

SS. Peter and Paul Parish

Funeral Mass Planning Guide

**SS. Peter and Paul Parish
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Phone: 313-846-2222
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Dear Friends in Christ,

The death of a loved one is a very difficult time in life and all of us here at SS. Peter and Paul Parish share the sorrow and grief that you feel at this moment.

Like any celebration of the Sacred Mass, the essential purpose of the funeral is the worship of God, the proclamation of the Gospel, and the celebration of the paschal mystery. Secondly, the Mass is offered for the repose of the soul of the deceased and should invite prayer for the judgment they face, and for their ultimate and happy repose after any necessary purification.

It is our great hope that the prayers of the Funeral Mass will be meaningful and express your own faith and that of your loved one.

This booklet has been put together to help you to plan and be a part of the Funeral of your loved one.

The booklet is quite easy to use. Simply **return this booklet** after filling in the information requested. The booklet needs to be returned to the priest officiating at the Funeral before the Funeral Mass. This will allow us to make all the preparations necessary in a timely manner.

Thank you for your kind cooperation. May God strengthen you in this difficult time.

A Guide to Music and Musical Selections for the Funeral Mass

- Music for the Funeral Mass is to be selected from the list provided below. Review the guidelines and select hymns as appropriate. (One hymn for each part of the Mass.)
- Guest singers and other musicians are not allowed to participate in the Funeral Mass. The Parish provides all music and musicians.
- If the Funeral Mass is in Polish or there are several selections requested in the Polish language, please contact the Director of Music at your earliest convenience to make arrangements.
- Contact the Director of Music at any time if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Contact information is listed below.

Johnny Kash,
Director of Music & Worship
7685 Grandville ▪ Detroit, MI 48228
Music Office: 313-846-2222 ext. 119
Music Office Email: kashspp@gmail.com

Entrance Hymn

Be Not Afraid
O God Our Help in Ages Past
On Eagle's Wings
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
Only This I Want
I Know that My Redeemer Lives
Crown Him with Many Crowns
Grant them Eternal Rest

Offertory Hymn

This Alone
Be Not Afraid
On Eagle's Wings
O God You Search Me
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Jesus, Lord
Only This I Want
Prayer of St. Francis
Blessed Are They
Keep in Mind
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Ave Maria
Serdeczna Matko

Communion Hymn

Song of the Body of Christ
O Sacrament Most Holy
Gift of Finest Wheat
Taste and See
Eat This Bread
Behold the Lamb
Ubi Caritas
I am the Living Bread
One Bread, One Body
I Received the Living God
Panis Angelicus

Recessional Hymn

Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
How Great Thou Art
Be Not Afraid
On Eagle's Wings
The Strife is O'er*

Sing with all the Saints in Glory
Song of Farewell
I Know that My Redeemer Lives
Crown Him With Many Crowns

*Not permitted during Lent.

Participation in the Funeral Liturgy by Family and Friends

As we gather to bury a loved one it can be very consoling to those who mourn to take an active role in the funeral ceremonies. Sometimes feelings of sorrow are so intense that family members just cannot bring themselves to do more than join in the prayers of the liturgy. There are however, a number of opportunities within the liturgy for family and friends to take a more active part in the ceremonies. We encourage as much participation as a family decides it is able to make. The priest and ministers of the church together with the funeral directors are always available to help when friends and family cannot.

The Placing of the Funeral Pall

The Funeral Pall is a white covering placed on the casket during the Mass. Often the pallbearers of family and friends will place this covering on the casket. Anywhere from two to six persons may perform this act and it is ideal for children wishing to participate in the funeral ceremonies.

YES We would like to place the Pall on the casket.

NO We would prefer to have the funeral directors place the Pall on the casket.

