SAINT ELEANOR
Catholic Church Collegeville, PA



Funeral Liturgy Planning Booklet

Dear friends,

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Resurrection and our life.

Especially now in this time of loss, we turn together to Him. One way we do this is through the Funeral Mass.

Planning a Funeral Mass can be a stressful and overwhelming task. Our priests and team are ready to help you plan and walk with you through the entire process. Many questions will arise and we are here to help throughout the process.

Please us this booklet to plan the Funeral Mass. Please proceed section by section of this booklet to select
various options.

Once you have made your selections of readings and hymns, please return the last page of the booklet to the Parish Office or Scan the QR code to fill it out on our parish website: www.steleanor.com/spiritually-growing/funerals and email to church@steleanor.com with the subject line: **Funeral Selection for the funeral mass of XX**

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,
Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, Pastor

Section 1: Placing of the Pall

As the Liturgy begins, the pall (A large white cloth representing the baptismal garment) will be placed over the casket. Family members are invited to assist in this action. (the white Pall is not used for cremated remains)

Please indicate your preference below.

_____ Yes, family members will assist in placing the pall _____ I would prefer the Funeral Director place it

Section 2: Selecting the first and second reading

The Liturgy of the Word includes two readings: one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. During the Easter Season (from Easter Sunday through Pentecost), the first reading may alternatively be chosen from the New Testament, as indicated in this booklet. Readers should be practicing Catholics who are able to proclaim the scriptures well so that all will understand the messages; otherwise, the Parish can provide a reader.

Suggested Funeral Readings

Old Testament passages for the first reading

1) **2 Maccabees 12:43-46**
A reading from the Second Book of Maccabees: 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, 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. **The Word of the Lord.**

2) **Job 19:1, 23-27a**
A reading from the book of Job: 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 shall behold him; And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.
The Word of the Lord.

3a) **Wisdom 3:1-9 LONG FORM**
A reading from the book of Wisdom: 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. In the time of their visitation they shall shine and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. 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. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. 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.
The Word of the Lord.

Suggested Funeral Readings

Old Testament passages for the first reading continued

3b) Wisdom 3:1-9 SHORT FORM
A reading from the Book of Wisdom: 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. The Word of the Lord.

4) **Wisdom 4:7-15**
A reading from the Book of Wisdom: The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported—Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul. **The Word of the Lord.**

5) **Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah: 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!" **The Word of the Lord.**

6) **Lamentations 3:17-26**
A reading from the Book of Lamentations: 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 wormwood 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.
The Word of the Lord.

7) **Daniel 12:1-3**
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel: In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and heard this word of the Lord: At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; Some shall live forever; others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever. **The Word of the Lord.**

Suggested First Readings from the New Testament during the season of Easter

E1a) **Acts 10:34-43 LONG FORM**
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:
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, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
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." **The Word of the Lord.**

E1b) **Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 SHORT FORM**
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:
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." **The Word of the Lord.**

E2) **Revelation 14:13**
A reading from the Book of Revelation:
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." **The Word of the Lord.**

E3) **Revelation 20:11-21:1**
A reading from the Book of Revelation: I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds.
Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.)
Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **The Word of the Lord.**

New Testament passages for the first reading during the season of Easter continued

E4) **Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7**
A reading from the Book of Revelation: 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 from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son." **The Word of the Lord.**

New Testament passages for the second reading

1) **Romans 5:5-11**
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans: 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. **The Word of the Lord.**

2) **Romans 5:17-21**
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans: Brothers and Sisters: If, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of the one man so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
The Word of the Lord.

New Testament passages for the second reading continued.

3a) **Romans 6:3-9 LONG FORM**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans: 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. **The Word of the Lord.**

3b) **Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 SHORT FORM**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans: 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. **The Word of the Lord.**

4) **Romans 8:14-23**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans: 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.
The Word of the Lord.

5) **Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans: 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. **The Word of the Lord.**

New Testament passages for the second reading continued

6) **Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans: 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.

The Word of the Lord.

7a) **I Corinthians 15:20-28 LONG FORM**

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through a man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for he subjected everything under his feet. But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

7b) **I Corinthians 15:20-23 SHORT FORM**

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: Brothers and Sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through a man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ. **The Word of the Lord.**

8) **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: *Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?* The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **The Word of the Lord.**

New Testament passages for the second reading continued.

9) **2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1**
A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: 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.
The Word of the Lord.

