Planning Music for the Mass of Christian Burial



If you have questions or would like to discuss preplanning the Funeral Liturgy, please feel free to contact us at the parish office.

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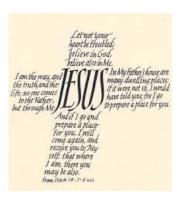
St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish

900 Geiger Street Neenah, WI 54956

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St. Gabriel the Archangel is a welcoming Catholic community of disciples who encounter Jesus, joyfully and compassionately serving God's people.



The death and loss of a loved one is a time of immense emotion. Sadness, grief, despair, and anguish are just a few of the emotions we may experience during the immediate days following the death of someone we love. But in Jesus Christ, our faith tells us that with death life is changed, not ended. It is our deepest hope and prayer that our family and friends who have died are now in the hands of God.

The core of the Catholic funeral celebration is the Mass. The Eucharist is at the center of the Catholic faith – the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Funeral Liturgy seeks to express both aspects of Christian Death: a true sense of mourning and loss, as well as the hope that we will all be reunited one day with Jesus Christ in Heaven. Scripture readings, prayer, psalms, hymns and songs all have a prominent role in the Catholic Funeral Liturgy.

Preplanning the Funeral Liturgy eases the stress of making decisions of what readings and music to select. It also can be a shared time of communicating your desires with family members.

Music in the Funeral Liturgy helps us to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love.

The following lists, while not exhaustive, are provided to assist you with selecting the psalms and hymns for the Funeral Liturgy. These lists include the liturgical hymns most often sung. Non-liturgical songs, e.g. secular songs, or special instruments, like bagpipes, may be incorporated into services at the funeral home, outside of the Mass, or at the cemetery. If you have no preference or require guidance with selecting the hymns, our director of music will gladly assist you.

When planning the music, you may want to consider seasonal hymns, such as Silent Night during the Christmas season.

The responsorial psalms:

Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 27 - The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Psalm 63 - My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Psalm 116 - In the land of the living, I will walk with God all my days. #611 All Creatures of Our God and King *

#949 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus *

#645 Amazing Grace

#683 Be Not Afraid

#735 Blest Are They

#493 Change Our Hearts

#590 Christ, Be Our Light

#728 Eye Has Not Seen

#884 For All the Saints *

#777 Here I Am, Lord

#484 Hosea

#685 How Can I Keep From Singing?

#578 How Great Thou Art

#945 I Am the Bread of Life

#588 I Have Loved You

#724 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

#527 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

#540 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today *

#646 Keep In Mind

#S68 Lead Me, Lord

#619 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

#402 Like a Shepherd

#663 Lord of All Hopefulness

#781 Lord, When You Came

#598 O God Beyond All Praising

#691 On Eagle's Wings

#923 One Bread, One Body

#828 Prayer of St. Francis

#955 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

#519 Sing to the Mountains

#930 Taste and See

#47 The Cry of the Poor

#712 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

#689 Though the Mountains May Fall

#525 The Strife Is O'er *

#681 We Remember

#871 We Shall Rise Again

#721 You Are Mine

#695 You Are Near

*Not during Lent