

# End-of-Life Pastoral Care & Funeral Planning Resource

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I am the Resurrection  
and the Life; whoever  
believes in me, even if  
he dies will live.

John 11:25



#### A RESOURCE WITH CATHOLIC BELIEFS & PRACTICES

It is the Christian hope that death is the gateway to eternal happiness with God. To help foster a more peaceful transition not only for the person who is dying but also for their loved ones, planning is of the essence.

This resource is filled with resources to help families understand their Catholic beliefs and practices. Pastoral and practical tips are offered to help prepare families for this end-of-life experience.

A Resource from the Office of Worship

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## **Resource Overview**

This resource was compiled by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Office of Aging Ministry in collaboration with the Office of Worship. It is a **thematic organization of end-of-life materials** that Sandy Higgins, former director of the Office of Worship, developed for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. The resource was created to assist families in understanding Catholic beliefs and practices for end-of-life pastoral care and funeral planning. It includes practical tools for personalizing end-of-life care through a Catholic lens.

### **Suggested Usage:**

- Individuals and their loved ones are encouraged to discuss, record, and share with each other their end-of-life wishes found in this resource.
- It is essential for those individuals who are responsible for implementing their loved one's final wishes and arrangements to have easy access to these records. This will help to ease the decision making process at a time when persons are facing the loss of their loved one.
- Family members may want to consult with their pastor, parish liturgist, or delegated person(s) when addressing end-of-life pastoral care or funeral planning.

## **Acknowledgement**

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## WHEN YOU BECOME SERIOUSLY ILL – ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Catholics should ask for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:

- AS SOON AS he/she becomes seriously ill
- If the condition becomes more serious,
- If the sick person recovers after being anointed and then again falls seriously ill.
- A sick person may be anointed before surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery.
- When one is in danger of death.
- Elderly people may be anointed if they have become notably weakened even though no serious illness is present.
- This sacrament is not administered to someone who has died.

Who can administer this sacrament: A Priest or a bishop.

Priest will ask if you wish to go to confession before administering the sacrament. This can enable you to be in the state of grace when receiving the sacrament.

You will be anointed on your forehead and your hands during the ritual with Oil of the Infirm which is specially blessed olive oil. This oil is ordinarily blessed by Cardinal during Holy Week.

Family and friends who are present may join in praying during the Anointing of the Sick

The priest may also bring Holy Communion.

As death nears, ministers of Holy Communion may bring you Holy Communion (viaticum) daily. Viaticum means food for the journey home to our Lord. Family members can speak to the nurse/chaplain at the hospital/ facility at which you are staying to request this. If you are at home, they should call the local parish to attend to your spiritual needs.

As the moment of death draws near (As the family is called to the bedside) contact the priest for Viaticum and the Apostolic Pardon.

LOCAL PARISH PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYER RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

### Prayers for the Sick

- Go to Mass and, if in the state of grace, receive Holy Communion, offering your prayers for accompaniment and healing for your loved one.
- Pray the rosary.
- Read Psalm 23.

The LORD is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I lack.

In green pastures he makes me lie down;  
to still waters he leads me;  
he restores my soul.

He guides me along right paths  
for the sake of his name.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff comfort me.

You set a table before me  
in front of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me  
all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
for endless days.

- See “Catholic Book of Household Blessings and Prayers,” published by the USCCB

### Prayers at the Hour of Death

I commend you, my dear *brother/sister*, to almighty God, and entrust you to your Creator. May you return to the One who formed you from the dust of the earth. May holy Mary, the angels, and all the saints come to meet you as you go forth from this life. May Christ who was crucified for you bring you freedom and peace. May Christ who died for you admit you into his garden of paradise. May Christ, the true Shepherd, acknowledge you as one of his flock. May he forgive all your sins, and set you among those he has chosen. May you see your Redeemer face to face, and enjoy the vision of God for ever. Amen.

▪ *Pastoral Care of the Sick*

## Prayers at the Hour of Death

Keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us and is risen from the dead. He is our saving Lord. He is joy for all ages. If we die with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord. If we endure with the Lord, we shall reign with the Lord. In him all our sorrow, in him all our joy. In him hope of glory, in him all our love. In him our redemption, in him all our grace. In him our salvation, in him all our peace.