10) **2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**
A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: 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. **The Word of the Lord.**

11) **Philippians 3:20-21**
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians: Brothers and Sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. **The Word of the Lord.**

12) **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**
A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians: 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. **The Word of the Lord.**

New Testament passages for the second reading continued

13) **2 Timothy 2:8-13**

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy: 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. **The Word of the Lord.**

14) **I John 3:1-2**

A reading from the First Letter of Saint John: 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. **The Word of the Lord.**

15) **I John 3:14-16**

A reading from the First Letter of Saint John: Beloved: We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. **The Word of the Lord.**



Section 3: Prayer of the Faithful / General Intercessions

A reader for the Prayer of the Faithful / General Intercessions
(please select a reader, who is a practicing Catholic; otherwise, the Priest can do this).

The Priest Celebrant will say the Opening Prayer.

Reader: Please respond, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Reader: 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.

Reader: 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.

Reader: 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.

Reader: For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, **[especially, N., N., other family members if you wish]** that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord. R.

Reader: 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.

Reader: 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.

The Priest Celebrant will say the Closing Prayer.

Section 4: Offertory Procession

Usually, two participants bring forward of bread, wine, and before the Eucharistic Prayer begins.

Guidelines for Words of Remembrance

One person may offer Words of Remembrance just prior to the start of the funeral Mass. Eulogies do not take place within the Funeral Mass itself. Eulogies are better presented and encouraged at the Vigil Service, at the Cemetery, or at the Funeral Luncheon.

Words of Remembrance are not required, and they are not encouraged due to the emotional stress of the occasion. If desired, they may be offered by one person only and before the Funeral Mass begins. These Words of Remembrance are not to be a Eulogy. **Words of Remembrance will be permitted only when the criteria below are met and the family has requested a speaker.**

Words of Remembrance in Church, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

- Please inform the Priest Celebrant if someone plans to offer Words of Remembrance. The Words of Remembrance must be written out and presented to the Priest Celebrant ***one day prior*** to the Funeral Liturgy for approval.
    - Words of Remembrance can be emailed to **church@steleanor.com** with the Subject Line: **Words of Remembrance for the Funeral of XX on MM/DD/YYYY**
- Words of Remembrance are to be kept brief. They may extend for up to three minutes but never take any longer. These Words are to be read from a written text, rather than be extemporaneous. These words are read from the cantor's podium.
- The Words of Remembrance must focus on the deceased's belief in God and how his/her faith was lived out in this life. They should also express thanks to the gathered faithful for their presence at the Funeral Liturgy.
- ***The Words must not be a history of the deceased person's life, or a testimonial about the speaker's relationship with the departed. The person delivering the Words should avoid anecdotal or other more "secular" content concerning the life of the deceased, which are better suited for a Eulogy offered at the Funeral Luncheon or Cemetery.*** The point of the Words of Remembrance is to speak of God's glory that shined through the departed, rather than recount a person's life story.



Section 5: Liturgical Music

Six Hymns & Responsorial Psalm (The Parish's Director of Sacred Music will be more than happy to plan the hymn and Responsorial Psalm selections for you. However, if you have any particular hymns you'd like to request, a listing of hymns suitable for the Funeral Mass is below.

Sacred Music for Funeral Mass

The celebration of a Funeral Mass is a sacred moment in the life of the Church, held with deep reverence and care. Music plays an important role in this liturgy, giving voice to our faith in the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life. The following guidelines are offered to help families choose music that reflects the beauty and prayerful spirit of the Church's tradition.

Our Parish Director of Sacred Music, Elizabeth Calabro, is available to accompany you in this process—offering guidance, suggesting appropriate hymns, and answering any questions so that the music of the liturgy is both meaningful and truly prayerful. Elizabeth is also happy to plan the music for you.

Elizabeth Calabro, Director of Sacred Music, ecalabro@steleanor.com

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23 "The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want."

Psalm 27 "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

Psalm 42 "Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.

Psalm 63 "My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God."

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."

Psalm 122 "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Psalm 130 "Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord."

A Note on Hymn Selection

The hymns suggested in this guide have been thoughtfully chosen to reflect the Church's faith in the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life. Rooted in Scripture and tradition, they speak to the hope of eternal life and the mercy of God.

Music within the Mass is not only a reflection of our memories, but a form of prayer for the soul of the deceased and a source of comfort for those who mourn. For this reason, the Church encourages hymns that are reverent, theologically rich, and closely connected to the liturgy.

While many familiar songs hold special meaning, some are better suited to other settings outside of the Mass. The selections offered here are intended to gently guide families toward music that supports the sacred and communal prayer of the Church.

