A guide to prepare for a Christian Funeral or Memorial Mass at Church of the Assumption, Westport, CT



"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11: 26)

Dear Friends:

The Church of the Assumption wishes to express our condolences to you on the death of your loved one. As you begin to make funeral arrangements, it is good to remember that you are invited to select the Scripture readings, which will be read at Mass. We have selected a group of readings for you to choose for the funeral liturgy.

The purpose of this booklet is to assist the family in planning a Funeral or Memorial Mass here at the Church of the Assumption. According to the Order of Christian Funerals, the Catholic funeral liturgy is composed of three movements or stations: the Vigil (the "Wake"), the Funeral Mass, and the Committal ("Burial").

Five parts in the Catholic Funeral Mass

I: Introduction Rites

1. Greeting at the door of the church.
2. Sprinkling with Holy Water
3. Placing of the Pall.
4. Opening prayer

II: Liturgy of the Word

1. Reading from the Old Testament
2. Reading from the New Testament (Letters)
3. The reading of the Gospel
4. Homily
5. Prayer of the Faithful

III: Liturgy of the Eucharist

1. Offertory: Bread and Wine
2. Communion
3. Closing Prayer

IV: Final Commendation

1. Words of Remembrance

V: Procession to the Cemetery

Family members are encouraged to help plan the Funeral Liturgy. There are options concerning the Scriptural readings for the liturgy. Please take a few minutes with your family to read the pages of this booklet and complete the form attached at the back.

Introductory Rites

The Funeral liturgy begins when the celebrant receives the body of the deceased at the main entrance of the Church. Here the priest will also greet the family and express the Church's prayers and sympathy to the family. The celebrant will start with greetings and the blessing of the body with holy water symbolizing the Sacrament of Baptism. After the sprinkling of holy water, the casket is covered with the funeral pall. The family may place a symbol of Christian life on the casket (i.e. crucifix, bible, rosary). Opening prayer is said on the chair or the altar.

Liturgy of the Word

The Church offers us the opportunity to listen to three readings from Sacred Scripture. One reading comes from the Old Testament, the second reading from the New Testament (Epistles) and the Gospel. You will find in this booklet selections of readings that are commonly used for Funerals. If you prefer different readings, please feel free to discuss this with the priest who will be celebrating the Funeral Mass.

It is strongly suggested that members of the family or friends read the first two readings (Old Testament and New Testament). It is preferable to have different readers for each reading. The responsorial Psalm is sung by the cantor and the priest or deacon will proclaim the Gospel.

The homily follows the readings and is given by the priest or deacon. After the homily, the Prayer of the Faithful is said.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Two family members can bring up the gifts of bread and wine to the priest. The gifts can be found on the small table in front of the first pew. Please indicate on the form the names of those who will be bringing the gifts.

Words of Remembrance (Eulogy)

Sometimes the family may wish to say few words about their loved ones. This is done after the closing prayer. *Only one family member or friend may speak in Church and the remarks should be kept brief (no more than 5 minutes) and written down*. It is appropriate to speak of the deceased's faith and works of mercy within the church setting. Other members or friends of the family may speak during or after the Wake Service in the Funeral Home. The reading of poems and playing of secular music should be done at the Wake service in the Funeral Home. Words of Remembrance is not required.

Final Commendation

After a brief invitation to prayer, the body may be incensed during the singing of the "Song of Farewell". If a Christian symbol has been placed on the casket, it is removed, and a procession begins to the main entrance of the church. The priest and those assisting him precedes the casket; the family members and friend will follow the casket. The pall is removed by the funeral director at the main entrance of the church.

Liturgical Music

Mr. Frank Matto the Music Director of our parish will help the family to plan for music during the Funeral Mass. If there is a particular religious song that the family wishes to be sung or played, Mr. Matto will determine if your song is appropriate for the liturgical celebration. He may be reached at 203-227-5161 ext. 105 or via email at fmatto@assumptionwestport.org.

Flowers

Two or three arrangements of the flowers may be brought into the Church for the Funeral Mass. These flowers can be left at the Church except during the Season of Lent, when they need to be removed after the Funeral Mass.

Memorial Mass

When the body or the cremated remains of the deceased are not present for the liturgy, the funeral is called a "Memorial Mass". Except for the absence of the remains and the entrance procession, all other aspects of the Mass are the same as a Funeral Mass. You need to choose the readings and songs. Members of the family are urged to do the Scripture readings.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

(Choose one Reading from the Old Testament: #1 - 9)

#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 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.

All: Thanks be to God!

#2 A Reading from the book of Job (19:1, 23-27)

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!

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.

All: Thanks be to God!

#3 A reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-9)

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 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 the elect.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

#4 A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (4:7-15)

The just man, though he died 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.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

#5 A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (25:6, 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 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.

All: Thanks be to God!

#6 A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

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.

All: Thanks be to God!

#7 A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel (12:1-3)

In those days, I, Daniel mourned and 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.

All: Thanks be to God!

#8 A Reading from the book of Proverbs (31:10-31)

A valiant woman, a capable wife, who can find her?
She is far more precious than jewels.
The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good and not harm, all the days of her life.
Her associates all have great confidence in her and benefit from her expertise.
She initiates good, not evil, every day of her life.
She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.
She does not neglect her household tasks. She willingly works with her hands.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
She rises early, before dawn to prepare food for her family, and organizes the tasks of the day.
She works diligently, taking pride in her inner resources and strengths.
She opens her hands to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.
She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband, too, and he praises her.

