

The Mass of Christian Burial

(Family Participation Guide)



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

1377 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, New York

914-528-3547

PLEASE COMPLETE THE PULLOUT SHEET AND
HAVE THE FUNERAL HOME FAX IT TO
OUR PARISH OFFICE AT 914-528-4216.

*Jesus said,
"I am the resurrection and the life
whoever believes in me . . .
will never die."*

-- John 11:25



At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of baptism and strengthened at the eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The Church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting word of God and the sacrament of the eucharist.

The Order of Christian Funerals, #4

Dear Parishioner, Dear Friend,

The grief you are experiencing also touches us as a parish and a Catholic community. Our natural human expressions of sympathy are joined to our prayers for you. Christ's resurrection from the dead is our own hope of eternal life. May this belief be a source of consolation for you during these days of mourning.

Some families desire to take a more active part in the Mass of Christian Burial, which is offered for the repose of the soul of their loved one. This booklet has been prepared for this purpose. If you wish to do so, please review the pages that follow and complete the "Selection and Participation Sheet" as soon as you can. We will use it to prepare a personalized leaflet for the Mass.

Please accept the sympathy and prayers of our parish for you and your family. Be assured the name of your beloved has been placed on our deceased list permanently.

In the Lord,

The Seton Pastoral Staff

Family Participation In The Funeral Mass

Please use this booklet to fill out the Selection and Participation Sheet, and have the Funeral Home fax it to our parish office at 914-528-4216.

1.) Reception at the Church

The Rite of Reception takes place at the beginning of the Funeral Mass. Following the celebrant's greeting and sprinkling of the coffin with holy water, a white funeral pall (covering), which reminds us of the white baptismal garment signifying life in Christ, is placed on the coffin. Members of the family are encouraged to participate in this ritual.

2.) Scripture Readings

You are encouraged to choose one or two readings.

- a. If you choose TWO: one may be from the Old Testament (#'s 1 – 6) and the other from the New Testament (#'s 7 – 22).
- b. If you choose only ONE, it may be from either the Old or New Testament.

Readers will read from a proper book at the Mass. **Do not bring this booklet or a Xeroxed copy to the pulpit. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY CATHOLICS MAY READ THE SCRIPTURE READINGS DURING MASS.**

3.) Presentation of the Bread and Wine

Family members are encouraged to bring the bread and wine to the priest during the Preparation of the Gifts, after the Petitions.

4.) Music for the Funeral Mass

Family members may suggest Christian hymns that are **appropriate for a Funeral Mass**. A Hymn Selection list is found at the end of this booklet.

5.) Eulogy

Our parish permits **one brief** eulogy by **one** mourner at Mass. A eulogy can be more effective in the funeral home (more people present, more time to offer remembrances) than at Mass. If you choose a eulogy at Mass, Seton Parish provides time at **the beginning of the Mass**. It is limited to **three** minutes (500 words). A **eulogy, which is not a biography of the deceased, should explain how the deceased showed in life a personal love of God and neighbor: virtues in action; words of wisdom; good deeds.**

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1. A Reading from the Book of Job 19: 1, 23-27

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.

2. A Reading from the Book of Wisdom 3: 1-9

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.

**3. A Reading from the Book of the Prophet
Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

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.

**4. A Reading from the Book of
Lamentations 3:17-26**

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 the 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.

**5. A Reading from the Book of the Prophet
Daniel 12:1-3**

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.”

The Word of the Lord.

**6. A Reading from the Second Book of
Maccabees 12:43-46**

Judas [the ruler of Israel] then 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

7. A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

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. 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.

8. A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 5:5-11

Brothers and sisters,

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet 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.

9. A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

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.

The Word of the Lord.

10. A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:14-23

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.

11. A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters,

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who 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.

12. A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12

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 account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

**13. A Reading from the First Letter of
St. Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-23**

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 a 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**14. A Reading from the First Letter of
St. Paul to the Corinthians 15:51-57**

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 that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that 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.

15. A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 4:14-5:1

Brothers and sisters,

We know 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.

16. A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

Brothers and sisters,

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.

So 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 one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

17. A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 3:20-21

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.

18. A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.

**19. A Reading from the Second Letter of
St. Paul to Timothy 2:8-13**

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.

**20. A Reading from the First Letter of
St. John 3:1-2**

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.

21. A Reading from the Book of Revelation 14:13

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.

22. A Reading from the Book of Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

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.

Responsorial Psalms (CHOOSE ONE)

A. Psalm 23

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures, he gives me repose.

Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil.

For you are at my side with your rod and your staff,
that give me courage.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life.

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come.

B. Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

Whom should I fear?

The Lord is my life's refuge;

Of whom should I be afraid?

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call;

Have pity on me and answer me.

Of you my heart speaks; You my glance seeks.

Your presence, O Lord, I seek.

Hide not your face from me.

Do not in anger repel your servant.

You are my helper; cast me not off.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord

In the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord with courage;

Be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

C. Psalm 84

**Blessed are they, blessed are they,
who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Happy they who dwell in your house!
Continually they praise you.
Happy the men whose strength you are!
Their hearts are set upon the pilgrimage.

O Lord of hosts, hear our prayer;
Hearken, O God of Jacob!
O God, behold our shield,
and look upon the face of your anointed.

D. Psalm 103

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And forget not all his benefits.

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction;
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

The Lord secures justice
and the rights of all the oppressed.
He has made known his ways to Moses;
And his deeds to the children of Israel.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness
toward those who fear him.

