"*I am the resurrection and the life;*
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."
(John 11:25)

A Guide to Selecting Options for a Funeral Mass

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The parish family of St. Julie Billiart offers 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 parts:

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

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Families are encouraged to participate in planning 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 moments 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:

The 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?

_____

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When the cremated remains 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 _____
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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 10-16)

You may invite a family member or friend of the deceased to proclaim the first and/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. The homily focuses on God's merciful love and on the mystery of Christ's victory over death and His resurrection to new life.

If you have any particular information to offer about your loved one's life and faith, please share this when you come to your funeral planning appointment.

Suggestions:_____
_____
_____

Old Testament Readings

Job 19:1, 23-27a
I know that my Redeemer lives.

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered 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.

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 4:7-15

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.

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.

Lamentations 3:17-26

It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Romans 5:5-11
Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.

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.

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 groan as we wait for 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.

Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12
Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

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.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23
All people will be brought to life in Christ.

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 human being,
the resurrection of the dead came also
through a human being.
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.

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.

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 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 and is usually read by the priest. In addition to the standard prayers, the following may be added upon request.

For our relatives and friends who have helped N. and his/her family, that they may be rewarded by God for 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.

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.

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.

_____, _____

Music

Music selections for the Funeral Mass may be chosen from the lists provided below. There are five places in the Mass where music choices can be made: Entrance/Closing, Psalm, Offertory/Communion Hymns.

ENTRANCE / OFFERTORY/CLOSING HYMNS

Here I am Lord
Be Not Afraid
Amazing Grace
Seek Ye First
On Eagle's Wings
O God Our Help in Ages Past
Eye Has Not Seen
I Heard the Voice of Jesus
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
I Know that My Redeemer Lives
Keep in Mind
Be Thou My Vision
Lord of All Hopefulness
My Soul is Longing for Your Peace
It is Well with My Soul
Be Still My Soul
Jerusalem My Happy Home
How Great Thou Art
Ave Maria
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

PSALMS

The Lord Is My Shepherd – Psalm 23
To You O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul – Psalm 25
The Lord is My Light and My Salvation – Psalm 27
My Soul is Thirsting for You, O Lord My God – Psalm 63
The Lord is Kind and Merciful – Psalm 103
I Will Walk Before the Lord, in the Land of the Living – Psalm 116

COMMUNION HYMNS

Gift of Finest Wheat
Pierce O God My Inmost Soul
Ubi Caritas
I Am the Bread of Life
O Sacrament Most Holy
Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist
Eat This Bread
One Bread, One Body
Draw Near
O Lord, I Am Not Worthy
Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless
Soul of Christ
Humbly We Adore Thee
Shepherd of Souls, In Love Come Feed Us
Panis Angelicus

After the Funeral Mass

Burial
Typically, the priest will accompany you to the place where your loved one's body or cremated remains will rest to preside at the Prayers of Committal.

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 priest to conduct the Prayers of Committal.

Mass of Remembrance
Each year, on or close to the Feast of All Souls (November 2), the parish of St. Julie's celebrates a Mass of Remembrance for all those who have died that year. The names of the deceased are read aloud.

An invitation will be sent to a family member of the deceased who is welcome to extend this invitation to others who would like to attend this Mass. To whom should we address this invitation?

_____

Bereavement

The Church offers opportunities for grief support throughout the year. Please contact the parish office for references. We are also available to meet with you should the need arise. Our parish library also offers several titles on grief and healing after the loss of a loved one.

Please be assured of our prayers for your loved one, your family and yourself during this time of sorrow. We pray that you will be consoled by the knowledge of the mercy and love of God.

Prayers that may be said during the wake and burial.

You and your family may 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.