

Preparing for Christian Burial at St. Bartholomew's & St. Anthony's

*The Catholic Funeral rites celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is because of Christ and not any achievement on our part that we are saved and also hope to share in his resurrection. The Church intercedes for the deceased Christian, "whose life of faith was begun in the waters of baptism and strengthened at the Eucharistic table." The Catholic funeral offers "worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life [that of the deceased] which has now been returned to God, the author of life..." **The funeral is not so much a celebration of the life of the deceased, but a celebration of the blessings God gives us, the greatest blessing being eternal life in Christ Jesus.***

(Diocese of Ogdensburg)

The Catholic funeral consists of three stages: the Vigil ("wake"), the Mass of Christian Burial, and the Committal (burial). It is helpful to establish and publish a time for the Vigil service, during the funeral home visitation hours, within the obituary. The opening or closing of the calling hours/visitation at the funeral home seems ideal, since it does not interrupt the flow of visitors. In cases of need, our parish halls may be used for the visitation. If the body or cremains are not to be present, the liturgy is fittingly called a "Memorial Mass."

Hymns & Music *"Music for the funeral liturgy should uphold the integrity of Christian Catholic worship. The norms for music at the Sunday Liturgy should be used. Music at the funeral liturgy should reflect and affirm hope, trust, and confidence in the Paschal Mystery. **Therefore, secular music is not to be used during the celebration of Mass. Thus, such music as "Wind Beneath my Wings," "From a Distance," "Danny Boy," "The Notre Dame Victory March," etc. may not be used during the rites, neither before nor after the funeral rites in Church.** As an alternative, should the family desire, there may be a place for such music at the funeral home."*

(Diocese of Ogdensburg)

You may recommend hymns for the liturgy; our Music Director will place them at the appropriate moments during the service. Hymn selections are to be taken from our parish hymnal, JourneySongs, Third Edition, published by Oregon Catholic Press; an index of available hymns is found online at the following: <https://www.ocp.org/en-us/hymnals/B20>; select "View Songs". Also, you may borrow a copy from one of our churches. No recorded music is permitted during the liturgy or within the church. **All musical decisions must be approved and finalized by Brother Edward Bick, our Music Director/Organist; he may be reached at 315-390-4343.**

Scripture Readings

Similar to a Sunday liturgy, there are three readings: Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel; during the Easter Season, readings I & II are taken from the New Testament. The Responsorial Psalm is usually sung; the text is *"The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."* The priest will choose the Gospel. **The Old Testament and New Testament readings may be chosen from the selections provided. Place your selections on the planning sheet found in these materials.** It is advisable to print copies of the readings and other texts that you select, so that the readers may practice from them. However, photocopies are not used at the church; the readings will be prepared in a binder, and be available on the lectern, upon arrival.

Words of Remembrance Guidelines

A. The Order of Christian Funerals provides for the possibility of “a member or a friend of the family speak[ing] in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins.” [Order of Christian Funerals, no. 197]

B. As with the homily, these “words of remembrance” are not to constitute a eulogy as such; nor should they consist of biographical information or the obituary. Rather, they are to express appreciation for the life of the deceased, or take the form of a prayer or other inspirational text, as follows:

“Content of the Remarks. It is recommended that the remarks address the following question: “What blessings did God give your deceased loved one during his or her life and how were those blessings shared with others?” This sharing must never include anything that is inappropriate for a church setting; for example, off-color jokes or remarks that might offend the mourners are inappropriate. The sharing is not a time to philosophize about death, but to recall with gratitude the blessings of God for one loved by God and now returned to God.”

(Diocese of Ogdensburg)

C. Per diocesan guidelines, only one (NO EXCEPTIONS) family member or friend is to speak, and he or she is to be brief, speaking no more than five minutes.

D. The Words of Remembrance may take place only after a written text has been submitted to and approved by the pastor, well in advance of the liturgy.

E. Those who wish to give a eulogy or to share a story about the deceased more fittingly do so during the Vigil (Viewing/Wake), following the Committal at the cemetery, or during the reception that follows the funeral Mass. A biography of the deceased could be included in a printed worship aid.

A planning sheet for all selections is provided in these materials. Please return a copy of the completed planning form to the celebrating Priest well in advance of the Mass. If a leaflet for the Mass is to be prepared, a draft copy must be presented to the priest for approval, well in advance of the liturgy.

May the peace of the Lord be with you as you make these preparations.

In Christ,

Father Howard Venette, Pastor

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PLANNING SHEET *All selections & participation are optional; please make the ones you desire. Any remaining selections will be made by the celebrating Priest. Return this form in advance of the liturgy.*

Mass of Christian Burial for _____

Date:

Time:

Church:

INTRODUCTORY RITES

CASKET ONLY: Name Family members to place Pall _____

CREMAINS ONLY: Name family member to carry the urn _____

CASKET ONLY: Name family member to place a Cross, Crucifix or Bible _____

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading (Old Testament) _____

Name of Reader: _____

Responsorial Psalm will be sung (The Lord Is My Shepherd)

2nd Reading (New Testament) _____

Name of Reader: _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts: 2 Gift-Bearers to present bread and wine: _____

CLOSING RITES

Words of Remembrance (3-5 minutes) Reader: _____

Draft must be presented to and approved by the priest, in advance of the liturgy.

Announcement for reception? If so, provide place & time to be announced: _____

If cremains are present, the urn is carried in procession by a family member.

Burial Time & Cemetery Name, _____

HYMNS Please indicate titles from our parish hymnal; our Music Director will place these in appropriate points during the liturgy.

Additional information may be given on the reverse side.

SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR 1st & 2nd READING

Old Testament Selections (First Reading)

1. **Job 19:1, 23-27** Then Job answered 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.

2. **Wisdom 3:1-9 or 3:1-6. 9** [long form] But 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 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 the elect.

OR

[shorter form]

But 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.

3. **Wisdom 4:7-14** But 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.

4. **Isaiah 25: 6. 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!"

5. 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.

6. Daniel 12:1-3 [I, Daniel, mourned and I 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.

7. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46 Judas [the ruler of Israel] then 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.

New Testament Readings (Second Reading)

1. Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 or 10:34-36. 42-43 [long form] Peter proceeded to speak and said, "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 Israelites 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."

OR

[shorter form] Peter proceeded to speak and said, "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 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 prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

2. Romans 5:1-11 Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet 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.

3. Romans 5:17-21 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.

4. Romans 6:3-9 or 6:3-4. 8-9 [long form] 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.

OR

[shorter form] 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.

5. Romans 8:14-23 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.

6. Romans 8:31-35. 37-39 What then shall we say to this? 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.

7. Romans 14:7-9. 10-12 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. 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).

8. 1 Corinthians 15:20-24. 25-28 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. 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, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. 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.

9. 1 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.

10. 2 Corinthians 5:1. 6-10 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.

11. Philippians 3:20-21 But 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.

12. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 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.

13. 2 Timothy 2:8-13 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.

14. 1 John 3:1-2 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.

15. 1 John 3:14-16 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.

16. 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."

17. 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. Then another scroll was 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. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was 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. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

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