

A CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL LITURGY



**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
26 THORN AVENUE
ORCHARD PARK, NEW YORK 14127**

Dear friend,

We offer you our prayers and support at this time of your loss. As you consider funeral arrangements, this guide will help you plan the Liturgy. You are invited to choose scriptures, music and prayers, as well as family members and friends to participate at various times throughout the service. A Planning Form is provided as your guide.

May these moments of reflection help to give you peace and comfort. Know that our prayers are with you today and for the weeks to follow.

If we can be of any help to you, please do not hesitate to call (716-662-9339).

Your Priests, Ministry and Parishioners of Nativity

Outline of the Funeral Rite

Introductory Rites

- Greeting (priest)
- Sprinkling with Holy Water (priest)
- Placing of the Pall (family members/friends)
- Entrance Procession (priest and family/friends)
- Placing of Christian Symbols (family/friends)
- Opening Prayer (priest)

Liturgy of the Word

- Readings (family/friends; priest reads Gospel)
- Homily (priest)
- General Intercessions (family member/friend)

Liturgy of the Eucharist (priest)

Final Commendation (priest)

- Invitation to Prayer
- Silence
- Song of Farewell and Incense
- Prayer of Commendation

Procession to Place of Committal (all)

READINGS/PRAYERS/MUSIC

The selections on the following pages are to aid you in planning the funeral liturgy. Please mark your selections on the **Planning Form** provided. If you wish to use a different reading, please inform Nativity staff and we will get the approval of the priest.

Please choose **one Old Testament** reading and **one New Testament** reading. A family member or friend is invited to read the selections at the Mass.

You may choose a **Gospel reading** or you may have the priest choose the Gospel. The priest will read the Gospel at the Mass.

You may choose between choice **A or B for the Prayers of the Faithful**.

You may choose four **songs** to be played at the funeral Mass. Included in the following pages are several song choices that are frequently heard at funerals. If there is a different song you would like considered, please inform Nativity staff. All music must be liturgically appropriate for the setting and approved by our organist. If you are using your own musicians, the priest will approve the music.

We provide the organist. If you would like to have a cantor or would like to bring in your own musician, please let us know.

If you have any questions or we can assist you in any way, please call us at 716-662-9339 ext 110 or email us at smcdonough@nativityschool.net.

Old Testament Readings

(Please choose one and mark the number on the **Planning Form**.)

1. Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel,

took up a collection among 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.

2. Job 19:23-27a

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad and 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.

Old Testament Readings

3. Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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 them to himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through the 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 his elect.

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

4. Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

5. Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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 be said:

“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the Lord for who we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

6. Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

7. Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and hear this word of the Lord:

At the 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 in 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

8. Proverbs 31: 10-12, 25-26, 28-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom,
and on her tongue is kindly council.
Her children rise up and praise her;
her husband, too, extols her:
“Many are the women of proven worth,
but you have excelled them all.”
Charm is deceptive, and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward for her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

9. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 12-15

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;

A time to embrace,

and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose;

A time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew;

A time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate;

A time of war, and a time of peace.

I recognized that there is nothing better
than to be glad and to do well during life.

For every man, moreover—

to eat and to drink,

and to enjoy the fruit of all his labor,

is a gift of God.

I recognized that whatever God does

will endure forever;

there is no adding to it, or taking from it.

Thus has God done, that he may be revered.

What now is, - has already been;

What is to be, - already is;

And God restores

what would otherwise be displaced.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

1. Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

2. Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters:

For if, by the transgression of one person,
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 person Jesus Christ.

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

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

The law entered in so that 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

3. Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Or 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

4. Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children 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 first fruits of the
Spirit,

we also groan within ourselves

as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

5. Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

He who did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

how 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

6. Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

None of us 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 judgment 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 account of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

7. First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,

the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,

the resurrection of the dead came also through a man.

For just as in Adam all die,

so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,

but each one in proper order:

Christ the firstfruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;

then comes the end,

when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death,

for “he subjected everything under his feet.”

But when it says that everything has been subjected to him,

it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.

