

Sacred Music During the Liturgy

At the Christian Vigil (viewing), we gather together as family and friends to comfort one another and say our final good-byes. We may share the words of remembrances to tell the stories that gave meaning to the many relationships that have been a part of that person's life.

Now the purpose of the Mass of Christian Burial has a different meaning and purpose.

At this liturgy, we shift our focus to what Christ has done for us and how faith offers us hope. It is truly the perfect Memorial Service:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Music is integral to the funeral rites and the choices should mirror that belief of the Church.

Procession of the Gifts—We bring the gifts of bread and wine to unite our sacrifices with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. God's perfect act of love conquers death and allows us to say that Life is changed, not ended.

Option #1—Singing of one of the Psalms:

- Psalm 18:1-6—I love thee, O Lord, my strength
- Psalm 63—My Soul is Thirsting for You My God
- Psalm 66:13-20—I will come into thy house with burnt offerings

Option #2—Singing of one of the following hymns

- Gift of Finest Wheat- G#940
- Eye Has Not Seen- G#728
- Prayer of St. Francis- PM#234

- Blest Are They- G#735
- Without Seeing You- G#922
- I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say- G#724

Option #3—No congregational singing; instead, the organ will be played while gifts are brought up to the altar. (*During Lent Organ should be silent?*)

Communion Hymn—The assembly sings communion hymn to reinforce and to express more fully the unity of the Christian faithful both living and deceased. Through the heavenly nourishment, we are united with Christ and with each other.

Option #1—Congregational singing of one of the following Psalms:

- Psalm 23—The Lord is My Shepherd
- Psalm 27—The Lord is my light and my salvation
- Psalm 34—Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord
- Psalm 63—My Soul is Thirsting for You My God
- Psalm 121—Our Help Comes from The Lord

Option #2—Congregational singing of one or two of the following hymns:

- Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence-PM #182
- Panis Angelicus- PM#228
- O Jesus We Adore Thee- PM#209
- Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All- PM#174
- Taste and See- G#930
- Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist- PM#191

After the Holy Communion, please choose one of the following options:

Option #1—Prayerful silence to permit the assembly to reflect upon the Word of God and the meaning of the celebration

Option #2—Song of Praise sung by the Cantor

- Ave Maria (Gregorian Chant)
- Ave Maria (Schubert)
- Ave Maria (Bach-Gounod)
- Immaculate Mary- PM#165

- Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All- PM#174
- *Lux Aeternam* (Mode VIII)
- Mother, At Your Feet Is Kneeling
- *O Salutaris Hostia*- PM#216
- *O Sanctissima*- PM#216
- O Saving Victim/*O Salutaris Hostia*- (Samuel Webbe,1782)
- *Pie Jesu* (Faure)
- Regina Caeli-PM #235 (Especially appropriate during the Holy Season of Easter)
- *Salve Regina* -PM #237

Final Commendation and the Farewell-At the conclusion of the funeral liturgy, the rite of final commendation and farewell is celebrated. During this part, we acknowledge the reality of separation and affirm that the community and the deceased share the same destiny, Resurrection on the last day.

Song of Farewell (In Paradisum) will be sung by the cantor. Following is the translation:

May the Angels lead you into paradise: may the martyrs receive you at your coming, and lead you into the holy city, Jerusalem. May the choir of Angels receive you, and with Lazarus, who once was poor, may you have everlasting rest

Recessional Hymn—The assembly sing the recessional hymn to acknowledge that human life is a pilgrimage to God's kingdom. The place of peace and light. Please choose one of the following hymns:

- Jerusalem My Happy Home- PM#171
- How Great Thou Art- PM#160
- I Know My Redeemer Lives (Samuel Medley)- PM#163
- We Will Rise Again- OCP#440
- Alleluia! Sing to Jesus- PM#84
- O Saving Victim/*O Salutaris Hostia*- (Samuel Webbe,1782)
- Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise- PM#83