

St. Thomas More Parish – Hymn Selections for Funerals

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As you prepare a Funeral Liturgy or Memorial Mass, we hope that these resources assist you in preparing a liturgy that truly celebrates the great gift of a life that God has given us.

Music in Catholic Funerals

“Sacred music has an integral role in the funeral rites, since it can console and uplift mourners while, at the same time, uniting the assembly in faith and love.^(OCF #30) Funeral music should express the Paschal Mystery and the Christian’s share in it.^(OCF #30) Since music can evoke strong feelings, it should be chosen with care. It should console the participants and ‘help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ’s victory over death and in the Christian’s share in that victory.’”^(OCF #31)

Selecting Music

In a general sense, music that is appropriate for a Catholic Mass is appropriate for a Funeral Liturgy. We have assembled a list of common songs used at Funeral Liturgies. We encourage families to select music from our hymnals, in order to facilitate the congregation’s ability to participate in the prayer (we currently use the Catholic Book of Worship and Breaking Bread (OCP).

A minimum of three songs are needed: an Entrance Processional, an Offertory Song, a Communion Song, and a Recessional Song. If you pick out 3 or 4 songs, we can help arrange them appropriately within the liturgy. We encourage the responsorial psalm to be sung; some recommended psalms are included in the music list below.

- Other choices are possible – these are only suggestions!
- The categories below are not rigid. For example, one of the suggested gathering songs might work as a recessional, an offertory hymn might work for communion, etc.
- Remember: music for any mass (including funerals) *must* be appropriate sacred music of the type normally used in Catholic liturgies.

Our Music Ministry Coordinator will discuss music selections with you; this sheet is meant to give you a starting point for that conversation. The Music Ministry Coordinator will select prelude music, as well as the setting for Final Commendation. Suggestions for music selections used as Processional, Responsorial Psalm, Offertory, Communion and Recessional are outlined below. Other selections may be discussed with the Music Ministry Coordinator.

Please select three from the following list of hymns for Processional, Offertory and Recessional.

Processional, Offertory, Recessional

Alleluia Give Thanks to the Risen Lord (not during Lent)	CBW 383	On Eagle's Wings	BB 436
Amazing Grace	CBW 480	Parable	BB 686
Be Not Afraid	CBW 481	Peace is Flowing Like a River	BB 529
Be Still My Soul	BB 687	Prayer of St. Francis	BB 523
Blest are They	CBW 522	Shelter Me, O God	BB 464
Eye Has Not Seen	CBW 482	Sing a New Song (Schutte)	BB 544
Here I am Lord	CBW 520	Sing with All the Saints	CBW 406
How Great Thou Art	CBW 554	Table of Plenty	BB 310
I Have Loved You	BB 603	The Lord is my Light (Walker)	BB 680
In Every Age (Whitaker)	BB 466	We Walk by Faith	BB 496
Like a Shepherd	BB 607	You are Mine	BB 456
Morning has Broken	CBW 651	You are Near	CBW 487
O Loving God (O Danny Boy)	BB 681		

Please select one from the following list of Communion hymns. (Do not duplicate selections from the list above)

Communion

Blest are They	CBW 522
Bread of Life	CBW 597
I am the Bread of Life	BB 363
O Loving God (O Danny Boy)	BB 681
One Bread, One Body	BB 339
Peace is Flowing Like a River	BB 529
Prayer of St. Francis	BB 523
Table of Plenty	BB 310

Please select one of the following responsorial psalms:

Responsorial Psalm

CBW 211 – The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

CBW 133 – Rest in God alone, my soul (Psalm 62)

CBW 48 – I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living (Psalm 116)