



ST JOAN OF ARC PARISH

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Dear Friend in Christ,

Please accept my condolences for your recent loss. Death is never an easy reality to face and I promise that you and your loved one are in my prayers and in the prayers of the faith community of St. Joan of Arc Parish.

The promise of Jesus Christ is a powerful message of hope. As Catholics we believe that what happened to Jesus in His resurrection from the dead will also happen to us. This hope in life after death has brought comfort for two millennia to believers as they mourn the death and experience the loss of a loved one.

We celebrate this promise at the Funeral Liturgy. This booklet will help you prepare for the Funeral Liturgy. Included is a wide selection of Scripture readings and Liturgical music. Both the Scriptures and the music help us to express our hope in eternal life, offer consolation to those who mourn, and point us to the Paschal Mystery of Christ's saving death and resurrection. If necessary, I or a member of the parish staff will gladly assist you in your selections.

Please be assured of our community's prayers for you and your loved one. Trusting in the promise of Jesus Christ, we believe that death is not the end, but the beginning of everlasting life.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Dan

Rev. Dan Costello
Pastor

Saint Joan of Arc Parish

Funeral Planner

Funeral Liturgy Guidelines at St. Joan of Arc Parish

Contact a Funeral Director or Funeral Home once your loved one has passed away. Once they have had an initial conversation with you, they will contact the parish office and we will arrange for the pastor and/or a member of the Bereavement team to meet with the family.

Look over this booklet and begin to think about these things. When you come to the rectory to plan the funeral Mass, we will go through this information with you.

Family members or friends who were close to your loved one are often happy to participate in the liturgy. Start thinking about who might be:

- pallbearers (those who carry the casket, arranged with the funeral home)
- 1-2 people for the 1st & 2nd Reading, and optionally another for the Prayers of the Faithful
- Normally 2 people to bring up the bread and wine at the Funeral Mass
- If someone will share some words of remembrance at the Funeral Home or luncheon. Another option is for one person to offer very brief remarks after Communion, about how the loved one lived their faith life.

READINGS

- The readings at the Mass come from Scripture. See the list of approved readings in the next section of this booklet. The first and second readings are from Old and New Testaments, respectively.
- One reading is always from the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. The priest or deacon always proclaims the Gospel.
- If Scripture readings not listed in this book are desired, they should be reviewed with the priest presiding at the funeral liturgy.

READERS

- The readers should have a copy of their readings ahead of time so that they may prepare and practice them. A copy of the reading will be on the ambo (left side of the sanctuary). The priest will tell them when to come up to read. Scripture readings are read as they are written.

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UNIVERSAL PRAYERS (Prayers of the Faithful)

- Usually the priest will read these. If a family wishes they can have someone read them.
- Please select one of the options in this book. Or you may write your own prayers, with prior review with the Pastor.
- They are read from the same ambo as the readings.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (Offertory)

- Normally, two or three people bring up the gifts of bread and wine.
- You may ask whomever you wish to bring up the gifts.
- The gifts are on a table near the front of the church.

MUSIC

- Only appropriate liturgical music is permitted at a funeral liturgy. Recorded music is not allowed in Catholic liturgy.
- The next section of this booklet contains selections of a wide variety of appropriate funeral liturgy music. Please choose songs from the list provided in this packet. Our music director or pastor must review all music choices not on the list provided. Any outside musicians must be coordinated with the parish music director.

Eulogies and Words of Remembrance

- The *most appropriate* time to honor the deceased's life in the form of a eulogy is at the wake, the cemetery, or the luncheon with family.
- The primary focus of a Funeral Liturgy is the Paschal Mystery; that of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection and what that means for us.
- Brief Words of Remembrance (4 – 5 minutes) may be offered after Communion. We ask that *one* family member or friend speak on behalf of all. Longer reflections or multiple speakers diminish the focus of the funeral liturgy and are not permitted.
- Any Words of Remembrance delivered within the context of a funeral liturgy are delivered from a prepared written text (reviewed with the Pastor in advance) to ensure the message is communicated clearly and the integrity of the liturgy is wholly respected. *Reflections about the deceased's faith life and their sharing of their faith are encouraged as the basis for the Words of Remembrance.*

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SCRIPTURE

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UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

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MUSIC SELECTIONS

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Funeral Mass Readings

FIRST READING: Old Testament (pick one)

