



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE FOREVER
- John 6:51

A Guide to Selecting Options for a Funeral Mass.

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The parish family of St. Julie Billiart offer you our sympathy, prayers and guidance as you mourn the loss of your loved one.

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Ordinarily, the Order of Christian Funerals is composed of three movements:

1. Vigil Prayer Service at the Funeral Home
2. Mass of Christian Burial (Funeral Mass) at Church
3. Committal at the Final Resting Place

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Families are encouraged to participate in the planning of the Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated for their loved one.

We hope you will find this guide helpful as you begin to select Sacred Readings, Lectors, Gift Bearers and Sacred Music.

Our Pastoral Associate will contact you to make an appointment to meet and discuss various choices for the Funeral Mass. Please review this booklet in preparation.

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The other two movements of prayer, the Prayer Vigil and the Committal (Burial) can be planned by the priest or presiding minister in consultation with the family of the deceased.

The Mass of Christian Burial

Introductory Rites

When the body of the deceased is present:

Father Roy or a visiting priest will greet the family at the entrance of the church. He will sprinkle the casket with Holy Water after which a Pall (a white covering) will be placed over the casket. Both the Holy Water and the Pall are symbols of Christian Baptism.

Would you like the family members or the funeral directors to place the Pall on the Casket?

A religious object, such as a Crucifix or a Bible, may be placed on top of the Pall. Would you like to do this?



When the ashes of the deceased are present instead of the body:

A small table will be placed in front of the sanctuary in the place normally occupied by the casket.

The vessel containing the cremated remains may be carried in procession by the family or funeral director or placed on the table before the liturgy begins.

Carried by the family _____

Carried by the funeral director _____

Placed on the table before the liturgy begins _____

The Liturgy of the Word

Four readings from Sacred Scripture will be proclaimed.

1. A reading from the **Old Testament** - see pages 5 - 9.
2. A response, in the form of a **Psalm**, follows the first reading. Typically, the Psalm is sung. A list of Psalms is included in the music section of this book – see pages 21-22.
3. A reading from the **New Testament** - see pages 10 - 15.

You may invite a family member or friend of the deceased to proclaim either the first or second reading. This person should be a baptized Christian. Saint Julie's is happy to provide one of our Parish Lectors to proclaim the readings, if you prefer.

First Reading _____ read by _____

Second Reading _____ read by _____

4. The Gospel, is chosen and proclaimed by the priest.

The Homily follows the readings and is given by the priest or deacon. If you have any particular suggestions to offer about your loved one's life and faith please share them when you come to your funeral planning appointment.

The homily focuses on God's compassionate love and on the Easter Mystery of death leading to resurrection.

Suggestions: _____

Old Testament Readings

There is an appointed time for all things.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to give birth, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.

The word of the Lord.

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

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Omit the words in bolded brackets [] for the short form of this reading.

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.

Wisdom 4:7-11, 13-14

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just person, though death comes 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 venerable crown,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;
this person who lived among us was transported.

Having become accomplished in a short time,
the just person reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.

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.

Isaiah 40: 1-2a, 28-29, 31

Hope in the Lord will bring comfort.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service has ended...

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is God from of old, creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny. He gives power to the faint, abundant strength to the weak.

They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

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

We too might live in newness of life.

Omit the words in bolded brackets [] for the short form of this reading.

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.

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

The word of the Lord.

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.

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:

Knowing 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.

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.

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.

2 Timothy 2:3-13

Those who die with Christ will live with Christ

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.

Prayer of the Faithful

The Prayer of the Faithful follows the homily. *Select one intention from each of the groups below.* We are able to adapt these prayers to reflect the particular circumstances.

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.

In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

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

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 all people who mourn, may they find consolation and peace in God through those around them.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

For all family members and friends of N. May they experience the strength of our faith in the resurrection of Christ.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

For our relatives and friends, that have helped N. and his/her family, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

For all who supported N's family during his/her time of illness, that they may know our gratitude and be blessed for their kindness.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

For all health care professionals who cared for N. during his/her time of illness (or in his/her later years), that they may be blessed for their kindness and compassion, and that they may know fulfillment in their vocations.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

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For the many friends and members of our families who 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.

For the deceased relatives and friends of N., especially \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ,  
that they may share in eternal life with the resurrected Christ.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

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

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

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

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

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

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

For all of us who gather here today to remember our brother/sister N., that we support one another in prayer and concern.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

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**Additional intentions:**

For all of us today; that as we remember the joy of having N. in our lives, we take the values he/she embodied as we let his/her legacy live on in us.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

For all teachers, that through their dedication and skill they may inspire in their students a love of learning so that they may achieve their God-given potential.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

For all military personnel, that God may protect them from all harm and bring them home to their families safely and soon.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

For all police officers (firefighters or first responders) who work to protect our communities and keep them safe from harm.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

For the many people who die by violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord hear our prayer.

Other suggested intentions:

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**Offertory procession:**

One or two people, or the funeral director, may be designated by the family to carry the gifts of bread and wine, to the priest.

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**Words of Remembrance:**

There are many ways to celebrate a loved one's life. Sharing stories is one of them. From the time when you learned of your loved one's death you and others likely began to share stories that honor their memory. There are several ways to continue.

