



Celebrating a Life

...I will give you rest

Matthew 11:28

Cathedral of Saint Joseph
Funeral Planning Guide



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Celebrating a Life

Planning a personal funeral service

Our Catholic faith understands death as the entrance into eternity. The rites and ceremonies connected with Christian death and burial unite us to the paschal mystery of Christ's victory over sin and death, and must remain consonant with this belief.

The Mass of Christian Burial (funeral Mass) celebrates liturgical rites to help us through the immediate days of our grieving after a profound earthly loss such is the death of a loved one, to proclaim our belief in eternal life, and to help us pray for the one who has died.

Overall, the Mass of Christian Burial is a solemn and respectful occasion that honors the deceased person and provides comfort and support to their loved ones during a difficult time of grief and loss.



This booklet contains selections of prayers and readings from the *Order of Christian Funerals*, as well as appropriate liturgical music options. You are encouraged to use this funeral planning guide to personalize the celebration of your loved one's life at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph.



Readings

In this booklet is a list of prayers and scripture readings. You may select one for each of the following:

- **Old Testament** (pgs. 6 - 8)
- **New Testament** (pgs. 9 - 15)
- **Prayers of the Faithful** (pgs. 16 - 19)

Music

A selection of hymns is suggested for the following (pgs. 20 - 21):

- **Entrance**
- **Presentation of Gifts**
- **Communion**
- **Recessional**

Please keep in mind, secular music is not appropriate.

Color of the priest's vestments

The priest's choice of white vestments symbolizes Christian hope. Violet or black may also be worn as a sign of mourning.

Placing of the pall

The pall reminds us of the garment given at baptism, which symbolizes our life in Christ. It is draped over the casket at the beginning of the liturgy. Family members or friends may place the pall, although it is usually done by the funeral personnel. The pall is omitted when cremains are present.

Sprinkling of the Casket / Urn

We first share in the resurrection of the Lord through baptism. The priest sprinkles holy water over the casket or urn, recalling the Sacrament Baptism.

Paschal Candle

The paschal candle symbolizes the risen Christ and tells us He has conquered sin and death and now lives in our midst. In the Mass of Christian Burial, the candle is placed before the casket or urn as a reminder that the deceased shares in Jesus' victory over death.

Homily

Based on the Mass readings, the priest will offer a brief homily after the Gospel reading and provide reassurance to those present of the mysteries of God's love and Jesus' victorious death and resurrection, which were present in the life and death of the deceased. The homily will relate to the life of the deceased, but it is not meant to be a eulogy.

Presentation of Gifts

The Church encourages family members or friends to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine to the altar.

Holy Communion

The Eucharist is the most perfect way to share in the Funeral Mass, allowing those in attendance to receive the body and blood of Christ as a symbol of their faith in Jesus and His promise of eternal life. We welcome to Holy Communion those who practice the Catholic faith and are properly disposed.

Remarks of Remembrance (Eulogy)

At the end of the Funeral Mass, and before the final commendation, a family member or friend may speak up to five minutes in remembrance of the deceased. The eulogy should not overshadow the principal focus of the Church's Liturgy. This is an occasion to cite some of the Christian virtues of the deceased or how the departed inspired or deepened the faith of others during his or her life. Others wishing to speak may do so at the funeral home during calling hours or at the reception following the burial. It is never appropriate to recount off-color anecdotes or use profane language in the context of Mass or within this sacred space.

Incensing of the Deceased

During the Mass of Christian Burial, the priest walks around the casket or urn and incenses the remains as a sign of our respect for the remains. Incensing symbolizes our prayers for the deceased, rising to the throne of God, and it is a final farewell and commendation of the departed to God.

Cremation

When a family selects cremation, it is appropriate that the cremated remains of the body be present for the funeral rites.

"Earth hath no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

— St. Thomas More

Old Testament Readings - OT

OT-1 As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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.

OT-2 An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported-snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

OT-3

He will destroy death forever.

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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.

OT-4

Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the Earth, many will awake.

Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

I, Daniel, mourned and I 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.

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OT-5

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.
Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

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 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.

OT-6

A time for everything.
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (ih-klee-zee-as-teez)

**There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.**

**A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to tear down, and a time to build;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and time to dance;
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
A time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces;
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
A time to be silent, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.**

What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings - NT

NT-1 Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through Him from the wrath.

Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

NT-2 We too might live in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. 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.