"Many women have done excellently well, but you surpass them all."

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

#9 A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-11)

There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven.

A time for giving birth, a time for dying; a time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted.

A time for killing, a time for healing; a time for knocking down, a time for building.

A time for tears, a time for laughter; a time for mourning, a time for dancing.

A time for throwing stones away, a time for gathering them up; a time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing.

A time for searching, a time for losing; a time for keeping, a time for throwing away.

A time for tearing, a time for sewing; a time for keeping silent, a time for speaking.

A time for loving, a time for hating; a time for war, a time for peace.

What does a man gain for the efforts that he makes?

I contemplate the task that God gives mankind to labor at.

All that he does is apt for its time; But though he has permitted man to consider time in its wholeness, man cannot comprehend the work of God from the beginning to end.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

(Choose one Reading from the New Testament: #10 - 16)

#10 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 who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, 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.

All: Thanks be to God!

#11 A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (5:17-21)

Brothers and Sisters:

If, by the transgression of the 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 Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all,
so, through one righteousness act,
acquittal and life came to all.

For just as though the disobedience of the one man
the many were made sinners,
so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so the 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,

All: Thanks be to God!

#12 A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (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,

All: Thanks be to God!

#13 A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (8:14-23)

Brothers and Sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons 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 fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God!

#14 A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (8:31-35, 37-39)

Brothers and Sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, 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,

All: Thanks be to God!

#15 A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (14:7-9, 10-12)

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 judgement 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 accounting of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God!

#16 A reading from the first Letter of St. 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 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.

All: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL

(Choose one: #17 - 30)

#17 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#18 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (11:25-30)

At that time Jesus answered:
"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."
"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#19 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (25:1-13)

Jesus told his disciples this parable:
"The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
Five of them were foolish and five were wise.
The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.
Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and feel asleep.
At Midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.
The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'
While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those were ready went into the wedding feast with him.
Then the door was locked.
Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'
But he said in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'
Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#20 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (25:31-46)

Jesus said to the disciples:
"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him.
And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.
Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father.
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'
Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?
When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?
When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers on mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'

And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#21 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (15:33-39)

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah."

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, out it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#22 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (7:11-17)

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.

As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.

A large crowd from the city was with her.

When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep."

He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearer halted, and said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!"

The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, “A great prophet has arisen in our midst,” and “God has visited his people.”

This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#23 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (23:44-46, 50, 52-53, 24:1-6)

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun.

Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man names Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the Body of Jesus.

After he had taken the Body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

At daybreak on the first day of the week the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the Body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.

They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, “Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised.”

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#22 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (24:13-16, 28-35)

That very day, the first of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther.

But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.”

So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them, who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#23 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (5:24-29)

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgement, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#24 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (6:37-40)

Jesus said to the crowds: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.

And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day.

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#25 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (6:51-59)

Jesus said to the crowds:

I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my Flesh is true food, and my Blood is true drink. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still die, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#26 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (11:17-27)

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away.

Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#27 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (11:32-45)

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."

But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb.

It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone.

And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowds here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me."

And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.

So Jesus said to the crowd, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#28 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (12:23-28)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life will lose it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#29 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14:1-6)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where are you going; how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

#30 A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (17:24-26)

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"Father, those whom you gave me are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Church of the Assumption

Music selections for the Funeral Liturgy

Please be mindful that the church is a sacred environment. Secular music from popular culture is neither appropriate nor permitted within the context of the liturgy.

Kindly select four selections from the list below:

Abide with Me
Amazing Grace
America the Beautiful
Ave Maria *(Best suited at the Presentation of the Gifts or at Communion)*
Be Not Afraid
Beyond the Moon and Stars
Celtic Song of Farewell (Tune: Danny Boy)
Eternal Father, Strong to Save (Navy Hymn)
Fly Like a Bird
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Here I Am, Lord
Hosea (Come Back to Me)
How Great Thou Art
I Am the Bread of Life
I Have Loved You
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
The Irish Blessing
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (Hymn to Joy)
Just a Closer Walk with Thee
Lady of Knock
Let There Be Peace On Earth
Lord, You Have Come to the Seashore (Pescador de Hombres)
Morning Has Broken
On Eagle's Wings
Panis Angelicus
Prayer of Saint Francis
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling
Shall We Gather at the River
Shepherd Me, O God
Sing with All the Saints in Glory (Hymn to Joy)
You Are Near

Sample Funeral Mass Program

(Assumption Church does not provide programs)

Processional	*Song of your choice*
First Reading	R*eading of your choice* *Name of Reader*
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 23: The Lord is my Shepherd *(sung response)*
Second Reading	R*eading of your choice* *Name of Reader*
Gospel	*Gospel of your choice*
Homily	Name of the Priest
Prayer of the Faithful	Name of the Priest
Presentation of the Gifts	*Song of your choice*
Communion	*Song of your choice*
Tribute - *Optional*	*Name of person*
Commendation and Farewell	
Recessional	*Song of your choice*

Celebrant
Name of the Priest

Presentation of the Gifts
Name of the Person
Name of the Person

Organist
Name of the Organist

Cantor
Name of the Cantor