

Suggestions for Funeral Music

Saint John Paul II Parish

279 Hamilton Street

Southbridge, MA 01550-1876

Making Musical Selections

As Catholic Christians, we believe that music is not only a source of comfort for the family and friends of the deceased, but also a truly mystical and divine gift of God for our participation in the receiving of Jesus Christ in the Funeral Mass. It is our desire to provide you with music that not only speaks to you personally but is also honoring to God. Please contact our Director of Music, Brandon Vennink at **508-208-7774** or **BDVennink@aol.com** should you need any assistance in music selections.

The Participation of Other Musicians

If there is a family member or friend you would like to assist in the music ministry, we would love to honor your request but must have sufficient notice so as to plan rehearsals and be properly prepared. In accordance with American Guild of Organists policy, our Parish Musician has first rights to all liturgical celebrations. If you desire to use another musician, you must receive permission from the Parish Musician and pay his regular service fee.

Specific Musical Selections for the Funeral Mass

Because of the solemn nature of the Funeral Mass, the organ and other instruments are used primarily for the accompanying of the singing assembly. Prelude and postlude music is not usually used as detailed in the *Ceremonial of Bishops*.

Entrance Song The Entrance Song begins the Funeral Liturgy. It should be a song that everyone is able to sing and helps the family and friends gathered to focus on Jesus' promise of eternal life and the resurrection of the earthly body when Christ returns. For this reason, the use of Easter songs and resurrection hymns is encouraged. Songs that serve as prayers of intercession for the deceased are also appropriate as suggested by the many psalm settings available. A new hymn in our hymnal, "Dwellers in the Holy City" is especially appropriate.

Psalm Jesus knew and prayed the psalms during his life on earth. The Church, like Christ, turns again and again to the psalms as a genuine expression of grief and of praise and as a sure source of trust and hope in times of trial. Since the psalms are songs, they are to be sung whenever possible.

Offertory Having just heard the Word of God proclaimed in the readings and homily, those assembled prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. The "Ave Maria" may be used here. Please indicate which version you would prefer. The setting by Schubert is the one most widely known while the setting by Bach/Gounod is usually identified with those of French heritage.

Communion Antiphon The traditional "Lux Eterna" is the song used during the distribution at communion. If you desire, you may choose another song to be used afterwards, but this is optional and not necessary. The music used during communion should reflect the joy of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, therefore, songs about the Virgin Mary or other saints are not used here.

Song of Farewell During the incensing of the body, the Song of Farewell is sung. It is the final liturgical action where the community assembled commends the departed soul to the mercy and presence of God.

Processional Song After the Prayer of Commendation, the body is processed out of the church to a place of final committal. The Latin "In Paradisum" (May the Angels Lead You into Paradise) is the traditional Processional Song for this action. You may choose another song to follow this one if you desire but a choice is not necessary.

Name of Deceased _____ (age) _____ **Funeral Date & Time** _____

Please check the corresponding box by the selection you wish to use or write in a title in the space provided. Choose only one selection for each category. Selections from one category may be transferred to another by writing the title in the blank space provided. (The Psalm and Song of Farewell must be chosen from the options listed without substitutions.) Hymnal numbers are included in parentheses.

Entrance Song

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|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! (G3 #949) | † | <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (G3 #540) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid (G3 #683) | † | <input type="checkbox"/> Lord of All Hopefulness (G3 #663) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dwellers in the Holy City (G3 #976) | | <input type="checkbox"/> Shepherd Me, O God (G3 #35) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For All the Saints (G3 #884) | | <input type="checkbox"/> The King of Love My Shepherd Is (G3 #712) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (G3 #724) | | <input type="checkbox"/> The Strife is O'er (G3 #525) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem, My Happy Home (G3 #870) | | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Psalm

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|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23: The Lord Is My Shepherd | † | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 25: To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul | † | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 116: I Will Walk in the Presence of the Lord |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 27: The Lord Is My Light | † | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 122: I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 63: My Soul Is Thirsting | | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 130: Out of the Depths, I Cry to You, Lord |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 143: O Lord, Hear My Prayer |

Offertory

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Amazing Grace (G3 #645) | <input type="checkbox"/> Panis Angelicus (César Franck) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ave Maria (Schubert or Bach/Gounod) | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer of St. Francis (G3 #828) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Here I Am, Lord (G3 #777) | † <input type="checkbox"/> We Walk by Faith (G3 #680) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How Great Thou Art (G3 #578) | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Communion Antiphon

LUX ETERNA is sung during the Communion. One of the following may be chosen to follow.

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|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blest Are They (G3 #735) | † | <input type="checkbox"/> This Is The Feast of Victory (G3 #520) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eat This Bread (G3 #941) | † | <input type="checkbox"/> You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (G3 #940) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Am the Bread of Life (G3 #945) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taste and See (G3 #930) | † | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Song of Farewell

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saints of God (<i>Saints of God come to his/her aid...</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> I Know that My Redeemer Lives (G3 #527) |
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Processional Song

IN PARADISUM is sung during the Communion. One of the following may be chosen to follow.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Celtic Song of Farewell (Danny Boy Tune) | † | <input type="checkbox"/> To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King (G3 #573) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lift High the Cross (G3 #881) | † | <input type="checkbox"/> Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones (G3 #882) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings (G3 #691) | | <input type="checkbox"/> J'irai La Voir Un Jour (French) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May the Angels Lead You into Paradise (G3 #980) | | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |