

**Church of the Assumption  
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401  
203-735-7857**

Dear Friends in Christ,

As your parish priest and on behalf of our entire parish family, I extend to you our prayers, love, and support during this time of grief. We want you to know that we are willing to be of whatever help is possible in the days and months ahead. We are also aware that we cannot take away the pain of loss, but we believe in a loving God who wants to encounter us in the midst of suffering and promises to never abandon us. Death is never an easy reality. But we also know that God hears our prayers, comforts our aching hearts, and dries the tears of His children as we reach out to Him in living hope.

The person whom you love now rests in peace. Join us in prayer for all the deceased, that God will judge them in His mercy and forgive their sins. Join us in prayer for all those left behind, that the Lord will strengthen our faith in His Resurrection and lighten our loss.

During the Funeral Rites of Christian Burial, we do the best thing we can for our loved ones who have died—we offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass on their behalf—the sacrifice of Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The Mass is a time to celebrate the life of the deceased, to rejoice in Christ's Victory over sin and death, and to apply the fruits of Jesus' Victory to the death and burial of your loved one.

This set of papers, entitled "Funeral Mass Planning Sheet—A Guide to Family Participation," has been given to you so that you might help us plan your loved one's funeral. Perhaps they have spoken to you of their wishes that you can now fulfill. Maybe there are special ways you would like to remember your loved one. Or, if you prefer, leave the planning to us and we will be happy to offer assistance.

If you have any questions please give us a call. Otherwise we will be in touch with you at the wake service or through the funeral director to finalize the arrangements. At daily Mass in the chapel and in the private prayers of each member of our staff, you and your beloved deceased will have a special place. We seek to be disciples of Jesus, who unlocked the gates of life for all who believe in Him and we welcome you to join us in walking with Him.

Blessings in Christ,

**Church of the Assumption**

61 North Cliff Street \* Ansonia, CT 06401 \* (203) 735-7857

**Funeral Mass Planning Sheet**  
*A Guide for Family Participation*

We have provided this “Funeral Planning Sheet - A Guide for Family Participation” in order to assist bereaved family members in the preparation of the funeral Mass. When completed, this sheet is either given to Fr. Jeff or the funeral director at the funeral home during the wake or the night before the Mass.

**Name of Deceased:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nickname?:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Arrival at the Church:** As the funeral begins, the funeral pall is placed upon the casket as a reminder of the baptismal garment. Family members are invited to assist in placing the funeral pall on the casket if they so choose.

**The “Eulogy”:** Eulogies are not required nor recommended during a Catholic funeral Mass. The more appropriate time to share stories and fond memories of loved ones is during the wake and repast dinner following the funeral. However, if one member of the family would like to offer some brief words of welcome and thanksgiving to those in attendance at the funeral Mass, it will be done immediately after the opening prayer. Comments must be written out and submitted to the church at least a day in advance and must be less than 5 minutes.

**Name of Person (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship to Deceased** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scripture Readings:** Family members may select *one* scripture reading from each section below, and also come forward to proclaim the reading during the funeral Mass. Please use the attached sheet in selecting the readings. If you do not have anyone who would like to read, the church will be happy to provide the lector for the Mass.

- \_\_\_ *Wisdom 3:1-6,9* “The souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment shall touch them.”
- \_\_\_ *Isaiah 25:6a,7-9* “The Lord will destroy death forever, let us rejoice in that he has saved us.”
- \_\_\_ *Lamentations 3:17-26* “It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.”

**Who will read the Old Testament passage?** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ *Acts 10:34-36, 42-43* “God has appointed Jesus as the judge of all people living or dead.”
- \_\_\_ *Romans 6:3-4,8-9* “Let us walk in newness of life.”
- \_\_\_ *Romans 8:31-39* “If God is for us, who could be against us?”
- \_\_\_ *I Corinthians 15:51-57* “Death is swallowed up in victory.”
- \_\_\_ *Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7* “There will be no more death.”

**Who will read the New Testament passage?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Offertory Gifts:** Usually two (or more) family members or friends of the deceased will come forward with the gifts of bread and wine after the Prayer of the Faithful. The presider will indicate the appropriate time to bring the gifts forward.

**Names of Gift-bearers** \_\_\_\_\_

**Music:** Music is an essential part of the funeral liturgy and the Church encourages us to participate as fully as possible. There are usually four hymns in the course of the Mass. We would like to ensure that the funeral liturgy for your loved one is celebrated as prayerfully as possible. It is appropriate for the music director to choose the musical selections. If, however, you have a special music request, we will do our best to accommodate you. It is important to keep in mind that the Church has formal guidelines and expectations which must be followed, given the sacredness of the occasion. Please note any special music request(s) in the space provided below. Neither secular music nor pre-recorded tapes or CD's are permitted during a funeral liturgy.

**General hymns appropriate for a Mass of Christian burial:**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be Not Afraid          | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer of St. Francis       | <input type="checkbox"/> Come Holy Ghost      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On Eagle's Wings       | <input type="checkbox"/> Let There Be Peace on Earth | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith of our Fathers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Am the Bread of Life | <input type="checkbox"/> You are Mine                | <input type="checkbox"/> Hail, Holy Queen     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How Great Thou Art     | <input type="checkbox"/> Holy God We Praise Thy Name | <input type="checkbox"/> Ave Maria            |
- Other (Must be Religious) \_\_\_\_\_

As part of your selections, you may also consider seasonal hymns during the church year:

**Advent**

- O Come, O Come Emmanuel
- O Come Divine Messiah

**Christmas**

- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- Silent Night

**Lent**

- Were You There?
- Jerusalem, My Destiny

**Easter**

- Jesus Christ is Risen Today
- Alleluia The Strife is O'er

\*If you have any questions, Mr. Anthony Burke, the Music Director of the Church of the Assumption, will be happy to meet with you and further assist with hymn selection.

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**Notes on the Life of the Deceased:** Below or on the other side of this sheet, please include any notes about the deceased that would be helpful to the presider in preparing the homily.

# **SOME SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FUNERALS**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

**Wisdom 3:1-6,9** *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 humanity, 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. *The word of the Lord.*

**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 whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!” *The word of the Lord.*

**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 hope 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.*

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## **NEW TESTAMENT READINGS**

**Acts 10:34-36,42-43** *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.* Peter proceeded to address the people in these words: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts up-rightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites a she proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 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. *The word of the Lord.*

**Romans 6:3-4,8,9** *A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.* 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. *The word of the Lord.*

**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 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. *The word of the Lord.*

**I Corinthians 15:51-57** *A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.* 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 that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that 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 to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *The word of the Lord.*

**Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7** *A reading from the book of Revelation.* I 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. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the springs of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God and he will be my son." *The Word of the Lord.*

