

**Guidelines for Celebration of
Christian Burial
at
The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral
of the Sacred Heart
Charleston, West Virginia**



Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
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Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Sacred Heart parish family, please accept our heartfelt prayers and sympathies as you remember and celebrate the life of your departed loved one. Our Pastoral Staff is ready to assist you in preparing for the approaching Funeral Liturgy. In the Catholic Church, there are two forms: (1) a Funeral Mass or (2) a Funeral Service (Ceremony without the celebration of Mass).

The priest who will preside at the Funeral will contact you and set up a time to meet with you and other family members for planning. It is customary for the family of the departed to choose readings and music. Please know that we encourage members of the family to consider being involved in the liturgy, so we will ask if you have some members of the family to assist with the following: (1) to proclaim the Scripture readings; (2) to present the offertory gifts (if you plan to have a Mass); and (3) someone to share remarks.

As you begin to prepare, you may find the enclosed information helpful. Normally, funerals at the parish are scheduled for 10:00am or 2:00pm. This could depend on the availability of the funeral home.

The priest will contact our Music Director to assist with the implementation of music during the service. You are welcome to utilize the enclosed music choices.

Your deceased loved one and family will be remembered in our prayers in the coming days and at our weekend Masses. May the God of Hope give you the fullness of peace and may the Lord of Life always be with you!

With our prayers and sympathy in the Risen Lord,

Fr. Donald X. Higgs

CELEBRATION OF THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The Order of Christian Funerals is celebrated in three stations: (1) the Vigil for the Deceased; (2) the Funeral Liturgy; (3) the Rite of Committal.

THE VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED AT THE FUNERAL HOME

The Vigil is generally celebrated the night before the Funeral. The Vigil service is typically brief, consisting of an Opening Prayer, a proclamation of Sacred Scripture, and intercessions for the deceased.

THE FUNERAL IN THE CHURCH

The community gathers with the family and friends of the deceased to offer praise and thanksgiving to God for Christ's victory over sin and death and to commend the deceased to God's loving mercy and compassion. The church building is the place where the community of faith gathers for worship. Therefore, it is best that the funeral rites take place within the church.

By bringing the body of the departed into the church, the members of the community acknowledge the deceased as one of their own – as one who was welcomed in Baptism as a child into the family of God. The Paschal Candle (the Christ Candle) is lit and placed at the front of the church near the casket or urn. The candle reminds us of the light of Christ, entrusted to us at our Baptism. Sprinkling the body with Holy Water recalls the pouring of water in the baptismal celebration to wash away our sin. Placing the pall over the casket recalls the "white garment" we were given at Baptism as a sign of putting on a new life in Christ. Later, the body of the deceased may be incensed as a sign of respect for the body – temple of the Holy Spirit. Any national flags or insignia of associations to which the deceased belonged are to be removed from the casket at the entrance of the church. Then the baptismal symbols and gestures become evident.

THE RITE OF COMMITTAL AT THE CEMETERY

By committing the body to its final resting place, the community expresses the hope that, with "all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith", the deceased await the glory of the Resurrection. The Rite of Committal is the final act of the community, which may be celebrated at the grave, tomb, or mausoleum. This Rite includes prayers offered for blessing of the ground, disposition of the body and for the consolation of those gathered. If military honors are offered, they are done following the completion of the Rite.

SACRED SCRIPTURE IN THE FUNERAL RITES

Throughout the duration of the Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, and Rite of Committal, Scriptural passages are read. The Catholic Church does not permit substituting other sources of literature for these readings. Poetry, excerpts from literature, and secular music selections are appropriately read at the funeral home following the Vigil or at an appropriate time when the family is gathered. If the family desires to select readings, they may be selected from the Scripture readings listed within this booklet.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH

Casket sprays are removed before the casket is brought into the church. They may be replaced at the end of the funeral. Flowers may be brought from the funeral home or sent directly to the church. They will be placed so as not to obscure the altar, pulpit, tabernacle, or block passage of ministers in the sanctuary. Very few flowers should be brought into the church during Lent. When the church is decorated for Christmas or Easter, other flowers may seem redundant. With respects to these liturgical seasons, you might consider not bringing them to the church during these times.

SCHEDULING A FUNERAL MASS

Normally, funerals at the parish are scheduled for 10:00 AM or 2:00 PM

Funeral Masses are NOT permitted on:

- ❖ Sundays
- ❖ Saturdays after 2:00 PM
- ❖ Feast Days and Solemnities (Holy Days of Obligation)
- ❖ Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)

Funeral services apart from Mass can be scheduled on most days of the year.

OTHER LITURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Placing of the Pall: The pall is placed over the remains when they are received into the church. A reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased, the pall is a sign of the Christian dignity of the person. The use of the pall also signifies that all are equal in the eyes of God (James 2:1-9).

Presentation of Offertory Gifts: Family members or friends may bring forward the bread and wine at the Offertory Procession during the funeral Mass.

Distribution of Holy Communion: Catholics in the state of grace are encouraged to receive Communion. Others may come forward for a blessing, indicating their desire to do so by crossing their arms across their chest, or they remain seated in prayer.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Catholics who have been away from the Church, from God, or from family members or friends, may wish to become reconciled. The priest will be available to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation available to those who request it. If possible, please contact him before the funeral liturgy.

