

FUNERAL MASS PLANNING GUIDE



St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

**524 N. Rush Street
Itasca, Illinois 60143
630-773-1272
stpeteritasca.com**

FUNERAL MASS PLANNING

The Catholic wake, funeral Mass, and committal service set us on a path to true healing, wholeness, peace, and eternal life. Father Noesen, the parish staff, and parishioners at St. Peter the Apostle Parish are prepared to offer assistance as you face the death of a loved one. At the time of death, family members and friends often feel overwhelmed with the details related to the funeral. Know that we are ready to organize and provide for all of your funeral arrangements.

The first thing to do is contact the funeral home of your choice to begin making arrangements.

The funeral home staff will then contact the parish to coordinate the arrangements. Saint Peter the Apostle Church follows the Rite of Christian Burial. It is the responsibility of the parish to bury their dead. Funerals are on Mondays through Saturdays and are ordinarily celebrated at 10:00 am. According to Diocesan policy, if family members wish to offer eulogies, they should do so during the wake. The General Instruction for the Universal Church #382 states: "At the funeral Mass there should, as a rule, be a short homily, but never a eulogy." Please keep in mind that the Mass is the Mass, and a eulogy does not belong at that sacred time. Besides the wake, families have more appropriate places and opportunities to offer eulogies such as at the burial, and/or meal or gathering after the funeral. These times and places are more appropriate opportunities for family and friends to share what are mostly secular and personal remembrances of their loved one. Additionally, more time is then available for more than one presenter. Saint Peter the Apostle Parish will adhere to this instruction.

Below are opportunities for family and friends to participate in the Funeral Mass:

1. The family can place the PALL on the casket as it is brought into the church, a reminder of the deceased's baptism into Christ.
2. The family can choose the First Reading from the Old Testament (section C readings 1-7 in *Through Death to Life*). A family member or friend may read this scripture passage.
3. The family can choose the Second Reading from the New Testament (section E readings 1-15 in *Through Death to Life*). A family member or friend may read this scripture passage.
4. The family can choose a set of intercession (section H, sets 1-7 in *Through Death to Life*). A family member or friend may read these petitions and the prayers may be edited to include other specific names or concerns.
5. At the Preparation of Gifts, the family may bring up the offerings of bread and wine. This will require *Through Death to Life* two people but can be more.
6. After communion, there is a pause for meditation. This time may be observed with a moment of silence, or an additional piece of sacred music.
7. The family can choose 5-6 pieces of sacred music to be played during the funeral mass. A list of most frequently chosen funeral music and the guidelines regarding funeral music are included below.

FUNERAL MUSIC

Because the "Funeral Mass" is a public act of worship of the church, the Rite of Christian Funerals dictates that we use sacred music for the funeral liturgy. Hymns should reflect our faith in God and the themes of resurrection and hope. An extensive list of most frequently requested funeral music is provided to the family for consideration. Any selection from our hymnal would also be appropriate. In the Dioceses of Joliet, and in keeping with the directives of the Rites, secular music is not allowed at funeral masses. Popular music can be played at the funeral home during the wake or at the wake prayer service. Most funeral homes have their own sound system available for their patrons.

The Liturgy/Music staff can assist in choosing music and placing your choices at appropriate spots in the funeral liturgy.

SACRED MUSIC FOR FUNERAL LITURGIES/MEMORIAL MASSES

Gathering or Closing Songs

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	#687
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus	#949
Amazing Grace	#645
Be Not Afraid	#683
Christ Be Our Light	#590
Faith of Our Fathers (A Living Faith)	#677
For All the Saints	#884
Here I Am Lord	#777
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	#615
How Can I Keep From Singing	#685
How Great Thou Art	#578
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	#614
Let There Be Peace on Earth	#829
Morning Has Broken	#855
Now Thank We All Our God	#636
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	#688
On Eagle's Wings	#691
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	#712
We Remember	#681

Preparation and Communion

All Who Hunger	#852
Behold the Lamb	#939
Blest Are They	#735
Eye Has Not Seen	#728
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman	#889
Hosea	#484
I Am the Bread of Life	#945
I Have Loved You	#588
I Know that My Redeemer Lives	#972
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	#724
Like A Shepherd	#402
Lord of All Hopefulness	#663
Make Me A Channel of Your Peace	#828
One Bread, One Body	#932
Peace Be with Those	#975
Peace Is Flowing Like A River	#819
The Hand of God Shall Hold You	#981
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	#712
You Are Mine	#721
You Are Near	#695

Psalms

Ps. 16 Shelter Me, O God	#717
Ps. 16 Keep Me Safe, O God	#29
Ps. 23 Shepherd Me, O God	#35
Ps. 25 To You, O Lord	#39
Ps. 27 The Lord Is My Light	#41
Ps. 33 Let Your Mercy Be on Us	#44
Ps. 34 Taste and See	#45
Ps. 63 My Soul Is Thirsting	#55
Ps. 103 The Lord Is Kind and Merciful	#72/75

Meditation Song after Communion

(optional selection or musician's choice)

Ave Maria	Schubert
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Songs for Incensing of the Casket

(optional selection or musician's choice)

Jesus, Remember Me	#510
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FUNERAL LITURGY OUTLINE

Date of Funeral:

☐ Casket ☐ Urn w/Ashes

Name/Age of Deceased:

Presider:

Gathering Song:

#

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:

C

Read by

Responsorial Psalm (song):

#

Second Reading:

E

Read by

Gospel:

Presider's choice

General Intercessions:

Set # H

Read by

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Gathering Song:

#

Presentation of Gifts:

#

Gift bearers

Communion Song:

#

Meditation (optional):

Ave Maria (or musician's choice)

#

(This may be a moment of silence or an appropriate song or hymn)

Song of Commendation:

#

Recessional:

#

Eulogy:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Musicians:

Deacon Fred Maier cell: 630-361-4068

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