

# 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.”<sup>(OCF #30)</sup> Funeral music should express the Paschal Mystery and the Christian’s share in it.<sup>(OCF #30)</sup> 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.’”<sup>(OCF #31)</sup>

## 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  | SMS 157   |
| Beyond the Moon and Stars                                | SMS 116    | O Loving God (O Danny Boy)                               | No hymnal |
| Christ, Be Our Light                                     | CiS p. 162 | On Eagle's Wings   | SMS 160   |
| Eye Has Not Seen   | CBW 482    | Peace is Flowing Like a River                            | No hymnal |
| Gather Us Together                                       | CBW 601    | Praise to You, O Christ Our Saviour                      | CBW 442   |
| Gather Your People                                       | CiS p. 122 | Prayer of St. Francis                                    | SMS 165   |
| Glory in the Cross                                       | CiS p. 130 | Shelter Me, O God  | CBW 372   |
| Here I am Lord   | CBW 520    | Sing a New Song (Schutte)                                | CBW 563   |
| How Great Thou Art                                       | CBW 554    | Sing with All the Saints                                 | CBW 406   |
| I Know that My Redeemer Lives                            | SMS 143    | The Lord is my Light (Walker)                            | SMS 181   |
| Like a Shepherd  | CBW 490    | We Walk by Faith   | CBW 495   |
| Morning has Broken                                       | CBW 651    | 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   | SMS 140    |
| Let Us Be Bread          | CiS p. 106 |
| No Greater Love          | CBW 599    |
| One Bread, One Body      | SMS 161    |
| 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)