Music for the Funeral Rites: Music by the assembly is designed to express prayerful convictions that words alone may fail to convey. The family is most welcome to choose hymn selections. Secular, national, or ethnic songs are not permitted during the Funeral. Please see the enclosed music selections for assistance with music choices.

Remarks / Words of Remembrance

Remarks from a family member or friend should briefly describe the ways in which the deceased demonstrated his or her Christian values. Remarks may be made at the Vigil or the Funeral service. The family is asked to select ONE person to share remarks.

CREMATION IN THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITE

The Church prefers that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites. Cremation is also permitted by the Church. The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the departed body.

Cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The custom of scattering cremains and/or placing ashes within the home is not the reverent disposition the Church requires. If cremated remains are brought to the church for the Funeral Rite, a small table or stand is prepared at the place normally occupied by the casket. It is customary to have a small vase of flowers and a framed image on the table near the cremains.

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT (Section A)

A-1 – Job 19:1, 23-27a

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him; And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

A-2 – Wisdom 3:1-6

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.

A-3 – Isaiah 25:6, 7-9

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!"

A-4 – Lamentations 3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the LORD. The thought of my homeless poverty is worm wood and gall; remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: The favors of the LORD are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the LORD, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Good is the LORD to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD.

A-6 – 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

Judas, the ruler of Israel, took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But . If he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT (Section B)

B-1 – Romans 5:5-11

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.

B-2 – Romans 6:3-9

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. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. 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.

B-3 – Romans 8:14-23

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, "Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

B-4 – Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

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.

B-5 – Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

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.

B-6 – 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

Brothers and sisters:

We know 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.

B-7 – 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

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.

B-8 – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.

B-9 – Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

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 of water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.

B-10 – Revelation 14:13

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."

B-11 – 1 John 3:1-2

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.

B-12 – Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

B-13 – 2 Timothy 2:8-13

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.

READINGS FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Section C)

C-1 – Matthew 5:1-12a

Jesus went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

C-2 – Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

C-3 – Matthew 25:1-13

"The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

C-4 – Matthew 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Reading continues on next page) 32 Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for

I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

C-5 – Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."

C-6 – Luke 7:11-17

Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

C-7 – Luke 12:35-40

Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

C-8 – Luke 23:33, 39-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

C-9 – Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."

C-10 – Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" (Reading continues on next page) 39 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

C-11 – John 5:24-29

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out -- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

C-12 – John 6:37-40

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

C-13 – John 6:51-59

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

C-14 – John 11:17-27

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

C-15 – John 11:32-45

When Mary, the sister of Lazarus, came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked

upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

C-16 – John 12:23-28

Jesus answered Andrew and Philip, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say -- "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

C-17 – John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

C-18 – John 17:24-26

Jesus prayed in the following words: Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

C-19 – John 19:17-18, 25-30

Carrying the cross by himself, Jesus went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER / PRAYER INTERCESSION OPTIONS

(Choose option #1 or #2; consider adding your own intentions at the bottom)

OPTION #1

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:

For **N.** who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she 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 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 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 all 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.

ADDITIONAL INTERCESSIONS

- _____

- _____

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.

OPTION #2

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:

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the 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.

ADDITIONAL INTERCESSIONS

- _____

- _____

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 kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

FUNERAL MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

GENERAL MUSIC SELECTIONS (Gathering Hymn, Preparation of Altar, Recessional Hymn)	
Amazing Grace (NEW BRITAIN) †	Jesus Remember Me (Berthier/Taize)
Be Not Afraid (Dufford) †	On Eagle's Wings (Joncas) †
Be Still, My Soul	Prayer of St. Francis (Temple)
Be Thou My Vision	Seek Ye First (Lafferty)
Eye Has Not Seen (Haugen)	Sing With All the Saints in Glory
Here I Am, Lord (Schutte) †	Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling (Thompson)
How Great Thou Art (Hine)	Turn to the Living God (True)
I Know That My Redeemer Lives (Soper)	You are Near (Schutte)
RESPONSE PSALM SETTINGS	
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.	
Psalm 116: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.	
COMMUNION HYMNS	
Draw Near (Janco)	Lord, Who at Your First Eucharist
Eat This Bread (Berthier/Taize)	One Bread, One Body (Foley) †
I Am the Bread of Life (Toolan) †	Take and Eat (Joncas)
I Receive the Living God	You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (Kreutz) †
Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All	
PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR / POST-COMMUNION MEDITATION	
Ave Maria (Schubert) †	Hail Mary: Gentle Woman (Landry)
Ave Maria (Bach)	Salve Regina (CHANT)

† *Common selections*

(Note: These are merely suggestions. You are not bound to use only these selections)

FUNERAL PLANNING WORKSHEET

Please fill out the following worksheet and share this information with the priest.

Funeral Mass for (Full name): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Date & Time of Funeral: _____

Placing of the Pall (2-4 people): _____

Placing of Christian Symbols (2 people): _____

1st Reading (section A): _____

Read by: _____

2nd Reading (section B): _____

Read by: _____

Holy Gospel Reading (section C): _____

General Intercessions read by: _____

Gift Bearers: (2-3 people): _____

Remarks by: _____

Incense? Yes ___ No ___ Luncheon? Yes ___ No ___

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: _____

Altar Servers: _____

Location of Committal: _____

MUSIC SELECTIONS

Gathering Hymn: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Preparation of the Altar: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Post-Communion Song: _____

Recessional Hymn: _____