- 2 Maccabees 12:43-46 *It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again.*
- Job 19: 1,23-27 *And from my flesh I shall see God...*
- Proverbs 31: 10-13, 15, 17, 20 28-31 *...her value is far beyond pearls.*
- Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11 *There is an appointed time for everything...*
- Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 *As gold in the furnace, he proved them.*
- Wisdom 4:7-15 *The just, though they die early, shall be at rest.*
- Sirach 44: 1, 8-15 *Their bodies are peacefully laid away, but their name lives on and on.*
- Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 *The Lord God will destroy death forever...will wipe away the tears from all faces;*
- Isaiah 43: 2, 4, 10-11, 21 *Do not be afraid, for I have called you by name and you are mine.*
- Lamentations 3:17-26 *My portion is the Lord...I will hope in him.*
- Ezekiel 34: 11-16 *I will tend my sheep...I will give them rest..*
- Daniel 12:1-3 *Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake...*

During the Easter season the first two readings should come from the New Testament, with the first reading coming from one of the following options:

- Acts 10:34-43
- Revelations 14:13
- Revelations 20:11 – 21:1
- Revelations 21:1-7

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SECOND READING: New Testament

- Acts 10: 34-43 *To him all the prophets bear witness...*
- **Romans 5:5-11** *Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.*
- Romans 5: 17-21 *Grace and life through Christ.*
- **Romans 6:3-4,8-9** *Let us walk in newness of life.*
- **Romans 8:14-23** *We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.*
- **Romans 8:31b-35,37-39** *Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?*
- **Romans 14:7-9,10b-12** *Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*
- 1 Corinthians 15: 20-23 *So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.*
- **1 Corinthians 15:51-57** *Death is swallowed up in victory.*
- **2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1** *What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.*
- **2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10** *We have an everlasting home in heaven.*
- Ephesians: 1: 3-5 *In love he destined us for adoption to himself*
- Philippians 3: 20-21 *Our citizenship is in heaven*
- Philippians 4: 4-9 *Rejoice in the Lord always...Then the peace of God will fill you...*
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** *We shall stay with the Lord for ever.*
- **2 Timothy 2:8-13** *If we have died with him, we shall live with him.*
- 2 Timothy 4: 4-8 *I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.*

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- **1 John 3:1-2** *We are God's children now.*
- 1 John 3:14-16 *We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.*
- Revelation 7: 9-10, 15-17 *God will wipe away every tear*
- Revelation 14: 13 *...let them find rest from their labors.*
- Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7 *I saw a new heaven and a new earth....*
- Revelation 21: 1a, 3-5a *Behold, I make all things new.*

GOSPEL READINGS: New Testament (Presider will select)

- *Matthew 5: 1-12a* *Blessed are the poor in spirit....*
- *Matthew 11: 25-30* *Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.*
- *Matthew 25: 31-46* *For I was hungry and you gave me food...*
- *Matthew 28: 1-10* *At the tomb on the morning of the Resurrection.*
- *Mark 15: 33-39* *Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*
- *Luke 7: 11-17* *Jesus said "Young man, I tell you, arise!"*
- *Luke 12: 35-40* *Be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.*
- *Luke 23: 33, 39-43* *Today you will be with me in Paradise.*
- *Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53* *Death and burial of Jesus*
- *Luke 24: 13-35* *Appearance on the road to Emmaus*
- *John 6: 37-40* *Everyone who believes may have eternal life*
- *John 6: 51-58* *I am the living bread...will live forever.*
- *John 11: 17-27, 32-44* *The raising of Lazarus*
- *John 12: 23-28* *Unless a grain of wheat falls and dies...*
- *John 14: 1-6* *Do not let your hearts be troubled...I am the way and the truth and the life.*
- *John 17: 24-26* *Prayer of Jesus to his Father*

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UNIVERSAL PRAYER – Option A

Intercessions are read following the Homily. Begin after the priest says a short introductory prayer.

Please respond "Lord Hear Our Prayer."

For _____, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints; **We pray to the Lord.**

For _____, who was nourished by the Body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day; **We pray to the Lord.**

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness; **We pray to the Lord.**

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face; **We pray to the Lord.**

For the family and friends of _____, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus; **We pray to the Lord.**

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom; **We pray to the Lord.**

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UNIVERSAL PRAYER – Option B

Intercessions are read following the Homily. Begin after the priest says a short introductory prayer.

Please respond "Lord Hear Our Prayer."

