

Funeral Liturgy at St. Louis Church

Through prayer, scripture and music we are able to express our faith during the funeral liturgy. We invite you to make several choices when planning the funeral liturgy by choosing the Old and New Testament readings, the psalm, and hymns. We invite others to assist in the ministerial roles of Lector and Gift Bearer.

READINGS:

The booklet, Through Death to Life, is enclosed in your packet. It contains examples of readings suitable for funerals. You are not limited to these readings.

Old Testament Readings

Choose one of these readings C-1 through C-7 on pages 26-30 unless it is during the Easter season. During the Easter season, one of the readings C-8 through C-11 on pages 31-34 is used instead of a passage from the Old Testament.

Psalms

Psalms should be sung. Some of the psalms listed on these pages do not have a musical setting. Albert Burk, Director of Music, will help you with your psalm selection. These are on pages 35-44.

New Testament Readings

Choose one of these readings E-1 through E15 on pages 45-55.

Gospel Readings

The priest celebrating the Funeral Mass usually chooses the Gospel Reading. Please let him know if you have a Gospel Reading you would prefer to use.

Note: You do not need to fill out the "Selection Sheet" at the back of the book.

LECTORS: You may choose one or two people to read the Old and New Testament Readings. Please let our staff know whether or not you will have lectors. We have volunteer lectors we can contact if necessary.

GIFT BEARERS: You may choose two to four people to carry the gifts of bread and wine in procession during Preparation of the Gifts (Offertory). Please let our staff know whether or not you will have gift bearers.

ALTAR SERVERS: St. Louis Church is happy to contact five servers from St. Louis School. Please notify us if you have special requests for servers. *If you would be able to and would like to offer the altar servers a stipend, the suggested amount is \$5-\$10 for each.* You may leave this in the church office and our staff will make sure the servers receive it.

BULLET POINTS FOR CELEBRANT: To assist the celebrant in personalizing the homily, please prepare a short list containing facts and memories about your loved one. You may email this list to Jan O'Donnell at jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org.

PROGRAMS: St. Louis Church will provide a folded program listing the parts of the mass, hymns and hymn numbers. An example of the program has been placed in your packet.

FLOWERS: You may provide flowers for the altar for your funeral. Please check with our staff—at times we can use the flowers from the weekend or place ferns on the pedestals. We cannot receive flowers from the funeral home, but small arrangements placed by the sign-in books are appropriate.

EULOGIES: Our pastor, Msgr. John McArthur, requests that all eulogies, poems, and words of remembrance, be recited at the Vigil/Wake Service the night before the funeral, not during the Funeral Liturgy. The priests at St. Louis will make every effort to personalize the homily with remembrances of your deceased loved one.

VIGIL SERVICE/ROSARY: One of our St. Louis priests will be available to conduct a Vigil Service and/or Rosary the evening before the funeral liturgy. During this service at the funeral home, eulogies, words of remembrance, and secular music are most welcomed. We are happy to assist you in the preparation of this service.

MUSIC:

All music performed during and before the Funeral Mass must reflect the reverence, dignity and sacredness of the Mass. Music should be sacred.

Love songs, secular ballads, popular Broadway tunes, and alma maters from educational institutions are not allowed. However, these pieces are suitable for the Vigil/Wake Service traditionally held the preceding evening at the Funeral Home.

Our church organist, Albert Burk, plays for Funeral Masses at St. Louis Church. He is happy to assist you in choosing a vocalist. *The stipend amounts are \$100 for the organist and \$100 for the vocalist.* These stipends may be left in the church office and our staff will distribute them to the musicians.

Musical Suggestions

Our parish Hymnal contains a wide variety of hymnody which includes the following selections:

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er
Amazing Grace
All Creatures of Our God and King
Ave Maria (vocal solo)
Be Not Afraid
Come to Me
Crown Him with Many Crowns
Eye Has Not Seen
For All the Saints
God of Love
Here I Am, Lord
How Great Thou Art
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Let There Be Peace on Earth
O God, Our Help In Ages Past
On Eagle's Wings
Panis Angelicus (vocal solo)
Prayer of Saint Francis
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
You Are Mine
You Are Near

Please call Jan O'Donnell at 682-6606, ext. 1954 or 488-4675 for assistance in planning the funeral liturgy.