Entrance

Be Thou My Vision
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
For All the Saints
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Communion

Adoro Te Devote
Behold the Lamb
Draw Near
Gift of Finest Wheat
I Received the Living God
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
O Lord, I am Not Worthy
O Sacrament Most Holy
Panis Angelicus
See Us, Lord, About Your Altar
Soul of My Savior
We Remember
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Recessional

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
Abide With Me
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Crown Him with Many Crowns
Dwellers in the Holy City
For All the Saints
I Know that My Redeemer Lives, DUKE STREET
I Know that My Redeemer Lives, Soper
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
Now Thank We All Our God
The Strife is O'er

Preparation of the Altar

Be Still My Soul,
Eye Has Not Seen
Keep in Mind
Lord of All Hopefulness
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
O God, You Search Me
Shepherd of Souls
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Lord is My Hope
The Lord is My Light
Whatsoever You Do

Meditation

Ave Maria
Center of My Life
Go In Peace
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Remember Your Love
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Music Guidelines for Guest Cantors at a Funeral Mass

Families are welcome to invite family members or friends to participate musically in the Funeral Mass. This is often a meaningful way to honor your loved one. Guest musicians may sing a hymn or another appropriate piece at a designated time within the liturgy.

To ensure the integrity and prayerful flow of the Mass, the parish will provide a cantor who is responsible for proclaiming the Responsorial Psalm and leading the sung dialogues and acclamations of the Liturgy of the Eucharist (such as the Gospel Acclamation, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, and Amen).

If a family wishes to invite a cantor from another parish to serve in the role of psalmist, we ask that the cantor provide a letter from their parish music director. This letter should confirm that the individual is a practicing Catholic and actively participates in music ministry at their home parish. This helps ensure that the cantor is experienced in leading liturgical music within the context of the Catholic Mass.

These guidelines are in place to support a prayerful, reverent, and unified celebration of the Funeral Mass. The liturgy includes many coordinated elements, and while the structure of the Mass is universal, each parish may have slight differences in how the liturgy is celebrated. Having designated, experienced ministers help ensure that everything flows smoothly and without distraction, allowing all present to focus on prayer and the sacredness of the Mass.

Section 6: Important Information

Up to five flower arrangements may be brought into the Church. These five pieces are the family flowers. We ask you to consider, in lieu of flowers, to have donations made to the Saint Eleanor Memorial Fund. This will provide a lasting remembrance of your loved one whenever the Liturgy is celebrated at Saint Eleanor Church. During the Lenten Season staff may remove flowers from the church following the funeral.

Important Note

In keeping with current diocesan and parish guidelines, hymns composed by David Haas are not permitted for use in the liturgy. Families are encouraged to choose from the rich tradition of Catholic hymnody, which beautifully reflects the sacred character of the Funeral Mass.

Live streaming may be availible at times but cannot be guaranteed.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the priests at the Parish Office or Elizabeth Calabro, Director of Sacred Music at (610) 489-1647 or ecalabro@steleanor.com.

Saint Eleanor Parish Funeral Liturgy Planning Sheet

Scan the QR code below to fill out online:

Deceased: _____ Age: _____ Date of Death_____

Family Contact *(please state relationships):*_____

Phone Number(s): _____ Cremains ___ Traditional ____

Other immediate family members: _____

Date of Funeral: _____ Funeral Time: _____

Date/ Time of Viewing_____ Viewing Location: _____

Cemetery: _____ Funeral Home: _____

Funeral Director: _____ Phone: _____

Priest Celebrant: _____

Placing of the Pall

As the Liturgy begins, the pall (A large white cloth representing the baptismal garment) will be placed over the casket. Family members are invited to assist in this action. (the white Pall is not used for cremated remains). Please indicate your preference below.

___ Yes, family members will assist in placing the pall ___ No, I would prefer the Funeral Director to place it.

Scripture Reading (chose from booklet) **Please have the reader meet with the priest before Mass.**

First Reading *found on pgs. 2-3,** _____Reader**:_____

E.g. Page 2 #2 Job 19:1,23-27a **E1-E4 additional options during the Easter Season found on pgs. 4-5.*

Responsorial Psalm *(sung) found on pg.12* _____

Second Reading *found on pgs. 5-9*_____Reader**:_____

The Prayer of the Faithful *found on pg. 10* may be said by _____ the Priest or _____ a Reader** *(please check one)*

- A copy will be made available in the church.

Presentation of the Gifts – Offertory Procession**

- *At a funeral mass, two members of the family may assist in bringing forward the gifts of bread and wine for the liturgy of the eucharist. If you wish this, please inform the family members that the gifts will be on the small table toward the back of the church.*

___ yes, family members will bring the gifts forward. ___ no, we do not wish an offertory procession

Hymn Selections

- The parish director of sacred music is happy to plan the hymn selections, however, if you have any hymns you want to request, please indicate them below. Appropriate hymns may be found on pg. 13.

Opening Hymn:_____

Preparation of the Gifts:_____

Communion Hymn:_____

Meditation Hymn: _____

Recessional Hymn:_____

***please note: participants (readers and gift bearers) must be practicing Catholics at a mass.*