

PREPARATION TO CELEBRATE
THE FUNERAL LITURGY

**RETURN, MY SOUL,
TO YOUR REST,
FOR THE LORD HAS
BEEN GOOD TO YOU.
FOR MY SOUL HAS BEEN
FREED FROM DEATH,
MY EYES FROM TEARS,
MY FEET FROM STUMBLING
I SHALL WALK BEFORE
THE LORD IN THE
LAND OF THE LIVING.**

PSALM 116: 7 – 9



OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHURCH

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Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Community wishes to extend our sincere sympathy to you and your family on the death of your loved one. Dealing with death and grief can be very painful no matter how prepared we are. It is hard to make decisions during this emotional time. We wish to assist you as best we can and to make this process as easy as possible.

As you begin to prepare your own funeral or plan for the funeral of a loved one, the information found in this packet will be helpful. As your Catholic faith has guided you through life, it will support and guide you as you now embrace death.

Through its funeral rites, the Church commends the dead to God's merciful love and asks for the forgiveness of their sins and reminds us that God is there for us in times of crisis. We celebrate the funeral Mass for both the dead and the living and comfort them in their grief. God has created each person for eternal life. Death is not the end.

The Process:

Please contact the funeral home of choice immediately upon the death of your loved one. They will assist you in making the necessary arrangements and will contact the church on your behalf.

The funeral Mass at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church is generally held Monday through Saturday. The funeral Mass may not be celebrated on Sundays, Holy Days, or during the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday).

Once the church has been notified, you will meet with Father Michael Pawelko to plan the details of the Liturgy, hear your preferences for readings and music, and share details about your loved one's spiritual life. Family and friends may and should actively participate in the planning as it aids in the grieving process. Father Pawelko in conjunction with the office staff will arrange for the musicians on your behalf.

It is our hope that this booklet and its accompanying information will assist you with whatever questions you may have regarding a Funeral Liturgy before meeting with Father at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.



PREPARATION TO CELEBRATE THE FUNERAL LITURGY

A member of the Office Staff will be contacting you to schedule a meeting with Father Michael Pawelko to plan the Funeral Mass.

In order to prepare for this meeting, we ask that you review this booklet created specifically to help select the Scripture readings and the hymns you wish to be sung at the Liturgy.

We invite you to choose two readings and general intercessions. The first reading from the Old Testament should be selected from the **C readings 1 – 7**. The second reading from the New Testament should be selected from the **E readings 1 – 15**. The General Intercessions should be selected from **A or B**. *In choosing your readings from the funeral packet, you may elect to have one or two family members or guests participate by reading the first, second, and general intercession readings.*

The responsorial psalm is sung by the Cantor and the Gospel is proclaimed by the Priest.

We also invite you to include family members to be gift-bearers in bringing the gifts (bread & wine) to the sanctuary (altar area) prior to the consecration – generally this involves two to four people.

If someone wish to say a Eulogy, please see the guidelines at the second to last page of this packet.

If you wish, you may select four hymns: Entrance, the Preparation, the Communion, and the Recessional. Please review the hymn selections available on the last page.



First Reading

Outside Easter Time

Old Testament

C1 2 Maccabees 12:43–46
He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.

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, 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.

The word of the Lord.

C2 Job 19:1, 23–27a
I know that my Vindicator lives.

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's, shall behold him; And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.



C3 Long version: Wisdom 3:1–9
As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

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.

The word of the Lord.

C3 Short version: Wisdom 3:1–9

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 in the eyes of 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.

First Reading

Outside Easter Time

Old Testament

C4

Wisdom 4:7–15

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

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; For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

The word of the Lord.

C5

Isaiah 25:6a, 7–9

He will destroy death forever.

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.

C6

Lamentations 3:17–26

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

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.

C7

Daniel 12:1–3

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

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.



Second Reading

New Testament

E1 Romans 5:5–11
Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.

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.

E2 Romans 5:17–21
Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.

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 the many were made sinners, 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, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

E3 Long version: Romans 6:3–9
We too might live in newness of life.

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.

E3 Short version: Romans 6:3–4, 8–9

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. 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.



Second Reading

New Testament

E4

Romans 8:14–23

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

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.

E5

Romans 8:31b–35, 37–39

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

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.

E6

Romans 14:7–9, 10c–12

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

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.

E7

Long version: 1 Corinthians 15:20–28

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through 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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and



Second Reading

New Testament

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.

E7 Short version: 1 Corinthians 15:20–23

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through 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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

E8 1 Corinthians 15:51–57

Death is swallowed up in victory.

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.

E9 2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1
What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

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.

E10 2 Corinthians 5:1,6–10

We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

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.



Second Reading

New Testament

E11

Philippians 3:20-21

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

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.

E12

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

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.



E13

2 Timothy 2:8-13

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

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.

E14

1 John 3:1–2

We shall see him as he is.

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.

E15

1 John 3:14-16

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

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.

General Intercession

(Prayer of the Faithful)

A

In baptism _____ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him (her) over the waters of death.

Our brother/sister _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him (her) into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

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.

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.

The family and friends of _____ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister _____. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.

B

For _____ who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he (she) may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

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.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.

For the family and friends of our brother/sister _____, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.



Guidelines for Eulogies

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church does allow Words of Remembrance, also called a eulogy. Of course, a eulogy in church is not required, but for families who wish to honor their loved one in this way, our parish's guidelines for the Words of Remembrance follow:

1. We allow only one eulogy to be read by only one person.
2. The eulogy is to be given before the beginning of the Funeral Mass.
3. The eulogy is to be no longer than five minutes in length.
4. The eulogy should bring out something about your loved one's Faith life.
5. The eulogy must be written out and submitted beforehand to the parish office for review and approval. Failure to do so may mean that a eulogy in church will not be allowed.

We, the parish family of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, will continue to pray for you and the happy repose of the soul of your loved one.



Choosing Songs for a Funeral Mass

You may choose the 4 hymns that are sung for Gathering, Presentation of the Gifts, Communion, and Sending For OR you can allow the cantor to choose for you. (Also, an optional Meditation Hymn can be sung after Communion)

If you decide to choose hymns, it is not necessary for you to decide when each hymn should be sung. Simply let us know the hymns you like and we can determine when they are sung.

Below are some suggestions of hymns that are frequently used for funeral masses but feel free to suggest another hymn that may have special meaning for your family and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Hymns

Be Not Afraid (Dufford)
Blest Are They (Haas)
Go In Peace (Hart/Liles)
How Great Thou Art (Hinley) (vs. 4 is especially beautiful for funerals)
I Have Loved You (Joncas)
I Know That My Redeemer Lives (Soper)
On Eagle's Wings (Joncas)
Only In God (Talbot)
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Prayer of St. Francis
You Are Mine (Haas) (vs. 4 is especially beautiful for funerals)
You Are Near (Schutte)

The following hymns are especially appropriate as a Communion Hymn (we suggest that if you decide to choose from this list, choose only 1)

- Gift of Finest Wheat (Bicentennial)
- One Bread, One Body (Foley)
- Panis Angelicus (Solemnis)
- Ubi Caritas (Chant or Hurd)
- I Am the Bread of Life (Toolan)
- One Love Released (Frenzel & Keil)
- The Supper of the Lord (Rosania)

If a Meditation hymn is desired

- Ave Maria (Schubert)
- Hail Mary: Gentle Woman (Landry)
- Pie Jesu (Faure)
- Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled
- Our Lady of Knock

