

Saints Peter and Paul Parish Funeral Mass Music - *Guidelines*

Music is integral to all Christian worship, including our funeral rites. It expresses feelings and convictions beyond words and has the power to console, uplift and unify as no other human expression. The texts of songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the Paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death and triumph and should be related to the readings from Scripture (OCF 30-31*). Music should be provided for the Funeral Liturgy (OCF, 32).

The music at funerals should support, console, and uplift the participants and should help to create in them spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory (OCF, 31). Since music can evoke strong feelings, it should be chosen with great care. The songs and hymns listed below are appropriate for use at funerals as opening or closing songs, or at other parts of the liturgy (such as the preparation of the gifts or communion).

Funeral music should take into account the liturgical season which is being celebrated. Easter provides an excellent time to make a connection between the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our own dying and rising to eternal life. Selections during Advent may focus on our longing for the coming of the kingdom while music during Lent can highlight God's merciful forgiveness.

The psalms are rich in imagery, feeling and symbolism. They powerfully express the suffering and pain, the hope and trust of people of every age and culture. Above all the psalms sing of faith in God, of revelation and redemption. They enable the assembly to pray in the words that Jesus himself used during his life on earth. In the psalms, the members of the assembly pray in the voice of Christ, who intercedes on their behalf before the Father (OCF, 25). Since the psalms are songs, whenever possible, they should be sung (OCF, 26). Psalm texts should come from the Book of Psalms, and the Responsorial Psalm should never be replaced by another hymn or song, even if that text is scriptural. Psalms are also very appropriate for use during the communion procession

The Song of Farewell follows the prayer after communion. According to the Order of Christian Funerals, there is an invitation to prayer, which is followed by a period of time for all to pray in silence. After the silence, the song begins. The song may serve several functions:

- ◆ Intercedes for the deceased, that God will count him/her among the blessed, and that God will grant him/her a merciful judgment
- ◆ Expresses our affection for the deceased
- ◆ Eases our sadness and strengthen our hope
- ◆ Consoles one another in the faith of Jesus Christ
- ◆ Prays for our own behalf
- ◆ Commends the deceased to the Lord

**OCF Order of Christian Funerals (the Funeral Rite)*

Below is a list of accepted song titles that are available in our Breaking Bread Missal. Please Choose 4 Songs from the List Below to be coordinated in the Mass of deceased loved one.

Please consult with the Pastor or Associate Pastor in regards to the available Responsorial Psalms and whether or not you will be choosing it to be read or sung by the cantor.

The Song of Farewell, which is sung after Communion is already included and does not need to be a song choice from the list below.

Song Choices During The Mass/Service - Please Choose 4 Songs

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
All Creatures of My God and King
All My Days
Alleluia No. 1
Alleluia! Alleluia! (Hymn To Joy)
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise
Amazing Grace
Ave Maria (solo)
Be Not Afraid
Blest Are They
Beyond the Moon and Stars
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Creator of the Stars of Night
Crown Him With Many Crowns
Eye Has Not Seen
For All The Saints
Gather Your People
Gift of Finest Wheat
Give Me Jesus
Here I Am, Lord
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Hosea
How Can I Keep from Singing
How Great Thou Art
I Am the Bread of Life
I Have Loved You
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
I Lift Up My Soul
In Every Age
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Jesus, the Bread of Life
Jesus, Remember Me
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Like A Child Rests
Like A Shepherd

Lord, You Have Come
Lord of All Hopefulness
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Loving and Forgiving
Morning Has Broken
O God Our Help In Ages Past
O God, You Search Me
O Loving God (set to the tune of O Danny Boy)
On Eagle's Wings
One Bread, One Body
One Love Released
Only This I Want
Panis Angelicus (solo is preferred)
Parable
Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens (Hymn to Joy)
Prayer of St. Francis
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Psalm 42: As The Deer Longs (O Waly, Waly)
Resucito
Shall We Gather at the River
Shelter Me, O God
Shepherd Me, O God
Sing with All the Saints in Glory
Soon and Very Soon
Taste and See
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Strife Is O'er
The Summons
The Supper of the Lord
This Alone
To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King
Unless A Grain of Wheat
We Remember
We Will Rise Again
We Have Been Told
What Wondrous Love is This
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
You Are Mine
You Are Near