



Saint Helena Parish
One family, One Heart, One Faith

Dear Parishioner/Family,

Please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of your loved one. The Roman Catholic funeral ceremony offers both comfort in this present sorrow and great hope for the future. Each Sunday when we gather together as God's family to celebrate the Eucharist, we profess our faith in "the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." (Nicene Creed)

Christians, find hope in the midst of their many tears when we lose a loved one. However, as Christians, we believe that death is not an end, but a beginning; that a beloved has passed through death from this present, temporary life to a perfect, permanent one; that he or she who saw God in faith on earth now sees the Lord face to face in heaven; that while death separates us now, it is only for a time.

One of the ways we profess our belief in the resurrection is to celebrate a Mass of Christian Burial for our beloved deceased. The Catholic liturgy provides courage and comfort for those mourning the death of one they loved.

This booklet given to you has been designed to facilitate active involvement in preparing for and taking part in the Funeral Mass of Christian Burial.

Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and in our prayers at this difficult time. May the Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercession of Saint Helena, bless you and keep you.

Rev. Joseph Bongard
Saint Helena Church, Blue Bell, PA

Mass for Christian Burial Planning Sheet

Name of Deceased: _____ DOB: _____ Age : _____

Name/Relation of person planning the Funeral Mass: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date/Day/ time of Funeral: _____

Casket or Cremains (please circle one)

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 _____

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS: See below or Located in the Book “Through Death to Life”
(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)

Read by: _____

(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)

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WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE- *(optional)*

- Yes ___ No ___ If yes, by whom? _____
- The Words of Remembrance are delivered BEFORE the Mass begins.
- 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.
- 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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Hymns for the Mass of Christian Burial

Entrance Hymn:

Responsorial Psalm:

Offertory Hymn:

Communion Hymn:

Hymn of Praise/ Meditation Hymn: (Optional):

Recessional Hymn:

Other:

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HYMNS and SONGS for MASS of CHRISTIAN BURIAL

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Amazing Grace | In Evert Ae |
| As the Deer Longs | Irish Blessing (Blessing Prayer) |
| Ave Maria | Jesus Christ is Risen Today * |
| Alleluia, Alleluia * | Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee |
| Be Not Afraid | Lady of Knock |
| Be Still, My Soul | Like a Shepherd |
| Because the Lord is My Shepherd | Lord, You Have Come |
| Behold the Lamb | Now Thank We All Our God |
| Center of My Life | Now the Green Blade Rises |
| Christ Be Our Light | O God, You Search Me |
| City of God | O Loving God |
| Come to Me | On Eagles' Wings |
| Eye Has Not Seen | One Bread One Body |
| For You are My God | Only This I Want |
| Gifts of Finest Wheat | Out of the Depths |
| Glory and Praise | Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow |
| Grant Them Eternal Rest | Praise to the Lord |
| Hail Mary, Gentle Woman | Prayer of St. Francis |
| Here I Am Lord | Precious Lord, Take My Hand |
| Holy Darkness | Shelter Me, O God |
| Holy God We Praise Thy Name | Sing with All the Saints in Glory |
| Holy Holy Holy | Song of Farewell |
| Hosea (Come Back to Me) | Table of Plenty |
| How Great Thou Art | The Lord IS Kind and Merciful |
| How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place | There is a Longing |
| I Am the Bread of Life | To You, O Lord |
| I Am the Living Bread | We Remember |
| I Have Loved You | We Walk by Faith |
| I heard the Voice of Jesus | You Are Near |
| I Know That My Redeemer Lives | |

***May not be sung during the Lenten Season.**

The above songs are to be of help in making your selections; however, you are not limited to these titles. You are welcome to choose other Catholic music as well. When you are finished

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making your selections, please place them on the Planning Sheet for the Mass of Christian Burial.

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.

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We ask this through Christ our Lord.

(R) **Amen**

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**