Hymn Selection

Entrance Hymn (CHOOSE ONE)

Please choose one of the following:

1. Amazing Grace
2. Be Not Afraid
3. Christ Be Beside Me
4. Eternal Father, Strong to Save (Appropriate for Armed Forces)
5. Here I Am, Lord
6. I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
7. Shall We Gather at the River
8. The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Hymn Selection

Offertory Hymn (CHOOSE ONE)

Please choose one of the following:

9. Ave Maria (solo)
10. Abide With Me
11. Be Thou My Vision
12. Blest Are They
13. Hosea
14. In Christ Alone
15. In Every Age
16. Prayer of Saint Francis
17. Precious Lord, Take My Hand
18. Shepherd Me, O God
19. This Alone
20. Whatsoever You Do

Hymn Selection

Communion Hymn (CHOOSE ONE)

Please choose one of the following:

21. Christ in Me Arise
22. I Am the Bread of Life
23. The Mansions of the Lord (Solo) (Appropriate for Armed Forces)
24. On Eagle's Wings
25. Panis Angelicus
26. Pie Jesu (solo)
27. Soul of My Savior
28. We Will Rise Again
29. What Wondrous Love
30. You Are Mine

Hymn Selection

Recessional Hymn (CHOOSE ONE)

Please choose one of the following:

31. Battle Hymn of the Republic (Appropriate for Armed Forces) (Not in Lent)
32. Celtic Song of Farewell (*tune of Danny Boy*)
33. How Great Thou Art
34. I Know that My Redeemer Lives
35. Irish Blessing (Blessing Prayer)
36. Jerusalem, My Happy Home
37. Jesus, Remember Me
38. Lift High the Cross
39. Salve Regina
40. Sing With All the Saints in Glory

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

Shrub Oak, New York

914-528-3547

Fax: 914-528-4216

**Family
Selection and Participation Sheet
For the Funeral Mass**

PLEASE GIVE THIS SHEET TO THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR to fax to us so we can prepare a personal leaflet of hymns to help your family members and friends participate at the Funeral Mass.

Name of the Deceased

Funeral Mass Date & Time

Family Contact Person _____

Telephone Number _____

RECEPTION OF THE BODY AT CHURCH

The Rite of Reception takes place at the beginning of the Funeral Mass. Following the celebrant's greeting and sprinkling of the coffin with holy water, a white funeral pall (covering), which reminds us of the white garment given at Baptism signifying life in Christ, is placed on the coffin. You may want to have two family members do this. Let the Funeral Director know.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

You may choose **one or two scripture selections** for the Funeral Mass: one from the **Old Testament** (Readings #1-6), and/or one from the **New Testament** (Readings #7-22). (During the fifty days of the Easter season, choose two *New Testament* readings.) Catholic family members or Catholic friends may proclaim the first and second readings. A large type text of the Readings you choose will be *on the pulpit* for use by the Readers. This booklet of scripture readings should be used only to prepare.

First Scripture Reading:

Number _____

Read By _____

_____ We prefer the **priest** to do the Reading

Responsorial Psalm:

Letter _____

Second Scripture Reading:

Number _____

Read by _____

_____ We prefer the **priest** to do the Reading

EULOGY

Our parish permits one brief eulogy by one mourner. Since there are usually more family members and friends present the last night of the wake, **a eulogy can be more effective in the funeral home.** Otherwise, Seton Parish provides time at the beginning of the Mass. The eulogy is limited to three minutes (500 words).

Eulogy at Mass given by:

_____ We prefer **no** eulogy

PRESENTATION OF THE BREAD & WINE

After the Petitions, family members are encouraged to bring the gifts of bread and wine forward to the priest.

Gift Bearers' Names (2):

_____ We prefer **no** gift bearers

SACRED MUSIC

Family members may choose Christian hymns that are **appropriate for the Funeral Mass**.

You may select up to four hymns (by number) from those Listed in the Funeral Mass booklet.

Entrance	Offertory	Communion	Recessional

_____ We prefer the **priest** choose the hymns.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ABOUT THE DECEASED

1. Spouse: _____
2. Parents (if living): _____
3. Siblings (if living): _____

4. Children: _____

5. Grandchildren: _____

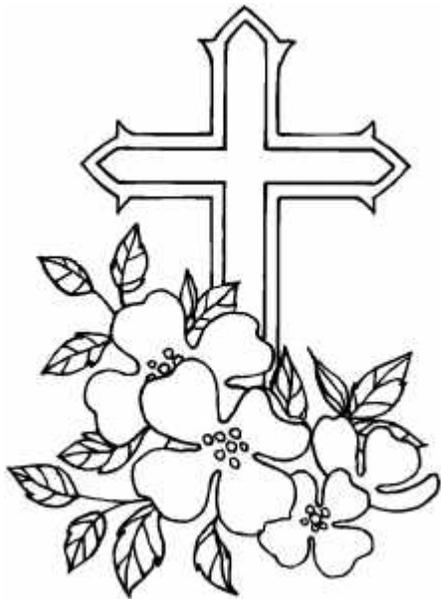
6. Lived most of his/her life in _____

7. Veteran? _____

8. Occupation: _____

9. A word or two summarizing the deceased _____

10. Did the deceased have a name he/she went by, other than his/her proper name? _____



*May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. . .*

Amen

*May He support us all the day long,
till the shades lengthen
and the evening comes, and the busy
world is hushed and the fever of life is
over and our work is done. Then in His
mercy may He give us a safe lodging
and a holy rest and peace at the last.*

--Blessed John Henry Newman