NT-3

We wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

NT-4

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He 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 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 creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-5 **Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.**

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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 judgement 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 accounting of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-6 **So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.**

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. 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.

I AM the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

— John 11:25-26

NT-7

Death is swallowed up in victory.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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 this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this 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.

NT-8

What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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.

NT-9 We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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. 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 judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-10 He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.

Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

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.

NT-11

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

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 the 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.

NT-12

A crown awaits me.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

I, for my part am already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on a merited crown awaits me: on that day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me—and not only to me, but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing.

The Word of the Lord.

"For those who live well in the world, death is not frightening but sweet and precious."
— St. Rose of Viterbo

NT-13

We shall see him as he is.

John 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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.

NT-14

There shall be no more death.

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation

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 away 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 made 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.

General Intercessions - Prayers of the Faithful

Please select Option A, B, or C (pgs 17 - 19).

Immediately following the homily, The priest will announce the Prayers of the Faithful. During this announcement, the reader should approach the altar, bowing to the altar before stepping up into the sanctuary. The reader should walk to the the ambo (pulpit), and wait in place for the invitation to prayer to begin. Once complete, the reader should remain at the ambo until the celebrant has closed the prayer, and then return to his / her seat.

*Go forth, Christian soul, from this world in the name
of God the almighty Father, who created you, in the
name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who
suffered for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit, who
was poured out upon you, go forth, faithful Christian.
May you live in peace this day, may your home be with
God in Zion, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God,
with Joseph, and all the Angels and Saints. Amen.*

Prayers of the Faithful - Option A

The response will be: **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

- In baptism, N received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him / her over the waters of death.

We pray to the Lord.

- Our brother / sister N was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him / her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

We pray to the Lord.

- Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

We pray to the Lord.

- The family and friends of N seek consolation. Heal their pain and comfort them in their 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.

- For those who rendered loving care to N in his / her final days. May they be blessed for their compassion.

We pray to the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful - *Option B*

The response will be: **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

- For N 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 our brother / sister who ate 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 who have gone before us, grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

We pray to the Lord.

- For N's family and friends that they may be consoled in their grief.

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.

- For the dedicated nurses and staff who cared for N that they may be blessed for their patience and compassion.

We pray to the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful - *Option C*

The response will be: **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

- That N may rejoice in the gift of eternal rest and everlasting life.

We pray to the Lord.

- That the family and friends of N may find solace from their sorrow through their faith in Jesus who conquered death for us all.

We pray to the Lord.

- That the ill and the dying and all who are heavily burdened may receive Jesus' gift of comfort.

We pray to the Lord.

- That God may welcome into His glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life.

We pray to the Lord.

- The family and friends of N seek consolation. Heal their pain and comfort them in their grief.

We pray to the Lord.

- Lord Jesus, gentle Shepherd who brings rest to our souls, grant peace to N forever.

We pray to the Lord.

Hymns

Please select one hymn from each category: **Entrance**, **Offertory**, **Communion**, and **Recessional**.

E = *Entrance*, **O** = *Offertory*, **C** = *Communion*, **R** = *Recessional*

	E	O	C	R
Abide with Me				
All I Ask of You		O	C	
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus	E			R
Amazing Grace	E	O		R
Amén. El Cuerpo de Cristo (<i>Amen, the Body of Christ</i>)			C	
Ave Maria (<i>Hail Mary</i>) - Dubois / Gounod / Schubert		O		
Ave Verum Corpus (<i>Hail True Body</i>) - Jenkins / Mozart			C	
Be Not Afraid	E	O		R
Be Thou My Vision	E	O		R
Be Thou with Them - Bach		O		
Bread of Angels		O	C	
Christ Be Beside Me - Bunessan	E	O		R
Come to Me	E	O		R
Eat This Bread		O	C	
Eye Has Not Seen		O	C	
Fly Like a Bird		O	C	
For All the Saints	E	O		R
Gift of Finest Wheat		O	C	
Goin' Home - Dvořák	E	O		R
Hail Mary: Gentle Woman		O		
Here I Am, Lord	E	O		R
His Eye Is on the Sparrow	E	O		R
Hosea (Come Back to Me)	E	O		R
How Great Thou Art	E	O		R
I Am the Bread of Life	E	O	C	R
I Have Loved You		O		
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	E	O		R
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	E	O	C	R
In the Garden	E	O		R
Irish Blessing	E	O		R
Jesus, Remember Me	E			R
J'irai la Voir un Jour (<i>I'll See Her One Day</i>) - Perrault			C	