- *Lucein Deiss*

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, we pray for your servant, *N.*, and commend *him/her* to your mercy. For *his/her* sake you came down from heaven; receive *him/her* into the joy of your kingdom. For though *he/she* has sinned, *he/she* has not denied the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, but has believed in God and has worshiped *his/her* Creator. Amen.

- *Pastoral Care of the Sick*

## Prayer after Death

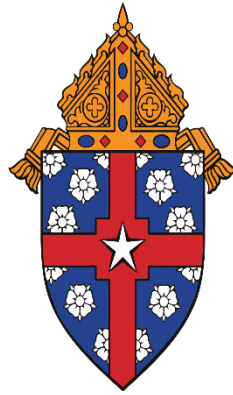
God of our destiny, into your hands we commend our *brother/sister*. We are confident that with all who have died in Christ *he/she* will be raised to life on the last day and live with Christ for ever. We thank you for all the blessings you gave *him/her* in this life to show your fatherly care for all of us and for the fellowship which is ours with the saints in Jesus Christ.

Lord, hear our prayer: welcome our *brother/sister* to paradise and help us to comfort each other with the assurance of our faith until we all meet in Christ to be with you and with our *brother/sister* forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- *Pastoral Care of the Sick*

## For Those Who Mourn

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, you pursue us with untiring love and dispel the shadow of death with the bright dawn of live. Comfort your family in their loss and sorrow. Be our refuge and our strength, O Lord, and lift us from the depths of grief into the peace and light of your presence. Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. Enable us therefore to press on toward him, so that, after our earthly course is run, he may reunite us with those we love, when every tear will be wiped away. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **CHRISTIAN FUNERAL RITES & CREMATION**

Guidelines of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

*Excerpts from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Manual Policies  
for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*

### **CHRISTIAN FUNERAL RITES**

By means of the funeral rites, it has been the practice of the Church, as a tender mother, not simply to commend the dead to God, but also to raise high the hope of its children and to give witness to its own faith in the future resurrection of the baptized with Christ.<sup>1</sup>

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).<sup>2</sup>

Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just (OCF, 5).

The celebration of the Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. While proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and witnessing to Christian hope in the resurrection, the funeral rites also recall to all who take part in them God's mercy and judgment and meet the human need to turn always to God in times of crisis (OCF, 7).

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<sup>1</sup> From the decree promulgating the revised funeral rites by the Congregation For Divine Worship, 1970

<sup>2</sup> Order of Christian Funerals (OCF)



I. All baptized Catholics have the right to an ecclesiastical burial celebrated according to Church law (C. 1176.1).<sup>3</sup>

A. Catechumens are buried as Christian faithful (OCF, 18; C.1183.1).

B. Children whose Baptism was intended by their parents, but who died before being baptized, are also to receive Christian burial (C 1183.2; PP; DP; OCF, 18).<sup>4</sup>

II. Every Christian is free to choose the cemetery of burial or repository for ashes (C. 1180).

A. The appropriate blessing from the Order of Christian Funerals should be prayed over the place of committal if it has not been already blessed (OCF, 207, 218, 405).

B. A prayer of praise and thanksgiving is recited over the place of committal if it has already been blessed (OCF 207, 218, 226, 405).

III. Christian Symbols should be used appropriately at the rites of Christian funerals. These may include an Easter candle, holy water, incense, fresh flowers, the book of the Gospels and/or a cross on the coffin. If a pall is used at funerals in which the coffin has been draped with a flag, the flag should be removed before the pall is placed. Only Christian symbols may rest on or be placed near the coffin during the funeral liturgy (OCF, 35-38).

## **LITURGY**

The Liturgy for the rites of Christian funerals may take place at several different stations, i.e., the home, the funeral home, the church, the cemetery, and/or a chapel. Appropriate rites are provided for each (OCF, 40-49; C.1176.2).

I. In funerals at funeral homes or cemetery chapels, the Mass is not to be celebrated. The Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass may certainly be celebrated in a funeral home or at a cemetery (C.1176.2) and the funeral should be recorded in the parish's death or burial register (C.1182).

