

**Saint Matthew's Church
15 Frances Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island 02910
401-461-7172**

Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence



**--Funeral Planning Guide--
Scripture Readings
Music Selections**

Selection of Readings

Ordinarily two readings plus a responsorial psalm will precede the Gospel. The family, in collaboration with the Parish, can select one text each from the Old Testament Readings, and New Testament Readings. Non-biblical texts may not replace scriptural readings at Mass.

Selection of Readers

Great care should be taken in who you select to proclaim the readings during the Funeral Mass. Church Law insists that he or she must be a practicing Catholic (attends Mass every Sunday, follows the laws of the Church, and is in good standing with the Church) and that he or she must be someone who will be able to effectively communicate the Word of God. If the family has decided not to choose readers, the Parish will provide one.

Selection of Music

Music is an integral part of the liturgy. Each piece of music serves a particular liturgical function in the form of accompanying processions, sung prayers, or responses. As God is at the center of our prayer, all music and texts for a funeral must be sacred and liturgically appropriate. Music must reflect the sacramental reality of Christian life and love in the Church. As such, only music composed specifically for the liturgy may be used during a funeral.

Secular pieces or popular songs with non-sacred texts are not permitted. In addition, recorded music is not allowed. While a piece of music may be a special favorite of the deceased or have personal meaning, music for Mass must be sacred in order to be liturgically appropriate.

Saint Matthew Church provides both an Organist and Cantor (Soloist) for all Masses of Christian Burial. Additional Musicians such as brass, winds, strings, and supplementary soloists are also available.

Eulogies

Eulogies or Words of Remembrance are not permitted within the context of the Rite of Christian Burial. All Eulogies are more appropriately given in the Funeral Home or Cemetery Chapel.

--Old Testament Readings--

Please Selection One

1. **2 Maccabees 12:43-46**

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas [the ruler of Israel] then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord

2. **Job 19:1, 23-27**

A reading from the book of Job

Then Job answered and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: that with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him, and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

3. Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But 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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord

4. Wisdom 4:7-14

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

5. Isaiah 25: 6. 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

6. 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

7. Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and 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

8. Sirach 8: 33-36, 41:3-4,11-13

A reading from the book of Sirach

Be generous to all the living, and withhold not your kindness from the dead. Avoid not those who weep, but mourn with those who mourn. Neglect not to visit the sick – for these things, you will be loved. In whatever you do, remember your last days, and you will never sin. Fear not death's decree for you; remember it embraces those before you, and those after. Thus God has ordained for all flesh; why then should you reject the will of the Most High? Man's body is a fleeting thing, but a virtuous name will never be annihilated. The gift of life is for limited days, but a good name, for days without number.

The Word of the Lord

--New Testament Readings--

Please Selection One

1. Romans 5:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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

2. Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

3. Romans 6:3-9 or 6:3-4. 8-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

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. For a dead person has been absolved from 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

4. Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children 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 first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord

5. Romans 8:31-35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how 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 died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, 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 other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

6. Romans 14:7-9. 10-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Roman

None of us 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. For we shall all stand before the judgment 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 account of himself (to God).

The Word of the Lord

7. 1 Corinthians 15:20-24. 25-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits 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 first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will (also) be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

8. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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

9. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the Book of Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, 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 a 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

10. Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, he commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

11. Revelation 20:11-21:1

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I 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.

The Word of the Lord

12. Revelation 21:1-5. 6-7

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 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 make 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

Below are five sections of music selections for the Mass of Christian Burial. Hymn tunes are capitalized and composers are italicized for your convenience. Most musical selections are readily available for sampling online. Any music selected from another list or source must be approved by the Director of Sacred Music. Should you need assistance, please contact the Music Director.

1. Processional Hymn

Faith of Our Fathers (ST.CATHERINE)
Sing with All the Saints in Glory (HYMN TO JOY)
Lift High the Cross (CRUCIFER)
*The Strife is O'er (VICTORY)
*Alleluia Let the Holy Anthem Rise (HOLY ANTHEM)
Crown Him With Many Crowns (DIADEMATA)
O God Our Help In Ages Past (ST. ANNE)
I Know that My Redeemer Lives (DUKE STREET)
Here I Am Lord-*Dan Schutte*
*All Creatures of Our God and King (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (KINGSFOLD)

2. Offertory Hymn

Shelter Me, O God-*Bob Hurd*
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (KINGSFOLD)
You Are Mine-*David Haas*
On Eagles Wings- *Michael Joncas*
Prayer of Saint Francis- *Sabastian Temple*
Precious Lord, Take My Hand (PRECIOUS LORD)
Be Not Afraid-*Bob Dufford S.J*
All I Ask of You- *Gregory Norbert OSB*
Amazing Grace (NEW BRITIAN)
The King of Love, My Shephard Is (ST COLUMBIA)
Be Thou My Vision (SLANE)

3. Communion Hymn

Jesus My Lord, My God, My All (SWEET SACRAMENT)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (PICARDY)

On Eagle's Wings-*Michael Joncas*

O God You Search Me-*Bernadette Farrell*

Shelter Me, O God-*Bob Hurd*

*Alleluia, Sing to Jesus (HYFRODOL)

Soul of My Savior (ANIMA CHRISTI)

I am the Bread of Life –*Susan Toolan*

Be Thou My Vision (SLANE)

4. Post Communion Meditation

Ave Maria (*Schubert, Bach/Gonoud, Arcedelt*)

Panis Angelicus-*Caesar Franck*

Jesus Remember Me-*Taize*

5. Recessional Hymn

The Day of Resurrection (ELLACOME)

How Great Thou Art- *Stuart Hine*

I Know that My Redeemer Lives (DUKE STREET)

Let There Be Peace on Earth-*Miller/Jackson*

Sing with all the Saints in Glory (HYMN TO JOY)

Battle Hymn of the Republic

*Appropriate for Armed Service Members

Jerusalem My Destiny – *Rory Cooney*

Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee (HYMN TO JOY)

Crown Him with Many Crowns (DIADEMATA)

Lift High the Cross (CRUCIFER)

*The Strife is O'er (VICTORY)

*Alleluia Let the Holy Anthem Rise (HOLY ANTHEM)

*Indicates a piece cannot be selected during the Lenten Season.