

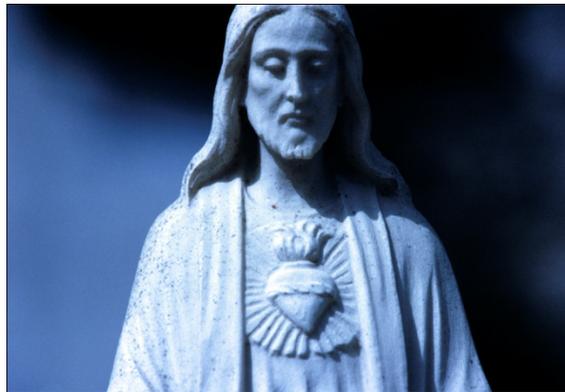
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF BILLERICA

Saint Andrew, Saint Mary, Saint Theresa of Lisieux Parishes

Guide for the Funeral Liturgy Planning

“Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended”

PREFACE OF CHRISTIAN DEATH I, ROMAN MISSAL



“To everything there is a season . . . and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

*A time to be born, and a time to die . . . a time to heal . . . a time to weep,
and a time to morn . . . ”*

ECCLESIASTES, CHAPTER 3

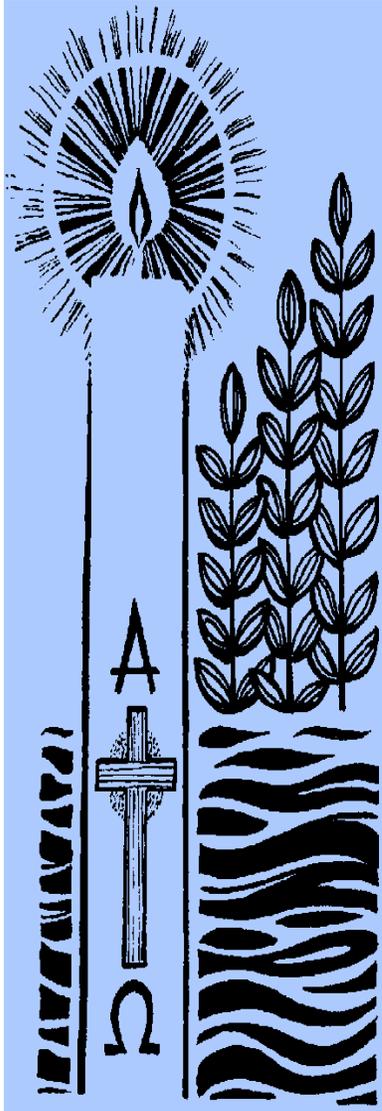
The Catholic Community of Billerica shares in your grief as you suffer the loss of a loved one. The prayers and support of the collaborative parishes are with you at this difficult time.

The Church’s prayer in the Rite of Christian Burial focuses our attention on the mystery of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the promise that we, too, and your loved one, are called to share in that gift of new and everlasting life. It is a time in which the Lord gives us comfort, healing, and peace.

In order to assist you in planning the Funeral Liturgy, here are some thoughts and guidelines.

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The Funeral Liturgy

The Funeral Liturgy comprises of three parts:

- Vigil**, (usually the afternoon before the Funeral)
- Funeral Mass** or (**Funeral Liturgy of the Word only**)
- Commendation at the cemetery**

The normal context for the Rite of Christian Burial or *Funeral Liturgy is within a Mass*. Every Catholic person has a right to the Funeral Liturgy by the fact that they are baptized. The Funeral Liturgy is the prayer of the Church, the people of God, for the person who has died. The proper place for this to take place is in the church building where the community gathers for prayer. During Holy Days of Obligation and the Easter Triduum, only the Liturgy of the Word is celebrated. A regular Mass is not permitted.

Or, if you feel that the Funeral Mass is not proper at this time, arrangements may also be made for the Funeral Liturgy without a Mass to be celebrated at the church.

Family members are encouraged to play an active role in the Funeral Liturgy. This includes choosing the Scripture Readings and music, placing the Pall on the casket, bringing forward the Gifts of Bread and Wine.

Placing the Pall: The funeral pall is a white cover draped over the casket at the beginning of the Funeral Mass. The immediate family usually unfolds the pall over the casket after the casket is blessed by the priest. The pall reminds us of the white garment given to us at our Baptism. It symbolizes our new life in Christ.

Scripture Readings & Masses for the Dead

The Word of God brings hope and consolation. You may choose one or two scripture readings for the Funeral Mass from the selections offered in this book. Traditionally, if two scripture readings are chosen, one is from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If there is only one reading, it can be chosen from either the Old or New Testament. Family members and friends are encouraged to proclaim the readings. If no one from the family is available to proclaim the Readings, then a parish lector will be assigned. Remember proclaiming the Readings is done slowly and carefully from the ambo.

Presentation of Gifts

The Church welcomes a family member(s) or friend(s) (up to 4 people) to bring forward the Gift of Bread and Wine that will be used in the celebration of Mass.