II. If the Mass is not celebrated in connection with the funeral rites, it is to be offered, without the body present, either before or after the funeral rites, within a reasonable time (OCF 46).

III. The celebration of the funeral Mass is forbidden on solemnities of obligation, on Holy Thursday and the Easter Triduum, and on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season (OCF, 178).

IV. The family of the deceased should be invited to assist in planning the funeral rites and, if possible, should exercise some of the liturgical ministries within the liturgy (OCF, 15-17).

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<sup>3</sup> Code of Canon Law (C.)

<sup>4</sup> Priest's Pagella (PP) and Deacon's Pagella (DP)

V. Music is integral to the funeral rites and should be chosen with care. Music should be provided for the vigil and funeral liturgy and, whenever possible, for the funeral processions and the rite of committal (OCF, 30-33).

## **CREMATION<sup>5</sup>**

I. Catholic teaching stresses the preference for burial or entombment of the body of the deceased. Likewise, the Church clearly prefers that the body of the deceased be present for its funeral rites (C.1176.3; OCF, 19, 413-418).

II. Those who have chosen cremation may receive a Christian Funeral Rite, unless their choice for cremation reflects a denial of the resurrection of the body or is dictated by anti-Christian motives (OCF 19, 426; C.1176.3).

III. Because the Church prefers the presence of the body for funeral liturgies, it is recommended that cremation take place following the funeral liturgy (OCF, 413; 418).

IV. When circumstances prevent the presence of the body at the funeral liturgy, it is appropriate that the cremated remains be present for the full course of the funeral liturgy (Vigil for the Deceased, Funeral Liturgy, Rite of Committal). In the Funeral Liturgy with the cremated remains present, the sprinkling with holy water occurs but the placing of the pall is omitted (OCF, 433-434).

V. The cremated remains should be treated with the same respect given to the corporeal remains of the body. The cremated remains should be entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium; they may also be buried in a common grave in a cemetery. The practices of scattering the remains or keeping them in a home are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires (OCF, 417).

## **FUNERAL HOMILIES AND EULOGIES**

The rite allows for words of remembrance of the deceased at the vigil and the funeral liturgy, but that should never take the place of the importance of the homily, to proclaim the mystery of the dying and rising of Christ. The funeral homily should be focused on the scripture readings and express the Church's teaching on eternal life (OCF 27; cf. OCF, 6-7; C.1176.2).

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<sup>5</sup> United States Catholic Conference May, 1997, "Reflections on the Body, Cremation and Catholic Funeral Rites."

Within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, if personal remembrances are to be given, only one person, and never not more than two persons, should speak only for two to three minutes (Presbyteral Council Minutes 10/00).

If a Remembrance of the deceased is given, it is only to occur at the following times:

I. At the end of a Vigil service: after the closing prayer and before the concluding rite (OCF 80; 96); ...and/or...

II. At the end of the Funeral Mass: following the Prayer for Communion and prior to the final commendation (OCF,170);

III. In a Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass: after the Our Father and prior to the final commendation (OCF, 197).

**Questions:** Contact the Office of Worship, 713-741-8760, [worship1@archgh.org](mailto:worship1@archgh.org), [www.archgh.org/worship](http://www.archgh.org/worship)

## FUNERAL INFORMATION

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Location of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

If spouse is deceased, indicate date of death: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Family Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Contact (If different than family contact): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Have any prepaid funeral arrangements been made? Are cemetery plots purchased? If so, please provide location of those documents and basic information:

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Funeral Home desired:

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Funeral Home Phone:

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Name of Funeral Director:

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Scripture/ prayer for holy card, if possible:

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Cremation (the church prefers cremation take place after the funeral Mass): Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Open Casket: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Current Parish:

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Parish Address:

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Other Parishes you belonged to/City and State:

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Parish ministries in which you were involved:

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Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Great Grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_

Are parent/s alive? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Names even if deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Brother's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

(indicate if any are deceased by showing (D) after their name).

Sister's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

(indicate if any are deceased by showing (D) after their name).

