

Guidelines for a Funeral Mass

The Mass of the Christian Burial

Our Lady of the Woods Parish
10731 131st St.
Orland Park, IL 60462
708-361-4754

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the faith community of Our Lady of the Woods please accept our prayerful condolences at your loss.

This booklet has been prepared to assist you and your loved ones in planning the Funeral or Memorial Mass. In the Catholic Faith the funeral liturgy is more than a remembrance to our beloved dead but is an expression of the faith and hope we have in Jesus Christ. The liturgy, while personal, is also the prayer of the Church. In the liturgy we pray for and with you.

Here we present recommended readings from Holy Scripture (the Bible) which you may choose for the Service. If you have other scriptural readings that are meaningful you can speak with our Pastoral Associate, Michelle Hilliard, about using them. We always use the Word of God because that is the concrete expression of our faith.

We also have recommended songs for your consideration. These beautiful hymns are part of the prayer of the church. They have been arranged according to the appropriate times of the Mass to assist you in the selection process.

Please know that we will assist you in every way we can so this prayerful experience will offer you and your loved ones the Peace that only Christ can give.

In Christ,
Father Mike Foley
Pastor

In this moment of sorrow the Lord is in our midst and comforts us with His word:

“Blessed are the sorrowful; they shall be consoled.”

Matthew 5:4

The loss of a loved one is a time of tremendous grief as well as a time of intense hope. Our faith tells us that your loved one is with God.

“The celebration of the Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. While proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and witnessing to Christian hope in resurrection, the funeral rites also recall to all who take part in them God’s mercy and judgment and meet the human need to turn always to God in times of crisis.”

The Order of Christian Funerals

You are about to plan the Resurrection Mass for your loved one. We hope that the information in this booklet will assist you and be a source of consolation for you. The Pastoral Care Coordinator from Our Lady of the Woods will be contacting you to assist you in the planning of the liturgy prior to the wake services.

Guidelines for Planning Funerals

Please select **two readings** for the funeral liturgy; **one** from the **Old Testament** and **one** from the **New Testament**. The presider usually selects the Gospel.

Choose **Intercessions** from Pages 29-32. All on either page are to be read by family member or presider. The Pastoral Associate will assist you in customizing these petitions.

Music for the Funeral Mass is to be sacred in nature. Secular songs are not fitting for the celebration of the Eucharist. **Choose four songs** for the Liturgy from the music listed on Pages 33 & 34.

We **encourage family members to participate** in the Mass by serving as Readers (proclaiming the Word), presenting the Offertory Gifts of Bread and Wine and as a Eucharistic Minister, if a family member is one in his/her parish.

Reflection of the deceased’s Faith Life is permitted. It should be 3-5 minutes, typed and double spaced. Requests for a reflection must be approved by the Church’s minister in advance. See guidelines on page 35.

Poems, stories and eulogies are best shared at the funeral home during the time of the wake.

Once you have chosen the readings and songs, **please complete pages 36 and 37 and arrange to meet with the church minister. Thank you.**

Old Testament Readings

Job 19:1, 23-27

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 God will at last stand forth upon the dust;
Whom I myself shall see:
my own eyes, not another's, shall behold God,
And from flesh I shall see God;
My inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

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 people, 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, God proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings
God took them to Himself.
Those who trust in God shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with God in love;
Because grace and mercy are with God's holy ones
and God's care is with His elect.

The Word of the Lord.

Wisdom 3:1-9

(Long form)

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 people, 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 to himself.

As gold in the furnace, God proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings
God 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.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just ones, though they 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 crown for people
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

Having become perfect in a short while,
reached the fullness of a long career;
for they were pleasing to the Lord,
therefore, God sped them out of the
midst of wickedness.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of Hosts
will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain the Lord will destroy the veil that
veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
God 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 God has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord.
Here is My servant whom I uphold,
My chosen one with whom I am pleased;
I have formed you and I have grasped you by the hand.
Do not be afraid,
for I have called you by your name and you are Mine.

You are precious in My eyes,
you are honored and I love you.
You are My witness,
My servant whom I have chosen,
that people may know and believe Me and understand that it is I.

I am the Lord, there is no other savior but Me.
I have formed you for Myself,
to sing My praises, and I am your God.

The Word of the Lord.

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,
God's mercies are not spent;

They are renewed each morning,
so great is God's faithfulness.

My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in God.

God is the Lord to one who waits
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.

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

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 waits 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.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

My children, do not forget my teaching.
Let your heart keep my principles,
for these will give you lengthier days, longer
years of life, and great happiness.
Let kindness and loyalty never leave you;
tie them 'round your neck' write them on
the tablet of your heart.
So shall you enjoy favor and good repute in the sight of God and all people.

