



# Parish Guidelines for the Order of Christian Funerals

***Please choose two readings, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament***

## **FIRST READING: OLD TESTAMENT**

*(Choose one to be read by an assigned reader.)*

### **1.) A Reading from the Book of: *Maccabees 12:43-46***

Judas, the ruler of Israel, took up a collection among all 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.) A Reading from the Book of: *Job 19:1, 23-27a***

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed 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; and from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing. *The Word of the Lord.*

### **3.) A Reading from the Book of: *Wisdom 3:1-6, 9***

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 the elect. *The Word of the Lord.*

### **4.) A Reading from the Book of: *Wisdom 4: 7-15***

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.*

### **5.) A Reading from the Book of: *Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9***

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. 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.*

### **6.) A Reading from the Book of: *Lamentations 3:17-26***

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.*

**7.) A Reading from the Book of: *Daniel 12: 1-3***

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and 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. *The Word of the Lord.*

**8.) A Reading from the Book of: *Ecclesiastes 3:1-11***

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for everything 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 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.

What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task that God has appointed for the sons of men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without man's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. *The word of the Lord.*

**FIRST READING:  
NEW TESTAMENT  
(DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER)**

**1.) A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 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 is sent to the Israelites as he 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 profits bear witness, that everyone that believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name." *The Word of the Lord.*

**2.) A Reading from the Book of 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." *The Word of the Lord.*

**3.) A Reading from the Book of Revelation 20:11-21:1**

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; Then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. Anyone whose name is not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then 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. *The Word of the Lord.*

**SECOND READING:  
NEW TESTAMENT  
(Choose one to be read by an assigned reader.)**

**1.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans 5:5-11**

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.*

**2.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans 5:17-21**

If, by the transgression of the one, 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 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 the one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the 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.*

### **3.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans 6:3-9**

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.*

### **4.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans 8:14-23**

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 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.*

### **5.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39**

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.*

### **6.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans 14:7-9. 10c-12**

No one 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 accounting of himself to God. *The Word of the Lord.*

### **7.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15: 20-28**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through 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 first fruits; 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, 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.*

### **8.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:51-57**

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.*

### **9.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 4: 14- 5: 1**

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.*

### **10.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

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. 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 may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil. *The Word of the Lord.*

**11.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the 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. *The Word of the Lord.*

**12.) A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18**

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. 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.*

**13.) A Reading from the First Letter of Timothy 2:18-13**

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.*

**14.) A Reading from the Letter of John 3:1-2**

Beloved: See what love 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.*

**15.) A Reading from the Letter of John 3:14-16**

Beloved: 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.*

**GOSPEL**

*(to be read by Priest)*

**Matthew 5:1-12a**

"The Eight Beatitudes"

**Matthew 11:25-30**

"come to me . . . and I will give you rest."

**Matthew 18:19-20**

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name"

**Matthew 25:1-13**

"Look. The bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him"

**Matthew 25:31-46**

"Come, you whom my Father has blessed"

**Mark 10:13-16**

"Let the children come to me"

**Mark 13:33-37**

"...you do not know when the appointed time will come."

**Mark 15:33-46**

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

**Mark 15:33--16:6**

"Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last"

**Luke 7:11-17**

"Young man, I say to you, arise."

**Luke 12:35-40**

"Be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect,..."

**Luke 20:34-38**

"They can no longer die, for they are like angels"

**Luke 23:33-43**

"Today you will be with me in paradise."

**Luke 23:44--24:6a**

"Father, I put my life in your hands."

**Luke 24:13-35**

"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer..."

**Luke 24:13-35**

"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer..."

**John 5:24-29**

"Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from..."

**John 6:37-40**

"All who believe in the Son will have eternal life..."

**John 6:51-58**

"All who eat this bread will live for ever...."

**John 11:17-27**

"I am the resurrection and the life."

**John 11:32-45**

"Lazarus, come out."

**John 12:23-28**

"If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies..."

**John 14:1-6**

"There are many rooms in my Father's house."

**John 17:24-26**

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me..."

**John 19:17-30**

"Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirits."

## RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

### 1. Psalm 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

*R: The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures He gives me repose; Besides restful waters He leads me; He refreshes my soul.

*R: The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

He guides me in right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side, with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

*R: The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

*R: The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for days to come.

*R: The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

### 2. Psalm 28: 4-5, 6, 7, 20-21

*R: To You, O Lord I lift my soul.*

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me Your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for You are God my savior.

*R: To You, O Lord I lift my soul.*

Remember that your compassion, O Lord, and your kindness are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

*R: To You, O Lord I lift my soul.*

Preserve my life, and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, because I wait for You, O Lord.

*R: To You, O Lord I lift my soul.*

### 3. Psalm 27: 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13-14

*R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid.

*R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate His temple.

*R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call; have pity on me. Your presence, O Lord, I seek. Hide not your face from me.

*R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

*R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

### 4. Psalm 103: 8, 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18

*R: The Lord is kind and merciful.*

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

*R: The Lord is kind and merciful.*

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him, For He knows how we are formed; he remembers that we are dust.

*R: The Lord is kind and merciful.*

Man's days are like those of grass; like a flower of the field he blooms; The wind sweeps over him and he is gone, and his place knows him no more.

*R: The Lord is kind and merciful.*

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity to eternity toward those who fear Him. And his justice toward children's children among those who keeps his covenant and remember to fulfill his precepts.

