the Lord](#)
[To Live with Him Forever](#)
[We Remember](#)

Meditation Hymn:

[Amazing Grace](#)
[Ave Maria](#)
[Be Still, My Soul](#)
[Be Thou My Vision](#)
[Eternal Father, Strong to Save](#)
[Eye Has Not Seen](#)
[Hail Mary: Gentle Woman](#)
[How Great Thou Art](#)
[I Have Loved You](#)
[Lady of Knock](#)
[Prayer of St. Francis](#)
[Precious Lord, Take My Hand](#)
[Shepherd Me, O God](#)
[We Walk by Faith](#)

Recessional Hymn:

[Amazing Grace](#)
[Be Still, My Soul](#)
[Holy, Holy, Holy](#)
[How Great Thou Art](#)
[Let There Be Peace on Earth](#)
[Lift High the Cross](#)
[Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory](#)
[Now Thank We All Our God](#)
[O God Beyond All Praising](#)
[Sing with All the Saints in Glory](#)
[We Walk By Faith](#)

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GENERAL INTERCESSIONS: SET A

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 is: **Lord, hear our prayer.** (pause briefly)

In baptism, **N.** received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

"We pray to the Lord:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Our brother/sister **N.** was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

"We pray to the Lord:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the Heavenly Kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with Your Son.

"We pray to the Lord:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The family and friends of **N.** seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

"We pray to the Lord:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister **N.** Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of Your Son's Coming.

"We pray to the Lord:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Priest: Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of Your people whose lives were purchased by the Blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the Heavenly Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

(R) **Amen**

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GENERAL INTERCESSIONS: SET B

Priest:

God, the Almighty Father, raised Christ His Son from the dead; with confidence, we ask Him to save all His people, living and dead.

Reader:

Our response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.** (pause briefly)

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) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

"We pray to the Lord:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face-to-face.

"We pray to the Lord:"

(R) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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) **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Priest:

God, Our Shelter and Our Strength, You listen in love to the cry of Your people. Hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

(R) **Amen**

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“WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE”

Guidelines Regarding “Words of Remembrance” at a Funeral

Promulgated by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

- A. The order of Christian Funerals provides for the possibility of “a member or a friend of the family speaking in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins.” [OCF, #197]
- B. As with the homily, these “words of remembrance” are not to constitute a eulogy as such. Rather, they are to express appreciation for the life of the deceased, or take the form of a prayer or other inspirational text.
- C. Only **one** family member or friend is to speak. He/she is to be **brief**, *speaking no more than 3 minutes*. Will take place 15 minutes before Mass starts.
- D. Because of the intensity of the emotions at the time of a funeral, the “words of remembrance” should be consigned to writing. To ensure that these words are in harmony with the celebration, the script should be given to the priest celebrant in advance of the Funeral Liturgy, so that he can make any suitable suggestions to help the “words of remembrance” convey the consolation of God’s love, grace, and mercy. These words, then, are intended to particularize the praise and gratitude to God for His gifts to the deceased, especially the gift of the Christian life.
- E. Those who wish to give a eulogy or to share a story about the deceased more fittingly should do so during the Vigil (viewing/wake/calling hours) at the funeral home, or following the Committal at the cemetery. A biography of the deceased could be included in the printed worship aid if one is prepared for the Funeral Liturgy.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has established these guidelines to provide direction to the priest in the celebration of the Order of Christian Funerals, specifically regarding the “words of remembrance” at the Funeral Liturgy. These guidelines not only pertain to Funerals of the lay Christian faithful, but also to Funerals of Priests and Deacons as well. They are not intended to serve as a comprehensive treatment, which addresses all matters pertinent to the various Funeral Rites.

BASIC PRINCIPLES (excerpts from the Order of Christian Funerals [OCF])

- A. “In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by His Death and Resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity.” [OCF, #1]
- B. “Christians celebrate the Funeral Rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the Author of Life and the Hope of the Just.” [OCF, #5]
- C. The three principal ritual moments in the Christian Funeral Rites are the Vigil (viewing/wake/calling hours), the Funeral Liturgy, and the Committal. “The Mass, the memorial of Christ’s Death and Resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian Funeral.” [OCF #5]
- D. “Among the priest’s responsibilities are:
 - 1. To impart catechesis on the meaning of Christian death;
 - 2. To comfort the family of the deceased, to sustain them amid the anguish of their grief, to be as kind and helpful as possible; and, *through the use of the resources provided and allowed in the ritual*, to prepare with them a funeral celebration that has meaning for them;
 - 3. Finally, to fit the Liturgy for the dead into the total setting of the liturgical life of the parish and his own pastoral ministry.” [Ordo Exsequiarum #25]

CONCLUDING PRINCIPLE

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These guidelines, as with the norms regulating Christian Funerals, are intended to assist the priest celebrant, family members and friends to celebrate the Funeral Rites “in an atmosphere of simple beauty, in a setting that encourages participation...affirming the Christian belief and hope in the Paschal Mystery.” [OCF, #21]