In Baptism, _____ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness and lead him/her over the waters of death; **We pray to the Lord.**

Our brother/sister, _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet; **We pray to the Lord.**

For the sick, especially _____, that they may experience the healing comfort of your grace; **We pray to the Lord.**

For those friends and member of our families who have gone before us and await the kingdom, grant them and everlasting home with your Son; **We pray to the Lord.**

Those who trust in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone; **We pray to the Lord.**

For the family and friends of _____ who seek consolation and comfort. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that comes from grief; **We pray to the Lord.**

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister N. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming; **We pray to the Lord.**

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MUSIC SELECTIONS

The Funeral Liturgy is a sacred rite of the Church and therefore St. Joan of Arc Parish encourages the use of sacred music for the Liturgy. We have provided a list of appropriate music below. Any of the selections could be used at any point in the Liturgy, but we have suggested where they might be most fitting. If you have a request for music that does not appear on our list, please contact the Parish Office to consult with the Music Director. If you would prefer not to select the music, you may defer to the discretion of the Music Director.

Please note that during Lent, no songs with “Alleluia” can be sung.

Entrance/Recessional Hymns (Choose Two)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus	Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee
Amazing Grace	Keep In Mind
Be Not Afraid	Lord of All Hopefulness O God,
Blest Are They	Our Help in Ages Past
For All the Saints	On Eagles Wings
Here I Am, Lord	Sing With All the Saints in Glory
Hosea	To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign
How Great Thou Art	King
I Know that the Redeemer Lives	We Walk by Faith
Jesus Christ is Risen Today	What Wondrous Love is This
Jesus Remember Me	Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Psalms (Choose One) - Sung between 1st and 2nd reading

Psalm 16: Keep Me Safe, O God
Psalm 19: Lord, You Have the Words
Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd
Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God
Psalm 27: The Lord is My Light and My Salvation
Psalm 34: Taste and See
Psalm 63: My Soul is Thirsting For You O Lord

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Psalm 85: Be With Me Lord
Psalm 95: If Today You Hear God's Voice
Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful
Psalm 128: Blest Are Those Who Love You
Psalm 145: I Will Praise Your Name
I Have Loved You
Shelter Me O God
Be Not Afraid

Presentation (Offertory) and/or Communion Hymns (Choose Two)

Amazing Grace	Lady of Knock
<i>Ave Maria</i>	One Bread, One Body
Be Not Afraid	Now We Remain
Behold the Lamb	<i>Panis Angelicus</i>
Blest Are They	Prayer of St. Francis
Eat This Bread	Take and Eat
Eye Has Not Seen	Taste and See (Moore)
Gift of Finest Wheat	The Supper of the Lord
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman	The Summons
Here I Am, Lord	Turn To Me
Hosea	We Remember
I Am the Bread of Life	You Are Mine
I Have Loved You	You Are Near
In the Breaking of the Bread	You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Final Commendation

Just before the end of Mass, this rite (usually with incense) expresses our farewell and shows honor, before the body is buried. Together we entrust our loved one to our Lord. These are most commonly used during this time.

[Song of Farewell](#)

[Celtic Song of Farewell \(tune of Danny Boy\)](#)

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Liturgy Planning Form *(Part 1)*

This information will be completed when the priest or minister meets with the family.

For the funeral of: _____

Family Member Contact: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone (cell if possible): _____

Email: _____

Readings (Book, Chapter and Verses found on page of each reading):

1st Reading (Old Testament): _____

Read by: _____

2nd Reading (New Testament): _____

Read by: _____

Gospel: _____

Gift Bearers: _____

Words of Remembrance: _____

(If included, must be one person 3-5 minutes.)

Music Selections:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Psalm: _____

Commendation: _____

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Liturgy Planning Form *(Part 2)*

The priest celebrant is interested in knowing some information about your loved one that might be included in his homily. The items below, and the readings that you have chosen may help you think about what you want to share.

Where born:

Church of Baptism (if known);

Spouse:

Siblings:

Names of Children	Names of Grandchildren (by family)

Primary Occupation and places of employment:

Any military service:

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Liturgy Planning Form *(Part 2 Continued)*

Examples/highlights/qualities of the deceased's faith life that might help in homily preparation; other positive traits or characteristics:

How would you like your loved one to be remembered?

What would he/she be most proud of from their personal life?

Hobbies or what was she/he most passionate about?

Any particular story or incident that would exemplify their life?