

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 III (CCCB) and Celebrate in Song (CCCB). We also have pew sheets available to supplement with hymns relevant to a specific liturgical season.

A minimum of three songs are needed: an Entrance Processional, an Offertory Song, a Communion Song, and a Recessional Song. If you select them, 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. This does not include folk songs or secular music.
- No recorded music is used in the context of Mass.

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.

MUSIC SELECTION

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	Now Know We Not the Meaning of Life's Sorrow (Finlandia)	CBW 635
Amazing Grace	CBW 480	O Bless the Lord	CBW 562
Be Not Afraid	CBW 481	O How Blessed	No hymnal
Christ, Be Our Light	CiS p. 162	O Loving God (O Danny Boy)	No hymnal
Eye Has Not Seen	CBW 482	On Eagle's Wings	No hymnal
Gather Us Together	CBW 601	Peace is Flowing Like a River	No hymnal
Gather Your People	CiS p. 122	Praise to You, O Christ Our Saviour	CBW 442
Glory in the Cross	CiS p. 130	Prayer of St. Francis	No hymnal
Here I am Lord	CBW 520	Shelter Me, O God	CBW 372
How Great Thou Art	CBW 554	Sing a New Song (Schutte)	CBW 563
I Have Loved You	No hymnal	Sing with All the Saints	CBW 406
Like a Shepherd	CBW 490	The Lord is my Light (Walker)	No hymnal
Morning has Broken	CBW 651	We Walk by Faith	CBW 495
		You are Near	CBW 487

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

Communion

Bread for the World	CiS p. 94
Bread of Life	CBW 597
Gift of Finest Wheat	CBW 603
I am the Bread of Life	No hymnal
Let Us Be Bread	CiS p. 106
No Greater Love	CBW 599
One Bread, One Body	No hymnal
One Love Released	CiS p. 110
Seed, Scattered and Sown	CBW 604
Take and Eat	CBW 611

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)