

# PLANNING GUIDE FOR A FUNERAL LITURGY

The following guide is intended to help you as you plan the funeral liturgy. The liturgy can be more meaningful when family members have a role in designing it, so we encourage you to gather as family to plan together.

While we encourage you to complete this form as much as possible, we realize that you may not be able to do so because of time constraints or stress. Please complete as much as you wish, and the remainder will be completed by parish personnel.

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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Using the book, \_\_\_\_\_, (pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_), please select a Gospel reading. The Gospel will be read by a priest or deacon.

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

You may have either one or two readings preceding the Gospel. If you prefer two readings, the first must be from the Old Testament, and the second from the New Testament. If you prefer to have only one reading, it may be from the Old or New Testament.

To select an Old Testament reading, see pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Old Testament Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

To select a New Testament reading, see pages \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

New Testament Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

After the first reading, the singing of the Responsorial Psalm will be led by the cantor. An arrangement of Psalm 23 (*The Lord is My Shepherd*) is most commonly used. If there is another psalm you would prefer, please indicate it here and we will see if there is a musical arrangement of it available.

Alternate Responsorial Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinarily, family members or friends serve as readers; You may have one, two, or three (*depending on the number of readings you choose*). Readers can be either Catholic or non-Catholic. Please list their names here:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Giftbearers:** If there are family members or friends (*usually two*) who would like to carry the gifts of bread and wine to the altar, please list their names here. Giftbearers should be Catholics who will then participate in receiving the gifts they have brought forward.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Eucharistic Ministers:** If there are family members or friends who would like to serve as Eucharistic Ministers, please list their names here. These individuals must be Catholics who have been trained in the ministry of Eucharistic Minister (*either in this parish or another*).

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## A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Within the funeral liturgy there is an opportunity for family members or friends to speak in remembrance of the deceased. This should be a short (5-6 sentences) reflection on the gift that the deceased has been to his/her family and friends. It should not be a time of storytelling. If there are any persons who would like to speak in remembrance, please list their names here:

\_\_\_\_\_

## MUSIC

Most of the music at the Vigil and Funeral Mass is ritual or service music (gospel acclamation, eucharistic acclamations, Song of Farewell, etc). Other music (hymns, instrumental and vocal solos) are unique to the celebration of a Christian funeral. The parish music department is adept at choosing and planning all of the music for funerals and they are happy to do so. If there is any music which you would like us to try to include, please list it here.

\_\_\_\_\_



Person to be contacted by the parish regarding this liturgy plan:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions as you complete this form, please call \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_. You may drop this completed form at the parish office, or call \_\_\_\_\_ to make arrangements to have it picked up. Thank you.