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**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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## **FUNERAL PLANNING**

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### **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH**

#### **THE FUNERAL LITURGY**

*"Jesus, remember me when you come into  
your kingdom."*



# HYMNS

## POPULAR SUGGESTIONS

### COMMUNION

Ave Maria  
Blest are They  
Eat This Bread  
Eye Has Not Seen  
I Am the Bread of Life  
On Eagle's Wings  
One Bread, One Body  
Take and Eat  
Taste and See  
The Supper of the Lord  
We Remember  
You are Mine  
You are Near  
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

### CLOSING

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (not in Lent)  
Amazing Grace  
Be Not Afraid  
How Great Thou Art  
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
Jerusalem, My Destiny  
Jesus, Remember Me  
Let There Be Peace on Earth  
Lift High the Cross  
Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
Sing with All the Saints in Glory  
Soon and Very Soon  
We Shall Rise Again

## HYMNS

### POPULAR SUGGESTIONS

#### OPENING

All Creatures of Our God and King  
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (not in Lent)  
    Amazing Grace  
    Be Not Afraid  
    Blest Are They  
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say  
I Know that My Redeemer Lives  
Jerusalem, My Happy Home  
    Here I Am, Lord  
    On Eagle's Wings  
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis)  
    You Are Mine  
    You Are Near

#### PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

    Amazing Grace  
    Ave Maria  
    Eye Has Not Seen  
Hail Mary: Gentle Woman  
    Hosea  
    I Have Loved You  
    I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say  
    I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis)  
    The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
    We Have Been Told  
    You Are Mine  
    You Are Near

## FUNERAL LITURGY

### INTRODUCTION

The death and burial of Christians have always had a deeply religious and spiritual meaning. Inspired by the description of the burial and resurrection of the Lord in the Gospels, the early church buried its dead with proper care, reverence and prayer. The celebration of the Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. The funeral rites remind us all of God's mercy and judgment and the human need to turn always to God in times of crisis.

The major funeral rites of the Catholic Church are divided into three groups: the Vigil (Wake), Funeral Liturgy and the Rite of Committal (Burial).

All three of these rites are intended to be celebrated. After notifying the church that a family member has died, a member of our Ministry of Consolation team will contact you to assist you in planning the Funeral Liturgy. This planning is done in coordination with the funeral home as well as the schedule of the priest and chapel or church availability.

### VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED (WAKE)

The vigil for the deceased is celebrated by the Christian community following death, but before the funeral liturgy, often on the evening before the funeral liturgy. The vigil may be celebrated in the family home or in the funeral home. Typically, a Deacon will preside over the vigil service.

The vigil service includes readings from sacred Scripture, psalms and prayer. The Deacon will offer a brief homily/reflection. The vigil service is the time for family and friends to offer stories, reflections and eulogies on the life of the deceased. Devotional prayers, such as the rosary, may be said, but these prayers do not replace the vigil service.

## FUNERAL LITURGY

Christians celebrate the funeral rite to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God. The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the central liturgical celebration for the deceased. Through the Holy Spirit, the community is joined together in faith as one Body in Christ to reaffirm in word and gesture, that through baptism, we share in Christ's death and resurrection. As Christians, we look forward to the day when all the elect will be raised up and united in the kingdom of God.

The funeral liturgy is celebrated on or before the day of committal (burial) and takes place in the parish church. The tradition of the Church has always been the celebration of the Mass with the body present. If the body is to be cremated, it is preferred that Mass be celebrated prior to cremation. While it is preferred that Mass be celebrated with the body present, Mass may also be celebrated with the cremains present. It is required to have either the body or the cremains present for the funeral liturgy.

### RITE OF COMMITTAL (BURIAL)

The Rite of Committal takes place beside the open grave or place of internment as soon as possible after the Funeral Mass. Although brief, this Rite assists the bereaved at this most difficult time.

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

### ROMANS 14: 7-9, 10C-12

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

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.

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

### ROMANS 8: 14-23

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

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.

## FUNERAL LITURGY

### CREMATION

The Church prefers that the body of the deceased be present for the Funeral Rite. However, if cremation is chosen and takes place immediately after death, the cremated remains must be brought into the church for the celebration of the Funeral Liturgy.

### FINAL DISPOSITION

The final disposition of the body or cremated remains should always reflect the Christian belief in the resurrection of the body and the respect afforded to the human body, even after death. The Church recommends the burial or entombment occur without delay.

Cremated remains are to be placed in an urn or other suitable container and either buried in the ground or at sea, or entombed in a columbarium. Each urn is to contain the remains of only one person. The remains are not to be divided. Cremated remains may not be scattered or kept in the home of a relative or friend. Catholics are strongly encouraged to be buried or entombed in a Catholic Cemetery or in the Catholic Section of a non-Catholic Cemetery.

## PLANNING

Family and friends come together in the parish chapel or church to celebrate the funeral liturgy. Funerals may be celebrated on any day except: Holy Days of Obligation, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. The Diocese of Orlando does not permit the celebration of funerals on Sunday. The parish, in consultation with the family and Funeral Director, determines the appropriate time for the Funeral.

Family members of the deceased are encouraged to assist in the preparation of the Liturgy. by placing the Pall, presenting the bread and wine to be used in the Eucharist, and reading the Scriptures during the Liturgy.