"LET NOTHING trouble you, let nothing frighten you:
 Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone is enough."
 — St. Teresa of Avila

Just a Closer Walk with Thee	E	O	R
Lady of Knock - Scallion		O	R
Largo - Dvořák		O	
Let There Be Peace on Earth		O	R
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	E	O	R
Nada te Turbe (Nothing Can Trouble You)	E	O	R
Nearer, My God, to Thee	E	O	R
Nunc Dimittis (Now You May Let Go) - Burgon		O	
Ombra Mai Fu (Never Was a Shadow)		O	
On Eagle's Wings	E	O	R
One Bread, One Body		O	C
Panis Angelicus (Bread of Angels) - Franck / Lambilotte		O	C
Pescador de Hombres (Fisher of Men)	E	O	R
Pie Jesu (Merciful Jesus) - Durufle / Faure / Weber		O	C
Prayer of St. Francis		O	
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	E	O	R
Sing with All the Saints in Glory	E		R
Softly and Tenderly	E	O	R
Taste and See		O	C
The Call - Williams		O	
The Prayer - Sager		O	
The Strife Is O'er	E		R
Un Himno al Amor (A Hymn to Love)	E	O	R
We Remember		O	C
We Walk by Faith	E		R
Where Charity and Love Prevail		O	

Catholic Mass Protocol

Holy Water and Sign of the Cross

As you enter the cathedral, you will notice holy water fonts near each entrance for you to bless yourself. First, dip a finger of your right hand into the holy water, and with the same finger touch your forehead, saying "In the name of the Father," then touch your lower chest, saying, "the Son," next touch your left shoulder, saying, "and the Holy," and finally touch your right shoulder, saying "Spirit." Whenever you hear the priest say, "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit," everyone crosses themselves.

Genuflecting and Bowing

The general rule is that you bow to the altar, and genuflect (touch your right knee to the floor) to the tabernacle. The tabernacle is a locked box where the Body of Christ is kept. In the cathedral the tabernacle can be found in the chapel off to the right side of the main altar, marked by the sanctuary lamp, a burning candle in a red glass globe. If the tabernacle is in front of you, genuflect to it, otherwise, just bow to the altar.

Remember, whenever you're walking around the church and you pass in front of the tabernacle, genuflect to it. As well, whenever you pass in front of the altar, bow to it.

Reading

It is not appropriate to greet the congregation or introduce yourself.

Generally, there is no need to adjust the microphone at the ambo.

Scripture:

As the priest invites the reader forward, he or she should approach the altar, bowing to the altar before stepping up into the sanctuary. He or she should then walk to the ambo (pulpit), and begin reading. Once complete, he or she should return to his or her seat.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Immediately following the homily, the priest will announce the Prayers of the Faithful. During this announcement, the reader should approach the altar, bowing to the altar before stepping up into the sanctuary. He or she should then walk to the ambo (pulpit), and wait in place for the invitation to prayer before beginning. After reading, he or she should remain at the ambo until the priest has closed the prayer, and then return to his or her seat.

Gospel Reading

Before reading the Holy Gospel, the priest or deacon will announce:

“A reading from the Holy Gospel according to [whomever].”

Everyone then traces a small cross with their right thumb on their forehead, on their lips, and on their heart. At the same time, they're saying:

Glory to you, O Lord.

The priest or deacon then reads the Gospel, and when he's finished, he says:

“The Gospel of the Lord.”

Everyone responds:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sign of Peace

When the priest says:

“The peace of the Lord be with you always.”

Everyone responds:

And with your spirit.

Then the priest or deacon says:

“Let us offer each other the sign of peace.”

It's now time to give the sign of peace. You may gesture or shake hands with the people around you, and say to them, "Peace be with you." Some people like to hug, or exchange a kiss.

Catholic Mass Protocol (cont'd)

Receiving Holy Communion (the Body of Christ)

We welcome to Holy Communion those who practice the Catholic faith and are properly disposed. (If you cannot receive the Body of Christ, you can still go up for a blessing. To show that you only want a blessing, cross both hands over your heart as you approach the altar.) Once it is your turn, bow in acknowledgment of Christ's presence, and after the person giving out the Body of Christ says:

"The body of Christ."