*R: The Lord is kind and merciful.*



## Music for Funeral

#### **Entrance Hymns:**

Sing with all the Saints in Glory  
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

For all the Saints  
Holy, Holy, Holy  
All Creatures of Our God and King  
Here I am Lord  
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
I Know that My Redeemer Lives

#### **Preparation of the Gifts:**

Amazing Grace  
Lord of All Hopefulness  
Blest are They  
Shepherd Me, O God  
The Lord is My Shepherd  
Here I am Lord  
Be Not Afraid  
The Lord is Kind and Merciful  
The Lord is Near  
I Have Loved You  
You Are Mine

The Goodness of the Lord  
Prayer of St. Francis  
Hosea

#### **Communion Hymns:**

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart  
I Received the Living God  
Life-Giving Bread  
Taste and See  
Because the Lord is My Shepherd  
Eat This Bread  
Behold the Lamb  
I am the Bread of Life

#### **Recessional Hymns:**

This is the Feast of Victory  
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee  
I Know that my Redeemer Lives  
On Eagles Wings  
We Walk by Faith  
City of God  
How Great Thou Art

## Eulogies: Do they belong in Catholic Funerals?

*By James Hitchcock, history Professor at St. Louis University and Catholic Author. Edited version.*

Official liturgical directives allow for brief personal remarks following Mass. A eulogy is different. Eulogies distract from the Mass itself and are often seen as the real center of the liturgy. In the process the Christian meaning of death is obscured.

**The main problem with eulogies is that they have to be unreservedly positive – no one wants to hear anything critical about the deceased.** Sometimes this creates an unreal situation, as in the film, whose title I forget, where three men attending the funeral of a friend reject everything the rabbi says about the deceased, insisting that “that ain’t Hymie”, finally discovering that indeed it is not – they are at the wrong funeral!

This compulsory praise includes a compulsory insistence that the deceased is already in heaven, indeed has always been one of God’s favorite people, probably now sitting in that privileged place that Jesus rebuked his apostles for coveting.

Since the Second Vatican Council, the emphasis of the service changed to hope, and white vestments, symbolic of the Resurrection, are now always used. But hope is not the same as presumption, which is precisely what some funerals now are.

Once when I was “channel-surfing” I saw a Catholic funeral on television and stopped to see who it was. It turned out to be a figure from the sports world, a man famous for his prodigious drinking and multiple marriages. The eulogies seemed to be vying with one another in talking about the deceased’s drinking capacity, which elicited loud gaffaws from the congregation, all this interspersed with sentimental assurances that the deceased was now in heaven, the only logical inference being that God rewards drunkenness.

This kind of abuse is built into the nature of a eulogy. Even if the eulogist is aware of the deceased’s perhaps considerable faults, he dare not hint that the dearly departed is not in heaven. **An unfortunate result is that it forestalls people’s praying for the dead, which used to be regarded as solemn duty.**

Many Catholics no longer practice their faith, and no longer believe in it. They are Catholics only in the social sense. Funerals are one of the few times when they attend church, and the eulogy now often caters to this secular understanding of the faith, a ceremony in which people participate out of a sense of tradition or family solidarity, with no significance beyond that.

## GUIDELINES REGARDING “WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE”

**The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has established the following guidelines to provide direction in the celebration of the Order of Christian Funerals. We will initiate these guidelines on July 15, 2006 here at St. Maria Goretti.**

- The Order of Christian Funerals provides for the possibility of “a member or a friend speaking in remembrance of the deceased before final commendation begins.” (OCE, no 197)
- As with the homily, these “words of remembrance” are not to constitute a eulogy as such. Rather, they are to express appreciation for the life of the deceased, or to take form of a prayer or other inspirational text.
- Only one family member or friend is to speak, and he or she is to be brief, speaking no more than 3 minutes.
- Because of the intensity of the emotions at the time of a funeral, the words of remembrance” should be consigned in writing. To ensure that those words are in harmony with the celebration, the script should be given to the priest celebrant in advance of the Funeral liturgy, so that he can make any suitable suggestions to help the “words of remembrance” convey the consolation of God’s love, grace and mercy. These words, then, are intended to particularize the praise and gratitude to God for his gifts to the deceased, especially the gift of Christian life.
- Those who wish to give a eulogy or to share a story about the deceased more fittingly do so during the Vigil (Viewing/Wake) at the Funeral home, or following the Committal at the cemetery. A biography of the deceased could be included in the printed worship aid, if one is prepared for the Funeral liturgy.

### Concluding Principle

These guidelines, and as with all the norms regulating Christian Funerals, are intended to assist the priest celebrant, family members and friends to celebrate the Funeral rites “in an atmosphere of simple beauty, in a setting that encourages participation... affirming Christian belief and hope in the Paschal Mystery.” (OCE, no. 21)

**All “Words of Remembrance” will take place prior to the beginning of the Mass of Christian Burial.**



# Saint Maria Goretti Parish Funeral Planning Sheet

Funeral Mass Arrangements for: \_\_\_\_\_

Celebrant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Funeral: \_\_\_\_\_

Concelebrant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ To be read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm Response: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ To be read by: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: (priest selects)

Prayer of the Faithful: To be read by \_\_\_\_\_

## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Words of Remembrance: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ To be read by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Words of remembrance must be submitted to the priest 24 hours prior to Mass.*

## Music

Entrance Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparation of the Gifts: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Meditation Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional Hymn: \_\_\_\_\_

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