While covering the casket with the American flag is a time honored tradition for service men and women, during the Funeral Liturgy the casket is covered with the Funeral Pall which represents the white garment of baptism.

A member of our Ministry of Consolation team will assist the family in preparing and planning the funeral liturgy and will also assist with the placement of flowers in the chapel.

### MUSIC

Sacred Music for the Funeral Liturgy should contain text that speaks of Resurrection, comfort, hope, eternal life and the Kingdom of God.

Any selection not on the list must be approved by the Director of Music and Liturgy. Hymns with an “alleluia” may not be used during the Lenten Season. Secular and taped music are not permitted during the Liturgy.

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

### ROMANS 5: 5-11

*Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.*

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.

### ROMANS 6: 3-4, 8-9

*Death no longer has power over him.*

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.



## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

### REVELATION 14: 13 \*

*Blessed are the Dead who die in the Lord.*

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."

### REVELATION 21: 1-5A, 6B-7 \*

*There shall be no more death.*

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."

\* = *during the Easter Season, this reading is used as a First Reading.*

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

*Please choose one Old Testament Reading:*

### JOB 19: 1, 23-27A

*I know that my Vindicator lives.*

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.

### ISAIAH 43: 1-4

*I have called you by name: you are mine.*

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you. For I, the Lord, am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior. I give Egypt as ransom for you, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you and nations in exchange for your life.

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

### WISDOM 3: 1-6, 9

*As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

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.

### WISDOM 4: 7-15

*An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.*

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.

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

### 1 THESSALONIANS 4: 13-18

*Thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

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.

### 2 TIMOTHY 4: 7-8

*I have kept the faith.*

I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.



## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

### 2 CORINTHIANS 4: 14 - 5:1

*What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.*

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.

### 1 JOHN 3: 14-16

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

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.

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

### ISAIAH 25: 6A, 7-9

*He will destroy death forever.*

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!"

### LAMENTATIONS : 17-26

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

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.

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

### **ECCLESIASTES 3: 1-11**

*He has made everything appropriate to its time.*

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every thing under the heavens. A time to be born, 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. What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task that God has appointed for the sons of men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without man's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

### **DANIEL 12: 1-3**

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

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.

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

*Please choose one New Testament Reading:*

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15: 20-23**

*So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.*

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.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 15: 51-57**

*Death is swallowed up in victory.*

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.

## PSALMS

7.

**Psalm 116**

**I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.**

How gracious is the Lord, and just;  
our God has compassion;  
The Lord protects the simple;  
I was brought low, and he saved me.

**I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said,  
“I am sorely afflicted,”  
And when I said in my alarm,  
“These people are all liars.”

**I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.**

How precious in the eyes of the Lord  
Is the death of his faithful.  
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I,  
You have loosened my bonds.

8.

**Psalm 122**

**Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

I rejoiced because they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”  
And now are feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

**Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together  
It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord.

**Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

For Israel’s witness it is to praise the name of the Lord.  
There were set the thrones for judgment,  
The thrones of the house of David.

## PSALMS

*Please choose one Psalm to be sung by the Cantor:*

1.

**Psalm 23**

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want;  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love;  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul;  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth;  
my spirit shall sing the music of your name.

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are at my side;  
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

2.

**Psalm 25**

**To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

Lord, make me know your ways,  
teach me your paths and keep me in the way of your  
truth,  
for you are God, my Savior.

**To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

For the Lord is good and righteous,  
revealing the way to those who wander,  
gently leading the poor and the humble.

**To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

To the ones who seek the Lord,  
Who look to God’s word, who live God’s love,  
God will always be near, and will show them mercy.

## PSALMS

3.

Psalm 27

**The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
of whom should I be afraid?**

The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom should I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
Before whom should I shrink?

**The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
of whom should I be afraid?**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord; for this I long:  
To dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
of whom should I be afraid?**

I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land  
of the living;  
hope in God, and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord

4.

Psalm 63

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

O God, you are my God whom I seek;  
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts  
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

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

Thus have I gazed toward you in your holy place  
to see your power and your glory.  
Your kindness is a greater good than life;  
my lips shall glorify you.

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

Thus will I bless you while I live;  
Lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.  
As with a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,  
with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

## PSALMS

5.

Psalm 91

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble, be with me,  
Lord, I pray.**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Most High, who abide in the shadow of our God,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge and fortress,  
the God in whom I trust."

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble, be with me,  
Lord, I pray.**

No evil shall befall you, no pain come near,  
for the angels stand close by your side,  
guarding you always and caring you gently,  
watching over your life.

**Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble, be with me,  
Lord, I pray.**

Those who cling to the Lord live secure in God's love,  
lifted high, those who trust in God's name, call on the  
Lord who will never forsake you.  
God will bring you salvation and joy.

6.

Psalm 103

**The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all my being bless God's  
name;  
bless the Lord, and forget not God's benefits.

**The Lord is kind and merciful.**

God pardons all your iniquities, and comforts your  
sorrows,  
redeems your life from destruction and crowns you with  
kindness.

**The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Merciful, merciful, and gracious is our God;  
slow to anger, abounding in kindness.