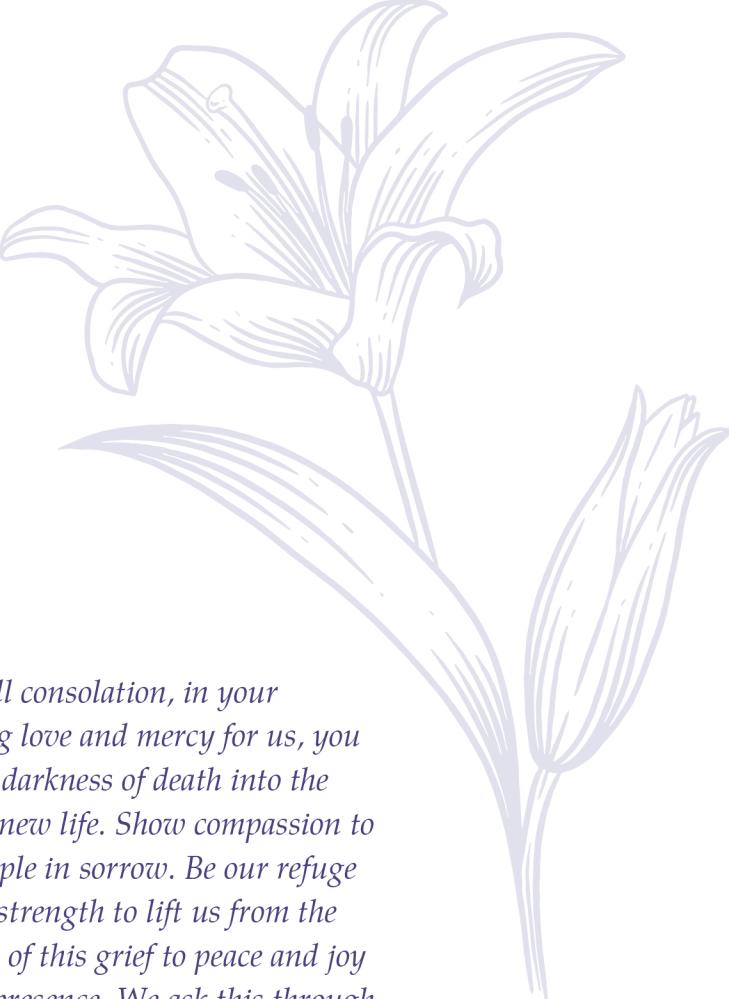
You say:

Amen.

You may choose to take Holy Communion on your tongue or in your hand. To take it on the tongue, simply open your mouth and stick out your tongue a little, and the Body of Christ will be placed on your tongue. To take it in your hand, cup your right hand under your left, and hold your hands out in front of your chest. Remember that you're holding the most precious thing there is. Put it in your mouth, and check for any crumbs so you can eat them as well (*these crumbs are also the Body of Christ*). DO NOT walk around with it in your hands, and DO NOT give it to anyone else.

Remarks of Remembrance (Eulogy)

The eulogy takes place at the end of the Funeral Mass, but before the final commendation. The speaker may speak up to five minutes in remembrance of the deceased. The eulogy should not overshadow the principal focus of the Church's Liturgy. This is an occasion to cite some of the Christian virtues of the deceased or how the departed inspired or deepened the faith of others during his or her life. Others wishing to speak may do so at the funeral home during calling hours or at the reception following the burial. Although this is a more casual address than when Scripture is read, it is never appropriate to recount off-color anecdotes or use profane language within this sacred space.



*God of all consolation, in your
unending love and mercy for us, you
turn the darkness of death into the
dawn of new life. Show compassion to
your people in sorrow. Be our refuge
and our strength to lift us from the
darkness of this grief to peace and joy
in your presence. We ask this through
Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Cathedral of Saint Joseph

www.hartfordcathedral.org

140 Farmington Avenue

Hartford, CT 06105

860-249-8431

**Very Reverend
John P. Melnick, Rector**

Mass Selections

First Reading – Old Testament

No. _____ **Pg.** _____

Read by: _____

Second Reading – New Testament

No. _____ **Pg.** _____

Read by: _____

General Intercessions - Prayers of the Faithful

A _____ **B** _____ **C** _____

Read by: _____

*Please complete this form (both sides) with your selections,
and return it to the Cathedral of Saint Joseph.*

Mass Selections

Presentation of Gifts

Brought forward by: _____

and: _____

Hymn Selections

Entrance: _____

Presentation of Gifts: _____

Communion: _____

Recessional: _____

Remarks of Remembrance (Eulogy)

Yes _____ **No** _____

Read by: _____



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