Happy the person who discovers wisdom, who gains discernment;
for gaining her is more rewarding than silver,
more profitable than gold.
She is beyond the price of pearls,
nothing you could covet is her equal.
In her right hand is length of days,
in her left hand, riches and honor.
She is a tree of life for those who hold her fast,
those who cling to her live happy lives.

The Word of the Lord.

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.
She bring him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.
She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.

She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her
tongue is kindly counsel.
Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her:

“Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.”
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting: the woman
who fears the Lord is to be praised.

The Word of the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

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 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 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.

God has made everything appropriate to its time.
Whatever God does will endure forever,
There is no adding to it, or taking from it.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Sirach

The Lord sets a father in honor over his children;
a mother's authority he confirms over her sons
and daughters.

Those who honor their father atone for sins;
they store up riches who revere their mother.

Those who honor their father are gladdened by children,
and when they pray they are heard.

Those who revere their father will live a long life;
they obey the Lord who bring comfort to their mother.

Those who fear the Lord honor their father and serve
their parents.

In word and deed honor your father that his blessing
may come upon you;
for a father's blessing gives a family firm roots.

Kindness to a father will not be forgotten.

It will take lasting root.

The Word of the Lord

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

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 God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.

You know the word that God sent to the Israelites as peace was proclaimed 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. Jesus 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.

Jesus 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 Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

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 God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that God sent to the Israelites as peace was proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Jesus 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 Jesus will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.

Romans 5: 5-11

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 the blood of Jesus, 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.

Romans 6: 3-9

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 are 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.

Romans 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. 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.

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who can be against us? God who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all, how will God 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 of 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.

Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the 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. 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 all of us shall give an account of ourselves to God.

The Word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

**A reading from the First Letter
of Paul to the Corinthians**

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
this coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

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 that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that 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.

2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

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.

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

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 God 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 was done in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

Philippians 3:20-21

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.

Philippians 4:4-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone; the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Finally, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honor, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise.

Keep doing all things that you learned from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thessalonians 4:13-18

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring 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.

2 Timothy 2:8-13

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.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

As for me, the hour has come for me to be sacrificed: the time is here for me to leave this life.
I have done my best in the race. I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith,
and now there is waiting for me the prize of victory awarded for a righteous life,
the prize which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day – and not only to me,
but to all those who wait with love for Him to appear.

The Word of the Lord.

1 John 3:1-2

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 God. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do not know that when it is revealed, we shall see God as God is.

The Word of the Lord.

Revelations 14:13

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I 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.

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

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

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. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling with them and they will be His people and God will always be with them as their God. God 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 gifts, and I shall be their God and they will be my children."

The Word of the Lord.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS- A

Please respond Lord, hear our prayer after each petition.

For renewed faith in Jesus our Resurrection and Life, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For eternal rest and light for your servant, _____ let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed, **especially** _____, that God in His mercy may grant them eternal rest,

let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the bereaved relatives and friends that they may take comfort in the hope of the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the glorious coming of the Lord of Life,

let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have died alone and forgotten,

that they may rejoice forever in the company of the saints, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS- B

After each petition please respond Lord, hear our prayer.

We ask not only for light and rest for those who have gone before us, but also the consolation of the living.

In peace, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

That the Church may be a loving and consoling mother to those who grieve,

We pray to the Lord. **R.**

That God may welcome into heavenly peace _____ and rest,

We pray to the Lord. **R.**

That all the faithfully departed, especially _____ may enjoy the blessedness of eternal life and the brightness of perpetual light,

We pray to the Lord. **R.**

That we, who await Jesus' coming in glory, may one day be reunited in paradise.

We pray to the Lord. **R.**

That we may live our lives in Christian service and charity; and when life is done, that we may be judged in mercy,

We pray to the Lord. **R.**

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS—C

For **N.** who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that **he/she** now be admitted

to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our **brother/sister** who received the body of Christ, the bread of life, that **he/she** may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of our **brother/sister, N.**, 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.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends and all who have helped us, especially **N.**, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS—D

In baptism **N.** received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead **him/her** over the waters of death. Lord in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Our **brother/sister N.** was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome **him/her** into the halls of the heavenly banquet. Lord in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom, especially **N.** Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. Lord in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. Lord in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all those whose faith is known to you alone. Lord in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

The family and friends of **N.** seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that comes from grief. Lord in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

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 expectations of your Son's coming. Lord in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Please use the following songs to select the music for the funeral liturgy of your loved one. *“The music selected must express the prayer of those who celebrate, ... Individual preference is not, of itself, a sufficient principle for the choice of music in the liturgy.”*

Please note that Marian songs (songs about Mary) should be used for the Offertory (Presentation of the Gifts) only.

OPENING SONGS

Amazing Grace Hosea
Be Not Afraid On Eagle's Wings
Eyes Has Not Seen Sing with All the Saints in Saints Glory
For All the Saints
Here I am Lord
I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light

PSALMS

Psalm 23 Shepherd Me. O God
Psalm 103 The Lord is Kind and Merciful
Psalm 25 To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul

PREPARATION OF GIFTS

Amazing Grace
Ave Maria Serdeczna Matko
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman You Are Near
Here I Am, Lord
Hosea
I Have Loved You
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
Precious Lord, Take My Hand

COMMUNION SONGS

Amazing Grace (645) We Remember
Be Not Afraid (683) You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
Eat This Bread Taste and See
Here I Am, Lord
I Am the Bread of Life
I Received the Living God
On Eagle's Wings

FINAL COMMENDATION (INCENSING)

Saints of God (163)
Celtic Farewell

CLOSING SONGS

For All the Saints	Sing with All the Saints in Glory
How Great Thou Art	Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
Irish Blessing	
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	
Let There Be Peace On Earth	
On Eagle's Wings	
Peace Is Flowing Like a River	
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	

Recorded music is not permitted to be played in the Church. We request that special music be played at the wake or at the chapel before Mass.

“The liturgy is a complexus of signs expressed by living human beings. Music, being preeminent among those signs, ought to be ‘live’ . . . it (recorded music) should, as a general norm, never be used within the liturgy” The Liturgy Document

Reflection of Faith Life – Specific Guidelines

Rite of Christian Funerals is very specific about a reflection. Eulogies are

NOT permitted within the context of the Sacred Liturgy. However

The Funeral Mass is a **sacred time** at which we celebrate your loved one's going home to God. The Reflection comes after we have received Holy Communion— we are in a **sacred place**. Thus, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines.

It is to *focus on the faith life of the deceased*.

It reflects on what the deceased taught you or others about God, morals, values, etc.

If ill for some time or in Hospice – how did he/she deal with illness?

It reflects on the kind of person the deceased was towards his family (spouse, children, grandchildren, extended family).

It can reflect on how he/she treated others.

The ending is very important – see next sentence.

The closing of the reflection should speak of the fact that this Mass celebrates the deceased entering new life with Christ and that one day we will see him/her in the heavenly kingdom.

This Reflection needs to be approved by the Church Minister, Michelle Hilliard and the priest celebrating the mass, as soon as possible, prior to the wake service. Thank you.

Stories about your loved one can be shared at the wake service.

Please e-mail the reflection to Michelle at: mhilliard@ourladyofthewoods.org

FUNERAL MASS OUTLINE

Old Testament Reading _____

Reader _____

New Testament Reading _____

Reader _____

Please select the General Intercessions from 29 through 32 _____ A family member or the celebrant can read

Reader _____

Presentation of the Gifts (Offertory) of water, wine & bread (*eliminated during pandemic*)

Is there a Lay Minister of Communion who would minister at the Mass? (*eliminated during pandemic*)

_____ Yes _____ No

A Reflection of the deceased's ***Faith Life*** may be offered after Holy Communion. Please see the guidelines on page 35. A reflection is to be limited to 3 to 5 minutes in length. Please note that traditional eulogies are **not** permitted by the Catholic Church.

The Pastoral Associate of Our Lady of the Woods, will be in touch with you to schedule an appointment to assist you in the planning of the funeral liturgy. If you need to reach Michelle she can be reached at Our Lady of the Woods Parish 708-361-4754 extension 221.

FUNERAL MASS

For

Please select your songs from the booklet

Opening Song _____

Psalm _____

Gospel Acclamation: Traditional Alleluia (except during Lent)

Song for Offertory (Presentation of the Gifts)

Holy, Holy	Mass of Creation
Memorial Acclamation	Mass of Creation
Great Amen	Mass of Creation
Lamb of God	Isele

Communion Song _____

Closing Song _____

Please bring page 42 and 43 along with this booklet to your meeting at Our Lady of the Woods to plan the funeral mass for your beloved family member.

Liturgical music is the music used in the celebration of official public worship of the Church. The Bishops of Vatican II noted that music is more sacred the more it is an integral part of the liturgical action. At times, a single word, verse or melody will reach the heart of the assembly. In that instant, the group finds itself in communion with each other: one heart, one mind, one voice.

Liturgical Commission

Revised January 2016