When everything is subjected to him,

then the Son himself will also be subjected

to the one who subjected everything to him,

so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

8. First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility,
and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.

And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

9. Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you,
so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged;
rather, although our outer self is wasting away,
our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction
is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen;
for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands,
eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

10. Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands,
eternal in heaven.

So we are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each one may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

11. Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,

and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body

to conform with his glorified Body

by the power that enables him also

to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

12. First Letter of St. John 3:14-16

A reading from the first Letter of St. John

We know that we have passed from death to life

because we love our brothers.

Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,

and you know that no murderer has eternal life

remaining in him.

The way we came to know love

was that he laid down his life for us;

so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

13. First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers,
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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

14. Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David:
such is my gospel, for which I am suffering,
even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen,
so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,
together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him we shall also live with him;
if we persevere we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful
he remains faithful,

for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

15. First Letter of St. John 3:1-2

A reading from the First Letter of St. John

Beloved:

See what the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL READINGS

1. Matthew 5:1-12

When he 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.

2. Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said in reply,

“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.

The Gentle Mastery of Christ. “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 light.”

GOSPEL READINGS

3. John 12:23-28

Jesus answered them, “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 loses 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.”

4. John 14:1-6

“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 you are 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.”

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Choice A

The response will be “Lord, hear our prayer.”

The love and care of _____ has surrounded us from our earliest years. May the memories we treasure enable us to be loving and caring to those we live with.

- We pray to the Lord.

Lord Jesus, you have overcome death. In death, life is changed, not taken away. May we experience the resurrected life of _____ in the Communion of Saints.

- We pray to the Lord.

Loving Father, we remember in a special way those who have gone before us, especially _____ (mention deceased family members or friends). Grant that we may all one day be together again.

- We pray to the Lord.

That those who mourn the loss of _____ may be embraced by consolation and peace.

- We pray to the Lord.

(The petitions are concluded with a prayer from the priest. The reader stays at the lectern until the priest’s prayer is finished.)

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Choice B

The response will be “Lord, have mercy.”

Let us turn to Christ Jesus with confidence and faith in the power of his cross and resurrection.

Risen Lord, pattern our life forever. Response (R): Lord, have mercy.

Promise and image of what we shall be. R: Lord, have mercy.

Son of God who came to destroy sin and death. R: Lord, have mercy.

Word of God who delivered us from the fear of death. R: Lord, have mercy.

Crucified Lord, forsaken in death, raised in glory. R: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, gentle Shepherd who brings rest to our souls, give peace to _____ forever. R: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain. Bless _____’s family and friends who gather around him/her today.
R: Lord, have mercy.

(The petitions are concluded with a prayer from the priest. The reader stays at the lectern until the priest’s prayer is finished.)

MUSIC OF THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL LITURGY

The music at a funeral will help the congregation join together in worship. The hymns express in beautiful music and poetry the faith, beliefs, and emotions so important at this time. The Church's funeral liturgy calls us to reflect on:

- The saving power of our Baptism into the Lord's death and resurrection
- Our sure consolation in the Faith
- Prayers for the happy repose of the deceased

The hymns gathered here, from our parish *Gather Hymnal*, express these themes. As you plan the service, consider that there can be as few as one, or as many as four places in the service for the congregation to sing a hymn. You are invited to choose which hymns you would like, or the organist will plan an appropriate schedule of music.

Hymn suggestions: (found in *Gather Hymnal*; numbers are song numbers, not page numbers. Portions in quotes are to help you identify the songs.)

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (949) "Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left..."
2. Be Not Afraid (683) "Be not afraid. I go before you always..."
3. Behold the Lamb (939) "Those who were in the dark are thankful..."
4. Blest Are They (735) "Blest are they, full of sorrow..."
5. Center of My Life (679) "O Lord, you are the center of my life..."
6. Dwellers in the Holy City (976) "Dwellers in the Holy City, open wide..."
7. Eye Has Not Seen (728) "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard..."
8. For All the Saints (884) "For all the saints, who from their labors rest..."
9. How Great Thou Art (578) "Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee..."
10. I Am the Bread of Life (945) "I am the Resurrection, I am the Life..."

11. I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (724) “Come unto me and rest...”
12. I Know That My Redeemer Lives (973) “And on the last day, I shall rise...”
13. In Paradisium (977) “May choirs of angels export you into Paradise...”
14. Lift High the Cross (881) “Lift high the cross, the love of Christ...”
15. Lord of All Hopefulness (663) “Lord of all calm; Whose voice is...”
16. On Eagle’s Wings (691) “And He will raise you up. On eagle’s wings...”
17. Prayer of St. Francis (828) “Make me a channel of Your peace...”
18. Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd (34) “Surely goodness...”
19. Sing With All the Saints in Glory (539) “Sing the resurrection song!...”
20. Steal Away to Jesus (868) “Steal away, steal away to Jesus...”
21. The Strife is Over, the Battle Done (525) “Now is the Victor’s triumph...”
22. There is a Place (979) “There’s a time for remembering...”

You are welcome to choose other liturgically appropriate songs. If you choose a song not on the above list, either the music director or the pastor must approve the selection.

FUNERAL PLANNING SHEET

Funeral of _____ Date _____ Time _____

Family participation:

Introductory Rites

Placing of Christian symbols

The service begins with a remembrance of the loved one's Baptism. A white garment (the Pall) is placed on the coffin along with the cross. (This is not done with cremains.)

Names of family members/friends who would like to do this:

Liturgy of the Word

Scripture readings

You may choose one Old Testament, one New Testament and a Gospel reading, as well as who would like to proclaim the readings. We have provided several selections from which to choose. (If you have a selection other than those provided, please check with the Church office or priest.)

Old Testament selection number: _____

Person to proclaim Old Testament reading: _____

New Testament selection number: _____

Person to proclaim New Testament reading: _____

Gospel selection: _____

The priest proclaims the Gospel.

Prayers of the Faithful: Please circle one

A B

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts

You may choose family members/friends to bring the gifts to the priest at the altar. Please list their names below.

Eulogy

A friend or family member may offer some personal remarks. Please limit the eulogy to five minutes. A eulogy should relate to the person's faith and charity.

If you desire to have a eulogy, please list the name of the person to speak.

Final Commendation

The priest will **incense** the casket or urn.

If **military honors** are requested, this can be done at the church or cemetery.

Military honors? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please indicate whether you would like them
at church _____ or the cemetery _____

A song of farewell will be sung and the gathering will process down the aisle and out of the church.

Music Selections

Please choose three songs to be included in the Mass. Please use the numbers indicated on pages 29 and 30 of this guide. (If you wish, the organist can choose the musical selections.)

First hymn selection _____

Second hymn selection _____

Third hymn selection _____

Fourth hymn selection _____

Please provide the answers to the following questions in order that the priest may get to know the loved one.

1. Nature of death-Was this an illness over a long period of time, sudden (accident or heart attack, etc), suicide, other.

2. Family history-children, grandchildren, pets

3. Living relatives

4. Work history

5. Hobbies or interests

6. What you are most going to miss, or what is most going to remind you of them?

7. How was their faith or God important to them?

DIRECTIONS TO NATIVITY

**Nativity of Our Lord
26 Thorn Avenue
Orchard Park, New York 14127
(716)662-9339**

From the north:

Take I-90 West on the New York State Thruway.

Follow I-90 to US 219 South.

Take 219 South to US 20A East in Orchard Park.

Turn right at the end of the exit and follow US 20A East for approximately 500 feet.

Turn right onto Thorn Avenue.

Proceed to the end of Thorn Avenue.

Nativity is located at the corner of Thorn Avenue and South Buffalo Street.

From the south:

Take US 219 North.

Follow US 219 North to US 20A East in Orchard Park.

Turn right at the end of the exit onto US 20 A East and follow for approximately 500 feet.

Turn right onto Thorn Avenue.

Proceed to the end of Thorn Avenue.

Nativity is located at the corner of Thorn Avenue and South Buffalo Street.