

Preparing the Funeral Liturgy

The Catholic Parishes of Brockton



Christ the King Parish

54 Lyman St.

Brockton, MA 02302

(508) 586-1575



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

439 West Street

Brockton, MA 02301

(508) 586-4715



St. Edith Stein Parish

71 East Main Street

Brockton, MA 02301

(508) 586-6491



St. Patrick Parish

335 Main Street

Brockton, MA 02301

(508) 586-4840

THE FUNERAL LITURGY – THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF BROCKTON

This booklet has been prepared to assist you in preparing your loved one's funeral. Please accept our prayers and condolences during this difficult time.

As you go forward, we invite and encourage you and your family members to participate in the **Funeral Mass**. Please read the following pages and then complete the form on the final page and return it to the Funeral Director. Lastly, if this time is too difficult for you and your family, the Parish staff will willingly handle all the Mass arrangements.

Readings: The Church sets aside many readings for funerals. These can be found on our website. You can choose **one or two** readings. (*If you decide to choose two, the first is from the Old Testament and the second is from the New Testament.*)

Gift Bearers (*Optional*): Typically two (sometimes more) members of your family bring to the altar the “gifts”, the bread and wine to be consecrated. These gifts are prepared by the parish. The priest by word or gesture will invite the gift bearers to come forward. Although only two gifts are provided, more than two family members may process.

Words of Remembrance/Eulogy (*Optional*): Understandably, this task is often emotional. If – and understand that it is not required – a member of your family chooses to offer Words of Remembrance, please be mindful that the remarks are not meant to be an obituary as nearly all in attendance will be familiar with your loved one's life.

Rather, the remarks are a great opportunity to highlight and praise the **faith-life** of your loved one.

As you prepare remarks, it may be helpful to reflect upon these questions:

- How did the Catholic faith and practice enrich your loved one's life?
- How did your loved one speak of his/her Christian faith?
- What was his/her favorite image of Jesus?
- What did belonging to this parish mean to him/her?
- How did he/she put their hope and trust in God?

For many years now, every parish in the archdiocese has had to follow these guidelines regarding Words of Remembrance:

1. Only **one person** may offer the Words of Remembrance.
2. The remarks are to be between **two and five minutes**.
(*A rule of thumb: two pages typed, double-spaced is sufficient.*)
3. The remarks are to be **typed or written** and presented to the Priest or staff member prior to the Wake.
4. The content is to be **appropriate** to the sacredness of the liturgy.

Music: You can choose **four hymns** and **one responsorial psalm** for the funeral liturgy. The Music Directors and Cantors at each parish are available to help you select music. At the end of this booklet you will find some suggestions. While the list is extensive, we are open to other requests; but please remember that any selections must be based on our Sacred Scripture. (For example, “The Wind Beneath My Wings” while a beautiful song, is not acceptable

because it does not reflect Scripture, nor does it speak to our belief in the Resurrection.)

Fees: Usually, the fees are incorporated into the final cost for the services and are handled by the Funeral Director. The fee structure is as follows:

Church = \$200, Organist = \$150, Cantor = \$150.

Sometimes a family member or friend who is a musician is asked or offers to participate in the liturgy. We do allow such involvement; however, it is expected that the seated Organist and/or Cantor of the parish still be paid (known as a “bench fee” in these situations), as their salaries are inclusive of these liturgical functions.

THE FUNERAL LITURGY – RITUAL PARTS

Opening Rites

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

Placing of the Pall

Entrance hymn (hymn #1)

The Liturgy of the Word

Scripture Reading

Responsorial Psalm

(Second Reading OPTIONAL)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

Homily

General Intercessions

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts (hymn #2)

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Rite (hymn #3)

Concluding Rites

Post-Communion Prayer

Incensing of the Casket (Song of Farewell)

Recessional Hymn (hymn #4)

THE FUNERAL LITURGY – HYMN/MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Suggested Responsorial Psalms:

1. All I Ask of You
2. Be With Me, Lord
3. My Soul is Longing for Your Peace
4. Shelter Me, O God
5. Shepherd Me, O God
6. The Lord is My Light and My Salvation
7. The Lord is My Shepherd
8. With the Lord, There is Mercy
9. You Are Near

Suggested Hymns: *(the Music Director will assist arranging the hymns in the liturgy).*

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| 1. All That I Am | 3. Ave Maria |
| 2. Amazing Grace | 4. Be Not Afraid |

5. Because the Lord is
My Shepherd
6. Come Home
7. Come to Me
8. Gift of Finest Wheat
9. Hail Mary/Gentle
Woman
10. Here I Am, Lord
11. Holy God We Praise
Thy Name
12. Hosea (*"Come back to
me..."*)
13. How Great Thou Art
14. I Am the Bread of Life
15. I Asked the Lord
16. I Have Loved You
17. I Know That My
Redeemer Lives
18. In Every Age
19. In Remembrance
20. Irish Blessing
21. Lord, When You
Came
22. May You Walk With
Christ
23. Now We Remain
24. On Eagle's Wings
25. One Bread, One Body
26. Panis Angelicus
27. Parable
28. Prayer of St. Francis
29. Precious Lord, Take
My Hand
30. Receive in Your
Heart
31. Shepherd of My Heart
32. Song of Farewell
33. Songs of the Angels
34. Those Who See Light
35. We Have Been Told
36. We Remember
37. We Walk By Faith
38. We Will Rise Again
39. Yes, I Shall Arise
40. You Are All We Have
41. You Are Mine

THE FUNERAL LITURGY – WORKSHEET

Name of deceased _____

Date of Funeral Mass _____

Location/Parish _____

READINGS: (check and complete)

- _____ Please have the parish staff handle the readings.
- _____ We will choose the reading(s), but require a Lector(s).
- _____ We will choose the reading(s) and provide Lector(s).

First Reading _____

Read by _____

Second Reading (Optional) _____

Read by _____

Intercessions (Optional) _____

Gift Bearers (Optional) _____

Words of Remembrance (Optional)

Read by _____

MUSIC: (check and complete)

Please select **four hymns** and **one responsorial Psalm**; or indicate if you would like the Music Director to select music for you.

- _____ Please have the Music Director select the music.

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Hymns: _____
