

MUSIC FOR CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES

Sacred music plays an integral role in the funeral rites, since it can console and lift up mourners while, at the same time, uniting the assembly in faith and love in worship of God. Because the Mass is a public act of worship of the church, the parish is ultimately responsible for the music in the liturgy and therefore, hymns should reflect the idea of the resurrection and hope that Jesus Christ has given us through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. In order to help you in selecting music for the funeral, we have compiled a list of selections that in some way express the life, the love, the work, and the saving action of Christ, and our response to Him. They are hymns that have a religious theme and in some way lift our hearts and minds to Him who has created us and who has died on the cross for us. Music that is secular or not in keeping with our Catholic Christian Faith will not be permitted during the Funeral Mass or Ceremony, even selections that were a favorite of the deceased. Such music could be played or sung at the Funeral Vigil (*Wake*) or at the Rite of Committal (*Graveside*) at an appropriate time.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

Hymns may be selected for three different parts of the Funeral Mass. These parts include:

1. Processional Hymn (*as the Mass begins, while the celebrant processes up the aisle*)
2. Offertory Hymn (*as the altar is prepared for Communion and the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward*)
3. Communion Hymn (*as the congregation receives Communion*)

A Recessional Hymn at the end of the Funeral is not normally sung by the congregation, but the hymn "May the Angels Lead You into Paradise" is sung by the cantor as the celebrant, altar servers, casket, and family make their way out of the church.

It is also possible to make two selections for the Communion Hymn, especially if one is a solo and the other is to be sung by the congregation.

All music listed below can be found in our parish's St. Michael Hymnal and therefore our parish has copyright permission to such music. It is certainly not an exhaustive list, but contains most of the selections we regularly see requested for funerals. If this list does not include a hymn that you would prefer, feel free to ask if the selection would be possible and suitable to include, as it may be in our hymnal or we may be able to attain copyright permissions to use it.

Selections below aren't necessarily restricted to use only in the section they are listed under. For example, it is most acceptable to use a hymn that is listed as a Processional Hymn as a Communion Hymn.

Processional Hymns:

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
2. Amazing Grace. How Sweet the Sound
3. Be Still, My Soul
4. Be Thou My Vision
5. Come, Holy Ghost
6. Faith of Our Fathers
7. Holy, Holy, Holy
8. I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
9. Jesus Lord, Have Mercy
10. Jesus Christ is Risen Today
11. Lift High the Cross
12. Lord of All Hopefulness
13. O God, beyond All Praising
14. O God, Our Help in Ages Past
15. The King of Love

Offertory Hymns:

1. Ave Maria (Schubert or Bach/Gounod)
2. Amazing Grace. How Sweet the Sound
3. Be Not Afraid
4. I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
5. Savior, Hear Our Humble Prayer
6. Prayer of St. Francis
7. O Sanctissima

Communion Hymns:

1. Ave Maria (Schubert or Bach/Gounod) - *Solo*
2. Ave Verum
3. How Great Thou Art
4. Humbly We Adore Thee
5. Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All
6. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
7. Lord Who At Thy First Eucharist
8. My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
9. O Jesus, We Adore Thee
10. On Eagle's Wings
11. Panis Angelicus
12. Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless