Thank you for considering St. Patrick’s Catholic Church for the funeral planning needs for yourself or for a loved one. The loss of a family member or friend is a very difficult time for those left behind who are presented with many different choices. This guide can be used at any time: you can make your wishes clear to your family well ahead of the time of your death by choosing a Mortuary, if you want a Vigil, a Funeral Mass and Committal Service, what readings and music you prefer, and where you want your final resting place to be, or you can rely on it when you are faced with these decisions because your loved one just passed away.

We invite you to use this guide to make your choices of readings and songs, and bring them with you to your meeting with the trained Compassionate Care volunteer who will help you through this difficult time. St. Patrick’s Church Staff is also always available to answer any questions you may have regarding the Church guidelines for a Catholic funeral service.

**The Three Components of the Funeral Liturgy**

*The Vigil* is the time when family and friends of the deceased gather to reflect upon that person’s life and express their own feelings. The Vigil is usually held at the Mortuary Chapel or in the church, the evening before or in the morning prior to the funeral service. The Rosary, or a portion of it, may be included in the service.

*The Funeral Liturgy* is the principal celebration of the Christian Funeral. It is here that family and friends join to reaffirm the belief that life has not ended and that we are one with Christ in life, death, and Resurrection. The family has a choice of one or two Scripture readings—in addition to the Gospel chosen and read by the presiding priest—and a selection of appropriate hymns. Please see page 3 and 4 for a list of appropriate readings and hymns. The family may want to participate in the liturgy by providing members to read the selections and present the bread and wine at communion time.

*The Rite of Committal* consists of a Scripture reading and short prayers led by a priest, deacon, or prepared layperson near the final resting place of the deceased person, such as the gravesite, mausoleum or cemetery chapel.

**A note about Cremation:** While there is a preference for traditional burial, the Church has permitted cremation for over 40 years. The Church teaches that the cremated remains should be kept together (not scattered or divided) to respect the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit and preferably interred in the consecrated grounds of a Catholic Cemetery.
The Funeral Liturgy

Name of the Deceased _______________________________________________

Order of Service:

Entrance song (see page 11) ___________________________________________

Readings: you may have one or two readings, in addition to the Gospel. If two readings are chosen, the first one will be from the Old Testament and the Second from the New Testament. If you prefer to have only one reading, it can be from either the Old or the New Testament.

1st Reading (Old Testament, see page 4) ________________________________
   Read by: _______________________________________________________  

Psalm # (see page 7) Read or sung by: _________________________________

2nd Reading (Optional- New Testament, see pg. 5 and 6) _________________
   Read by: _______________________________________________________  

Gospel Reading chosen and read by priest

Intercessory prayers     A      B      C     (pgs. 8-10) Read by: ____________________

Preparation of the Gifts song __________________________________________

Bread and Wine presented by: _________________________________________

Other mementos (optional) presented by:________________________________

Communion Song ____________________________________________________

Meditation Song ____________________________________________________

Eulogy (5 minutes maximum) __________________________________________

Exit Song:__________________________________________________________
Liturgie of the Word—Selection of Readings

To help you plan the readings for your service, we have provided a selection of Old Testament, New Testament, and Responsorial Psalms as they appear in the standard Rite of Funerals book. If you choose to have two Bible readings, the first will be from the Old Testament, the second from the New Testament. If you prefer to have only one reading, it can be from either the Old or the New Testament.

*Please note that non-biblical texts such as poems, essays, prayers may not replace scriptural readings or the responsorial psalm at the Funeral Mass, but they may be shared at the Vigil or in a limited way at the time of the eulogy at the end of Mass.*

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**SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR READINGS**

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**OT 1 - Daniel 12:1-3**

In those days, I, Daniel, 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."

**OT 4 - Isaiah 43:1-4**

But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you.

For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior. I give Egypt as ransom for you, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you and nations in exchange for your life.

**OT 2—Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 14-15**

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every thing 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 whatever God does will endure forever; there is no adding to it, or taking from it.

**OT 5—Job 19:23-27a**

Job spoke, saying: 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.

**OT 3—Isaiah 25:6a, 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 be 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!"

**OT 6—Proverbs 31:10-13**

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 obtains wool and flax and works with loving hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.

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.

**OT 7—Wisdom 3:1-6**

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. 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.
**NT 1 - Acts: 10: 34-43**

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

**NT 2 - 1 Corinthians 13: 1-7, 13**

Brothers and sisters: Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**NT 3 – 1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

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.

**NT 4 - 2 Corinthians 4:14, 5:1**

Brothers and sisters: We know 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.

**NT 5 - Philippians 3:20-21**

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.
NT 6 - 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And 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. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

NT 7 - Revelation 14:13

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

NT 8 - Revelation 21:1-5a

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." The One who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

NT 9 - Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

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. 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.

NT 10 - Romans 8:14-21

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 whom we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit himself 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.

NT 11 - Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

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, 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.

NT 12 - Romans 14:7-9

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.
NT 13 - Romans 14: 7-12
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 sister? Or you, why do you look down on your brother or sister?
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.

NT 14 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14,18
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.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

NT 15 - 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18
We urge you, brothers and sisters, admonish the idle, cheer the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with all.
See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good, both for each other and for all.
Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you, in Jesus Christ.

NT 16 - 2 Timothy 4:1-2
(Note: 2Tim 4:1-2 is sometime combined with 2Tim 4:6-8)
Beloved: I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power:
proclaim the word;
be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient;
convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

NT 17 - 2 Timothy 4:6-8
For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand.
I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.
From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

PSALMS
The following is given to you for reference. If you choose to have the psalm read (not sung) the complete text will be provided at the meeting with the Bereavement Team volunteer.

Psalm 23
“The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.”

Psalm 25
“To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.”

Psalm 27
“The Lord is my light and my salvation.”

Psalm 116
“I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.”

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS
See attached sheets.
ASSISTING MINISTER: The response is “Hear our prayer.”

In baptism (NAME) received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him over the waters of death.......... Lord, in your mercy:
ALL: Hear our prayer.

Our brother (NAME) was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him into the halls of the heavenly banquet........Lord, in your mercy:
ALL: Hear our prayer.

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son ..........Lord, in your mercy:
ALL: Hear our prayer.

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. ..........Lord, in your mercy:
ALL: Hear our prayer.

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone........Lord, in your mercy:
ALL: Hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of (NAME) who seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief ....Lord, in your mercy.
ALL: Hear our prayer.

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother (NAME). Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. ..........Lord, in your mercy:
ALL: Hear our prayer.
ASSISTING MINISTER: The response is “Lord, hear our prayer.”

For **(NAME)**, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

...............We pray to the Lord.

**ALL:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

...............We pray to the Lord.

**ALL:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.

...............We pray to the Lord.

**ALL:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of our brother, **(NAME)**, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

...............We pray to the Lord.

**ALL:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God’s kingdom

...............We pray to the Lord.

**ALL:** Lord, hear our prayer.
PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(Lector announce:) The response is “Lord, hear our prayer.”

THAT THE CHURCH MAY BE AS A LOVING PARENT FOR (NAME)’S RELATIVES AND FRIENDS AND FOR ALL WHO GRIEVE... let us pray
ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

THAT ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED MAY ENJOY THE BLESSEDNESS OF ETERNAL LIFE....let us pray
ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

THAT GOD MIGHT WELCOME (NAME) INTO HEAVENLY PEACE AND REST... let us pray
ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

THAT WE MAY LIVE OUR LIVES IN CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND CHARITY, AND WHEN LIFE IS DONE, MAY WE BE JUDGED IN MERCY....let us pray
ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

THAT THE MESSAGE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE THAT COMES FROM THE HEART OF JESUS MIGHT FIND A PLACE IN THE LIVES OF ALL PEOPLE. ...let us pray
ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.
Music for Funerals

Opening (or Closing)
On Eagle’s Wings
Though the Mountains May Fall
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Christ Be Our Light

Presentation (or Communion)
We Will Rise Again
Seek Ye First
Prayer of St Francis
You Are Mine
Eye Has Not Seen
Because the Lord is My Shepherd
Fly Like a Bird
Center of My Life
Abide With Me
Flow River Flow
We Walk by Faith

Communion (or Presentation)
In Christ Alone
Be Thou My Vision
Lead Me, Guide Me
The Supper of the Lord
I am the Bread of Life
Behold the Lamb
Any favorite Communion song

Ave Maria (best for after communion meditation)

Closing
How Great Thou Art
Let There Be Peace on Earth
I am the Bread of Life
Blest By Your Sacrifice
Precious Lord Take My Hand
Shall We Gather at the River
Lead Me Lord