Scripture Readings for the Funeral Mass

There are three scriptural readings during the Funeral Mass. One is taken from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and one from the Gospel. The family is encouraged to choose the first and second readings from the selections found in this booklet (pg. 7-33). They are also encouraged to invite someone to read during the Mass. The reader chosen must be Catholic and comfortable reading in public and have the skills necessary to do so. Persons who may easily be overcome with grief should not be chosen. One person may be chosen to read both readings, or two persons may each read one reading. The gospel is always selected and read by the priest. The readings selected by the family will be located in a binder at the Ambo on the day of the Funeral Mass.

First Reading

Old Testament: # _____

from page _____

This reading will be read by _____

Second Reading

New Testament: # _____

from page _____

This reading will be read by _____

Gospel

The Gospel is selected and read by the Priest.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Job.

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.

FIRST READING

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.

FIRST READING

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.
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

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.

FIRST READING

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.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of 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.

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.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

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

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

**Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:
"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, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 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.

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.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

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.

A reading from the letter of Paul to Romans.

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 firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to Romans.

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.

A reading from the letter of Paul to Romans.

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. Why then do you judge your brother or sister? Or you, why do you look down on your brother or sister? 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.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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; 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.

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.

A reading from the second letter of 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.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

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

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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.

A reading from the first letter of 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 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.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him
 we shall also live with him;
if we persevere
 we shall also reign with him.
But if we deny him
 he will deny us.
If we are unfaithful
 he remains faithful,
 for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of John.

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.

A reading from the first letter of John.

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers [and sisters]. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that Jesus laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers [and sisters].

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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.

Background Information on the life of:

In an effort to add a personal dimension to the homily delivered at the Funeral Mass the priest celebrating the liturgy will need to have some background information on the life of the deceased. Family members and those preparing the Funeral liturgy are asked to supply whatever they think might be important in the life of the deceased to be remembered during the homily. This information will be integrated by the priest into a theological reflection on the life of the deceased in light of our Catholic faith rather than a eulogy.

Known to most people as: _____

Name to be used in prayers: _____

Age: _____ Date and place of birth: _____

Occupation in life:

Interests, hobbies, crafts/skills, sports:
(If retired, how was this time spent?)

Special Activities or Accomplishments in life:

Groups or organizations belonged to, both Church and Civil:

Parish memberships throughout life:

How did he or she live out or express the Faith?

Please feel free to share any other special memories, stories, or comments on this page which you think could be useful for the priest to use during the homily. How will he or she be most remembered by others?

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The General Intercessions or *Prayers of Petition*, as they are sometimes known, may also be read by a person chosen by the family. The same criteria used in choosing readers apply to the person chosen to offer the petitions. Names of previously deceased family members and friends may be added to the petitions. Special intentions of the family may also be added to these prayers.

The General Intercessions will be read by:

*The petitions for the funeral liturgy are included in this booklet on the last page (pg. 39)

Special Requests

Sometimes family and friends want to share significant memories, poems, writings, songs or reflections. These things can be very helpful in the grieving process but are not permitted in the Funeral Mass. Rather, they are much better suited to a more intimate gathering at the funeral home during the service on the evening before the funeral. The priest conducting the service will be very happy to build the wake service around any special requests the family may have of this nature. Family members and friends may themselves be invited to speak at this service.

Presenting the Bread and Wine at the Altar

Bread and wine are brought to the altar during the Funeral Mass to symbolize our willingness to place our lives in the hands of God. Family and or friends are encouraged to bring these offerings in the name of all who are taking part in the Funeral Mass. Usually only two persons are needed for this task and again this is ideal for children wishing to participate in the funeral ceremonies.

YES We will invite two persons to present the bread and wine at the altar.

NO We would prefer to have someone from the Church do this.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The priest begins with an introduction.

The Lector continues with the Intercessions after the introduction.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Let us pray to the Lord.

2. 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.

Let us pray to the Lord.

3. For our deceased relatives and friends, and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

Let us pray to the Lord.

4. For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.

Let us pray to the Lord.

5. For the family and friends of our Brother/sister _____, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

Let us pray to the Lord.

6. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

Let us pray to the Lord.