Music

Music in worship affects our feelings and our prayers. Often it gives expression to our inner thoughts and feelings. Music is an integral part of the Funeral Liturgy. We sing the Liturgy. It is important that the music for the Funeral Liturgy be sacred and taken from the standard repertoire of the Church. Popular non-religious songs are not appropriate at this time. The best time to use other music is at the Funeral Home during the Wake service or at the grave site. You are asked to choose music which reflects our faith and hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

While such songs as *Danny Boy* and *Wind Beneath My Wings* are beautiful and remind us our loved one, they do not fit into the Funeral Mass. If you have any questions regarding the appropriateness of a song, please feel free to speak with the person that will be assisting you in the planning the Funeral Liturgy.

Outside musicians are welcomed to assist in the Liturgy. However, the resident music ministry will lead all aspects of the Funeral Liturgy. The outside musician can sing or play a meditation song. This needs the approval of the Director of Worship.

Words of Remembrance

The guidelines for a WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE are set forth by the Archdiocese of Boston. "One speaker who is chosen by the family may offer not more than a five minute remembrance of the deceased at the Funeral Liturgy." The remarks should be typed out and focus on the person's faith life and how it influenced the family. Individual personal stories, about the person, are shared during the Wake service, at the burial place, or afterwards at a meal.

The Words of Remembrance are not required, nor is it expected that a family member or family friend speak at the Funeral Liturgy. The Words of Remembrance are an option at the Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy.

The Words of Remembrance will take near the end of Mass, following the Prayer After Communion.

Cremation

It has long been the tradition of the Church to pray the Funeral Liturgy in the presence of the body and to bury the body in a cemetery to await the day of resurrection. The body, regarded as the temple of the Holy Spirit and the vessel through which God gives us life, is to be afforded respect even in death.

It is possible to bring the cremated remains into the Church for the Funeral Liturgy. While cremation is permitted for various reasons, it is preferable to wait until after the Funeral Liturgy to have the body cremated.

Spiritual Bouquet

Spiritual Bouquet is an enrollment given to the family for Masses to be celebrated in memory of the deceased person in the parishes of Billerica.

A Mass Card is given to the family for a scheduled or non-scheduled Mass at that parish.

Funeral Flowers in the Church

The Church welcomes the family to adorn the church's sanctuary with flowers. During the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent, flowers are removed after the Funeral Mass.

Readings I from the Old Testament

1. He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view. 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, 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.

2. I know that my Vindicator lives. 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 what 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.

3. As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

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 it 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.

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

4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he dies 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 perverts 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.

5. He will destroy death forever.

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

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

12:1-3

A reading from the Book of 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 and 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.

Readings I from the New Testament-During the Easter Season

1. He is the one appointed by God as judge of the Living and the dead.

10:34-43

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.

2. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

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.

3. The dead were judged according to their deeds.

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.

4. There shall be no more death.

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.

Readings II from the New Testament

1. Since we are now justified by His Blood, we will be saved through Him from the wrath. 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 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. Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more. 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 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.

3. We too might live in newness of life. 6:3-9

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. 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.

4. We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 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. What will separate us from the love of Christ? 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 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.

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

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

15:20-28

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 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 this 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.

8. Death is swallowed up in victory.

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.

9. What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is Eternal.

4:14-15:1

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.

10. We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

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

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. Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

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.

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

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. We shall see him as he is.

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

3:12-16

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.

Music Selections

ENTRANCE SONG

Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Faith of Our Fathers
Joyful, Joyful We Adore You
Lift High The Cross
Like A Shepherd
Morning Has Broken
Prayer of St. Francis
We Gather Together

ADVENT TIME

O Come O Come Emmanuel

CHRISTMAS TIME

Angels We Have Heard On High
Away In a Manger
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Joy To The World
O Come All Ye Faithful
Silent Night
What Child Is This?

EASTER TIME

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

PSALM

Psalm 23 The Lord Is My Shepherd
Psalm 25 To You O Lord I Lift Up My Soul
Psalm 27 The Lord Is My Light And Salvation
Psalm 34 Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord
Psalm 51 Be Merciful O Lord
Psalm 63 My Soul Is Thirsting for You, O Lord, Thirsting for You My God
Psalm 91 Be With Me Lord
Psalm 103 The Lord Is Kind and Merciful
Psalm 116 I Will Walk in the Presence of the Lord

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Blest Are They
Come To Me
Eye Has Not Seen
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
I Have Loved You
Now We Remain
On Eagles Wings
Only This I Want
One Love Release
Shelter Me, O God
We Have Been Told
We Remember
We Walk By Faith
You Are Mine
You Are Near

COMMUNION

Eat This Bread
Gift Of Finest Wheat
I Am the Bread of Life
Take and Eat
Taste and See
One Bread, One Body
Song of the Body of Christ
Spirit and Grace
The Supper of the Lord

MEDITATION

Ave Maria
An Old Irish Blessing

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF REST

Alleluia, Sing To Jesus (except during Lent)
America
America The Beautiful
Be Not Afraid
Eternal Father- Navy Hymn
Holy God We Praise Thy Name
How Great Thou Art
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (except during Lent)
On Eagles Wings
To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King

LENT TIME

Hosea
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
The Glory of These 40 Days