School(s) with dates of attendance:

Diploma or Degree(s) awarded:

Military Service: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Medals and Awards:

Will you be buried at the Veterans' National Cemetery? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**VIGIL SERVICE**

Where: (funeral home/Church): \_\_\_\_\_

Presider: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Readings: 1st \_\_\_\_\_ Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cantor/Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_ (Proclaimed by the Presider)

Any Eulogies? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Whom: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: Eulogies are to be brief, no more than two or three minutes in length and given by one but not more than two persons.

If music is available (should be chosen with care and be related to the funeral rites and Christian belief):

Music: Entrance Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel Acclamation: \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS DURING FUNERAL VIGIL**

Rosary? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Who will lead? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_before Vigil Service

\_\_\_\_\_after Vigil Service

If member of Knights of Columbus, do you want an honor guard present?

\_\_\_\_\_yes

\_\_\_\_\_no

Are there particular pictures you would want displayed? If so, where can the family find them? (Attach copies of the pictures or place in a file and email to the contacts).

Would you want people to make a donation to a particular charity in your name? If so indicate the name of the charity:

Any other preferences:



**FUNERAL MASS**

Church for the Funeral Mass:

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Address of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Presider desired: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Deacon, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Cantor desired: \_\_\_\_\_

*(above ministers reflect preference, if possible)*

Placing of Pall: (family /friends) (No less than four, no more than six people)

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Pall Bearers (Six, capable of carrying the casket)

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Processional Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm (sung by cantor): \_\_\_\_\_

Cantor: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel Acclamation: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

Universal Prayer (Intercessions) read by (If no deacon present): \_\_\_\_\_

Preparation Hymn or Meditation Song: \_\_\_\_\_

Eucharistic Acclamations (Mass setting sung by all): \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Final Commendation (Song of Farewell): \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Gift presenters (2 to 4 persons): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion if needed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ministers of Hospitality: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Note: During Lent, no hymns with alleluia are sung. A Lenten Gospel Acclamation is included. Here are other hymns to consider during the Lenten season if hymns chosen above are not seasonally appropriate:

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Other requests (e.g. signing of the Book of Remembrance/ bereavement meal afterwards to be held where?):

Other Catholic Customs:

- A centuries old practice is to celebrate a Mass for the deceased on the one month anniversary of their death. This can be celebrated at the parish of the deceased or at a parish of a family member or friend.
- You may also remember the deceased by arranging for Mass intentions for the deceased on their birthday, anniversary, or death date.

## RITE OF COMMITAL

Presider: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be buried at the Veterans' National Cemetery?      Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery location: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of committal: \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and date this form: (make copies, and send one to your family contact)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If there is anything that you feel was not included above, please indicate it below:

Link where you can find the **readings on the web:**

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/index.cfm>

## Symbols at Catholic Funerals



**Holy Water:** Holy water is used to welcome the body or cremated remains into the church. It is a reminder of the deceased's membership in the Body of Christ through baptism.



**Paschal Candle:** The Paschal or Easter candle reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World. Blessed each year at the Easter Vigil, the presence of the Paschal Candle at the funeral is a reminder of that night when, in hope and joy, the Church anticipates Christ's resurrection.



**Pall:** The pall is a large white cloth which is placed over the casket which reminds us of the white garment the deceased received at baptism to signify their Christian dignity.



**Incense:** Incense is used during funeral rites as a symbol of our respect for the body of the deceased which became a temple of the Holy Spirit at baptism. Incense also represents the prayers of the assembly rising to God's throne.



**Cross:** A cross may be placed on top of the casket during the funeral Mass. It is a Christian symbol. By dying on the cross, Christ redeemed us and won victory over sin and death. At baptism the deceased was signed with the cross to claim them for Christ.

## READINGS FOR MASSES FOR THE DEAD

### READING I

READING I FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT (Applicable except for the Season of Easter)

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

***He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.***

Job 19: 1, 23-27a

***I know that my Vindicator lives***

Wisdom 3:1-9 or short form 3: 1-6, 9

***As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.***

Wisdom 4:7-15

***An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.***

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

***He will destroy death forever.***

Lamentations 3:17-26

***It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.***

Daniel 12:1-3

***Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.***

***READING I is from the New Testament during the Season of Easter. Choose one of these:***

Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-43 or Short form 10: 34-36, 42-43

