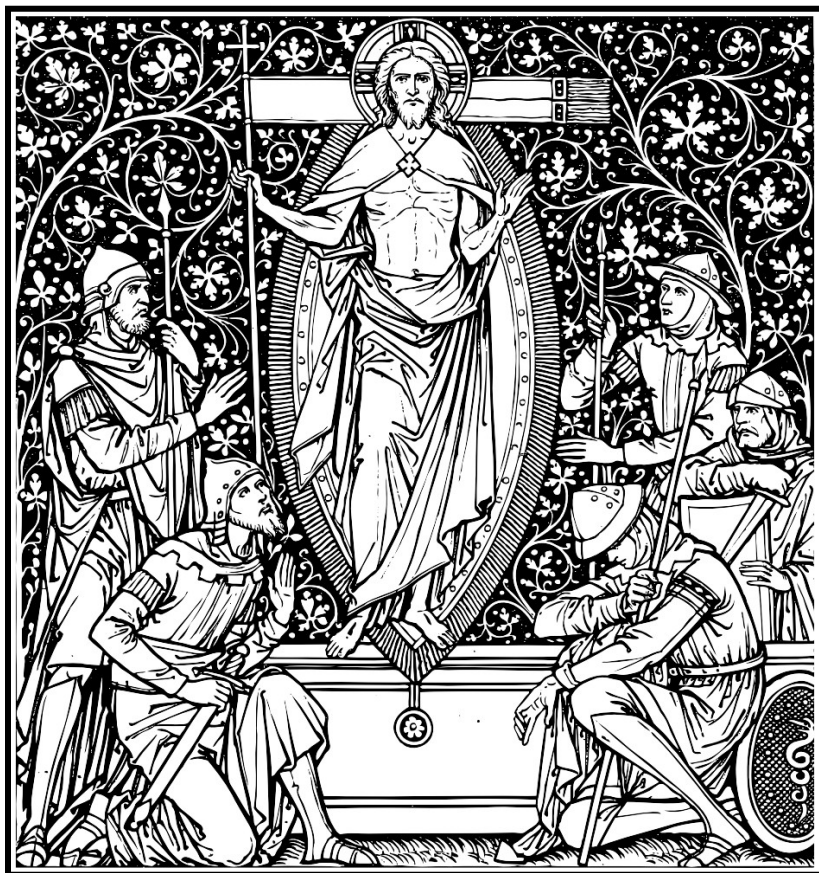


PLANNING THE FUNERAL



ST. LUKE UNIVERSITY PARISH

Form of the Funeral

- The primary option for funerals in the Catholic Church is a Funeral Mass, where we pray for the deceased and their loved ones, listen to God speak in the Scriptures, and offer the Eucharistic Sacrifice.
- The other option available is the Funeral Liturgy without Mass, where we pray for the deceased and their loved ones, and listen to God speak in the Scriptures, but the Holy Eucharist is not offered. When this second option is chosen, we heartily recommend scheduling Mass to be offered for the deceased at a later date (even on a weekday), since the Church believes that offering Mass is the greatest way to help someone who has died.
- The option without Mass is sometimes helpful when many or most of those attending the funeral would be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with Catholic Mass.

Family service at the funeral

- Of course the greatest and most important form of participation at the funeral is to actively pray during Mass. There are also several opportunities for family members to perform a function during the funeral. These are listed below. There is no requirement that the family or friends perform these functions, and the parish can provide all that is needed.
- The family may choose up to three people to read during Mass (1st reading, 2nd reading, and intercessions). A reader must be baptized and Catholic.
- If the funeral is at Mass, the family may also choose a small group (e.g. the immediate family, the grandchildren, one of the deceased's children and their spouse and children) to bring up the gifts of Bread and Wine at the Offertory. This group should also be made up of people who believe what the Catholic Church teaches about the Eucharist, since they represent our love for Jesus specifically in the Eucharist.
- We do not have eulogies during the funeral liturgy or in the Church. The most appropriate times for a eulogy would be at the funeral home, or at the burial.

Readings

- You can pick a first reading (Old Testament), a second reading (New Testament), and a Reading from the Gospel. The readings for the funeral must be chosen from the options provided in a list below.
- The Psalm that is chanted between the readings is not listed in the attachment, but if you have a specific Psalm in mind you can certainly write it down. Usually for a funeral we use Psalm 23 or 27.

Music Requests

- For funerals, Shawnda Draeger, our music director here at St. Luke, takes care of the music. If you have another person who you would like to join her or even handle the music for the funeral in her place, please let us know. If there is someone besides Shawnda doing the music, she needs to review their plan for mass beforehand to make sure everything is in good order.
- We use the Credo hymnal ([click here to see hymn index](#)), so choosing hymns from this book is the first option. If there is music you have in mind that is not in the hymnal, we will do our best to make it happen but can't always promise to be able to do everything.
- We do our best to honor your requests and preferences for music. The criteria we use is appropriateness for Catholic Mass.

Costs

- There are a few fees that make it possible for the parish to continue to celebrate beautiful funerals for our beloved dead. These will be communicated to the funeral home, and you do not pay anything to the parish directly. NB: no check or stipend to the priest is necessary.

Scripture Readings

The readings for the Funeral must be chosen from the options below. In special cases, like a funeral for a child, or for a child who died before Baptism, there is a separate list of readings.

First Reading

[\(click here to read online\)](#)

2 Maccabees 12:43-46

Job 19:1, 23-27a

Wisdom 3:1-9 (short form, 3:1-6, 9)

Wisdom 4:7-15

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

Lamentations 3:17-26

Daniel 12:1-3

First Reading during Easter Season only

[\(click here to read online\)](#)

Acts 10:34-43 (short form, 10:34-36, 42-43)

Revelation 14:13

Revelation 20:11 – 21:1

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

Second Reading

[\(click here to read online\)](#)

Romans 5:5-11

Romans 5:17-21

Romans 6:3-9 (short form, 6:3-4, 8-9)

Romans 8:14-23

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (short form, 15:20-23)

1 Corinthians 15:51-57
2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10
Philippians 3:20-21
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
2 Timothy 2:8-13
1 John 3:1-2
1 John 3:14-16

Gospel Readings

[\(click here to read online\)](#)

Matthew 5:1-12a
Matthew 11:25-30
Matthew 25:1-13
Matthew 25:31-46
Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 (short form, 15:33-39)
Luke 7:11-17
Luke 12:35-40
Luke 23:33, 39-43
Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a (short form, 23:44-46, 50, 52-53)
Luke 24:13-35 (short form, 24:13-16, 28-35)
John 5:24-29
John 6:37-40
John 6:51-58
John 11:17-27 (short form, 11:21-27)
John 11:32-45
John 12:23-28 (short form, 12:23-26)
John 14:1-6
John 17:24-26
John 19:17-18, 25-39

Psalms

The Psalms are listed below with their responses (R/.).

[\(click here to read online\)](#)

Psalm 23

R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. or:

R/. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

Psalm 25

R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. or:

R/. No one who waits for you, O Lord, will ever be put to shame.

Psalm 27

R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation. or:

R/. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

Psalm 42

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

Psalm 63

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

Psalm 103

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful. or:

R/. The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

Psalm 116

R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. or:

R/. Alleluia.

Psalm 122

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

or:

R/. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Psalm 130

R/. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord. or:

R/. I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.

Psalm 143

R/. O Lord, hear my prayer.