**Vigil Service (Wake) or at the receptions after the burial.**

This provides many individuals an opportunity to share memories with one another. You may consider appointing a specific period for sharing stories or make sharing stories a part of the prayer service (wake).

This option is best suited for stories that make us laugh and cry, recounting the person's history, as well as providing a glimpse into the person themselves.

**At the conclusion of the Funeral Liturgy**

At times there can be some confusion about the purpose of offering Words of Remembrance. What follows will be helpful:

Words of Remembrance are not required, as the priest gives a homily. Some priests / parishes no longer permit them at church.

These remarks should be no longer than 1-2 minutes, which is equal to about one page double spaced. A copy of the written text must be provided to the parish 24hrs before the Mass

Only one person is permitted to speak. Remarks should be brief and well prepared. This is a time to share examples of how the deceased showed love or was a model of faith. You may also thank people at this time for their support and attendance.

## Music

This section will guide you as you select Liturgical Music for your loved one's Funeral Mass. Requests for exceptions to this list must be in keeping with the purpose of the Funeral Liturgy and be approved by the Parish Music Director in conjunction with the presiding priest.

There are five places in the Mass where music choices can be made: Entrance /Closing, Psalm, Offertory/Communion Hymns.

### ENTRANCE / CLOSING HYMNS

- # 658 Softly And Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
- # 461 Eye Has Not Seen
- # 467 The King Of Love My Shepard Is
- # 462 I Heard The Voice Of Jesus
- # 456 You Are Mine
- # 688 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- # 455 There Is A Balm In Gilead
- # 629 Blest Are They
- # 611 Sing With All The Saints In Glory
- # 570 I Know That My Redeemer Lives!
- # 432 Amazing Grace
- # 666 Hosea
- # 332 Song of the Body of Christ
- # 434 You are Near
- # 463 Fly Like a Bird
- # 424 How Great Thou Art
- # 441 How Can I Keep From Singing
- # 723 For All the Saints
- # 434 Only In God
- # 954 Soon And Very Soon
- All I Ask of You (closing)
- # 626 Eternal Father, Strong To Save (closing)
- # 627 America the Beautiful – (closing)
- The Battle Hymn of the Republic – (closing)

### PSALMS

- # 742/743 The Lord Is My Shepherd – Psalm 23
- # 457 Shepherd Me, O God – Psalm 23

- # 52 The Cry Of The Poor - Psalm 34
- # 802 This Is The Day - Psalm 118
- # 765 Like A Deer – Psalm 42/43
- # 465 Because the Lord is My Shepherd - based on Psalm 23
- # 436 On Eagles Wings – based on Psalm 91
- # 750/751 The Lord is My Light – based on Psalm 27
- # 746 To You O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul – Psalm 25
- # 794 The Lord is Kind and Merciful – Psalm 794

#### PREPARATION OF GIFTS

- # 378 Here I Am, Lord
- # 431 Be Not Afraid
- # 609 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
- # 402 Lord of all Hopefulness
- # 473 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- # 636 Morning Has Broken
- # 709 O God Almighty Father
- # 535 O God Beyond All Praising
- # 704 Ave Maria
- # 705 Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
- # 523 Prayer of St. Francis

#### COMMUNION HYMNS

- # 351 Supper of the Lord
- # 461 Eye Has Not Seen
- # 658 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
- # 688 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- # 629 Blest Are They
- # 431 Be Not Afraid
- # 494 We Remember
- # 456 You Are Mine
- # 323 Gift Of Finest Wheat
- # 193 Holy God
- # 363/370 I Am The Bread Of Life
- # 588 Let All Things Now Living
- # 196 Now Thank We All Our God
- # 755 There's A Wideness

## **After the Funeral Mass**

### **Burial:**

Typically, either the Pastor or Pastoral Associate will accompany you to the place where your loved one's body or ashes will rest.

If the burial is out of town, the funeral director will help you to find someone to say the Prayers of Committal at the graveside.

If the burial is to take place at a future date, please call the parish office to request the Pastor or Pastoral Associate conduct the Prayers of Committal.

### **Mass of Remembrance:**

Each year, on or close to the Feast of All Souls, the parish family of St. Julie's celebrates a Mass of Remembrance for all those who have gone home to God that year. The names of those who have died since that last Mass of Remembrance are read aloud. Light refreshments are served in the Parish Center following the Mass.

An invitation will be sent to one family member of the deceased. They are welcome to extend this invitation to others who would like to attend this Mass. Who should we address this invitation to? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Bereavement:**

The church offers opportunities for grief support throughout the year. Please contact the Pastor or Pastoral Associate for suggestions. We are also available to meet with you should the need arise. Our parish library offers several titles on grief and healing after loss.

Be assured of our prayers for your loved one, family and yourself during this time. We pray that you will sense God drawing near.

## **Prayers that may be said during the wake and burial.**

*You and your family will want to become familiar with these prayers.*

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord;  
let them rest from their labors for their good  
deeds go with them.

**V/.** Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

**R/.** And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

**V/.** May he/she rest in peace.

**R/.** Amen.

**V/.** May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful  
departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**R/.** Amen.