***He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.***

Revelation 14:13

***Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.***

Book of Revelation 20:11–21:1

***The dead were judged according to their deeds.***

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

***There shall be no more death.***

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23: 1-3,4,5,6

***The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

Psalm 25: 6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21

***To you, O Lord, I life my soul***

Psalm 27: 1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14

***The Lord is my light and my salvation***

***OR I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.***

Psalm 42: 2, 3, 5cdef; 43: 3, 4, 5

***My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face.***

Psalm 63: 2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

***My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.***

Psalm 103: 8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18

***The Lord is kind and merciful.***

Psalm 116: 5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac

***I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. OR Alleluia.***

Psalm 122: 1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

***I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord. OR***

***Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.***

Psalm 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8

***Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord. OR***

***I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.***

Psalm 143: 1-2, 5-6, 7ab and 8ab, 10

***O Lord, hear my prayer.***

## NEW TESTAMENT

### READING II

Romans 5:5-11

***Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.***

Romans 5:17-21

***Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.***

Romans 6:3-9 or short form 6: 3-4, 8-9

***We too might live in newness of life.***

Romans 8:14-23

***We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.***

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

***What will separate us from the love of Christ?***

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

***Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.***

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 or short form 15: 20-23

***So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.***

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

***Death is swallowed up in victory.***

2 Corinthians 4:14--5:1

***What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.***

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

***We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.***

Philippians 3:20-21

***He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.***

Thessalonians 4:13-18

***Thus we shall always be with the Lord.***



**NEW TESTAMENT**  
**READING II - CONTINUED**

2 Timothy 2:8-13

***If we have died with him we shall also live with him.***

1 John 3:1-2

***We shall see him as he is.***

1 John 3:14-16

***We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.***

## GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12a

***Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.***

Matthew 11:25-30

***Come to me and I will give you rest.***

Matthew 25:1-13

***Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!***

Matthew 25:31-46

***Come, you who are blessed by my Father.***

Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 OR SHORT FORM 15: 33-39

***Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.***

Luke 7:11-17

***Young man, I tell you, arise!***

Luke 12:35-40

***You also must be prepared.***

Luke 23:33, 39-43

***Today you will be with me in Paradise.***

Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a OR SHORT FORM 22: 44-46, 50, 52-53

***Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.***

Luke 24:13-35 OR SHORT FORM 24: 13-16, 28-35

***Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?***

John 5:24-29

***Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.***

## GOSPEL

John 6:37-40

***Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life  
and I shall raise him on the last day.***

John 6:51-59

***Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.***

John 11:17-27 OR SHORT FORM 11: 21-27

***I am the resurrection and the life.***

John 11:32-45

***Lazarus, come out!***

John 12:23-28 OR SHORT FORM 12: 23-26

***If it dies, it produces much fruit.***

John 14:1-6

***In my Father's house there are many dwellings.***

John 17:24-26

***I wish that where I am they also may be with me.***

John 19:17-18, 25-39

***And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit.***

Link where you can find the complete **readings on the web:**

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/index.cfm>

## MUSIC FOR THE FUNERAL

"Music is integral to the Funeral rites. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that word alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love. The texts of the songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death, and triumph over death and should be related to the readings from Scripture."

-Order of Christian Funerals, 30

### Some appropriate hymns include

(\*\*\* - **not appropriate during Lent**):

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts and Voices*

*Heavenward Raise \*\*\**

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Let The*

*Holy Anthem Rise \*\*\**

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus \*\*\**

*Amazing Grace*

*Bread For the World (Com)*

*Be Not Afraid*

*Center of My Life*

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

*Dwellers in the Holy City*

*Eye Has Not Seen*

*For All the Saints*

*How Great Thou Art*

*I Am the Bread of Life (Com)*

*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

*I Receive the Living God (Com)*

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

*Jerusalem, My Happy Home*

*Jerusalem, My Destiny*

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

*Martha, Mary, Waiting, Weeping*

*My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*

*On Eagle's Wing*

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

*Rejoice, The Lord is King*

*Shall We Gather At the River*

*Sing With All the Saints in Glory*

*Soon and Very Soon*

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

*The Strife Is O'er \*\**

*There is a Balm in Gilead*

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

*When We Are Living*

*Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow*

*Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones \*\*\**

**Other Notes:**

