

Funeral Liturgy Planning



*And I will
raise you up
on the last day*

*Saint Andrew Catholic Church
81 Swamp Road, Newtown, PA 18940
215-968-2262*

Our Condolences

Dear Parishioner,

The loss of a loved one is the most challenging time. We, the parish of Saint Andrew, extend our sympathy to you and your family at this time of sorrow. The saving mystery of Christ becomes active in our lives, especially in times of grief. The Church seeks to support you in these hard days and to instill within you the confidence in the saving presence of Christ.

This packet will assist you in the planning of the Funeral Mass. The celebration offers the active participation of the family and friends. Honor the deceased by placing symbols, selecting and proclaiming readings, and offering the Mass gifts. Please consult the music selection sheet for appropriate usage at the Mass.

A priest from the parish will call to plan a visit with the family. At that time, you can discuss particulars about the liturgy, such as music, readings, and prayers. If you have any questions, the priest will be happy to address your concerns.

Enclosed are the readings and music selections. The readings from the Old and New Testaments are those appropriate for a Funeral Mass. The proper liturgical use of the hymns for Mass is listed to assist you better. In order to save paper, we ask that you review these pages online, and submit your selections via email, directly from the "Our Selections" link on the Funeral page of our website. It will email our office your intentions, and a representative of Saint Andrew Catholic Church will be in touch.

Please chose a reading for the first and second readings, and select four (4) musical selections for the service.

To ensure your choices, we ask that you return the selection of readings and hymns to the Parish Office on the day before the funeral.

The Church makes use of several symbols to remind us of the eternal presence of Christ. The Easter Candle will be prominent in the funeral liturgy, calling to mind the light of Christ rising from the darkness of sin and death. Baptism is our first sharing in the victory of Christ over death. At our Baptism, we are clothed in white to show we belong to Christ. A white garment (the Pall) is placed over the casket at the funeral liturgy as a sign of our Christian dignity received in Baptism. Family members are encouraged to put the Pall over the coffin at the beginning of the funeral liturgy. In addition, family members or friends proclaim the readings at Mass. Likewise, the offertory procession of the gifts of bread and wine is an excellent opportunity for participation.

Special situations may call for cremation. The Church embraces the wishes of your loved one and does permit ashes into the Church for a Funeral Mass.

If you have any particular questions, please call the Parish Office at 215-968-2262.

We hope that this information will help you plan the funeral liturgy for your loved one. With the prayers of family and friends, and the support of the parish community, the love of God becomes present. Please know that you and your family will remain in our prayers.

General Intercessions

Priest:

God, the almighty Father, raised Jesus Christ his Son from the dead;
With confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead.

Reader:

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. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

4. 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.

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. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

6. 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.

Priest:

God, our shelter and our strength, you listened in love to the cry of your people. Hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Words of Remembrance

It has become customary to give some Words of Remembrance at the Funeral Mass, but it is not required. Some mistakenly refer to this as a Eulogy. However, there is a difference between these terms.

Words of Remembrance are permitted in the Funeral Liturgy because they describe the **FAITH LIFE** of the deceased, e.g., their relationship with God and their practice of Faith, significantly as it influenced family and friends. Eulogies typically describe worldly accomplishments and other things about the deceased.

Please only give only Words of Remembrance at the Mass.

Please contain this within three minutes at most (...one page of typed notes — double spaced — is a good template for keeping it brief).

Only one person should deliver the Words of Remembrance; however, others may stand with the reader. Other comments (Eulogies) are more appropriately given at the Wake (Viewing), or after the Committal Rite at the Cemetery, or the Luncheon following the Burial Service.

To keep the sacredness of the Liturgy intact, please follow the above guidelines.

You and your departed loved one will be kept in our Parish prayers!

Scripture Readings for Funeral Liturgy - 1st Reading

1 A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

12:43-46

Judas, the ruler of Israel,
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 in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.

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 absolved from their sin.

The word of the Lord.

2 A reading from the Book of Job

19:1, 23-27a

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite 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!
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 (in Short or Long* Form)

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

3:1-6, 9

* - Long form includes the verses enclosed in brackets. The short form omits them.

3:1-9

The souls of the righteous 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 to others, indeed, they seem 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 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 A reading from the Book of Wisdom

4:7-15

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 is the attainment of old age.

The one 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 that consideration into account.

The word of the Lord.

5 A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

25:6a, 7-9

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 to whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The word of the Lord.

My life is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself that 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 this I will call 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 your 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.

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and hear 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 the nation 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 to everlasting life,
others to reproach and everlasting disgrace.^b

But those with insight 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.

FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER

1 (in Short or Long* Form)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-36, 42-43

* - Long form includes the verses enclosed in brackets. The short form omits them.

10:34-43

Peter proceeded to speak and saying:
“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 children of Israel
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.

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.

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.

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.

Musical Selections

All hymns are from the Journeysongs hymnal.

The letters following the hymns indicate where in the liturgy the hymn would be best suited –

E: Entrance, **P:** Presentation of the Gifts, **C:** Communion, **R:** Recessional

Please choose 4 hymns from the following list: (one for each of the categories above)

Amazing Grace	E, P, C, R
Be Not Afraid	E, P
Christ Be Our Light	E, P, C, R
Eternal Father, Strong to Save	P
Eye Has Not Seen	P, C
Here I Am, Lord	P, C
How Great Thou Art	E, R
Gift of Finest Wheat	C
Grant Them Eternal Rest	E, P, R
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	R
I Received the Living God	C
Jesus Is Risen	E, R
Lift High the Cross	E, R
Lord of All Hopefulness	E, P
Loving and Forgiving	P, C
O God, You Search Me	P
On Eagles Wings	E, R
One Bread, One Body	C
Prayer of Saint Francis	P
Sing With All the Saints in Glory	E, R
Taste and See	C
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	E, P
The Strife Is O'er	R
Ubi Caritas	P, C
We Walk By Faith	P, R

Scripture Readings for Funeral Liturgy - 2nd Reading

1 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

5:5-11

Brothers and sisters:

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 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

5:17-21

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of one,
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 the one man,
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 (in Short or Long* Form)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

** - Long form includes the verses enclosed in brackets. The short form omits them.*

6:3-4, 8-9

6:3-9

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

[For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.]

We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

[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 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

8:14-23

Brothers and sisters:

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

The word of the Lord.

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

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

For we shall all stand before the 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 (in Short or Long* Form)

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

* - Long form includes the verses enclosed in brackets. The short form omits them.

15:20-23

15:20-28

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
[then comes the end,
when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father.

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.

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility,
and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.

And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:

*“Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”*

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Brothers and sisters:

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.
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

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

5:1, 6-10

Brothers and sisters:

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.

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.

11 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

3:20-21

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified Body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

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

3:20-21

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.

Beloved:

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.

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.
Yet so we are.
The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.

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

The word of the Lord.

Beloved:

We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love our brothers.

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 he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord.