

Preparing for the Funeral Mass

About the Scripture Readings

In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the word of God. The readings proclaim to the assembly the paschal mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom and encourage the witness of Christian life. Above all, the readings tell of God's designs for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on whom God has called his own. A careful selection and use of readings from Scripture for the funeral mass provide the family and the community with an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears and hopes.

The Order of Christian Funerals calls for either one or two readings before the Gospel proclamation. Traditionally we use two readings before the Gospel, the first reading from the Old Testament and the second reading from the New Testament, usually from one of the Epistles. The responsorial psalm after the first reading is sung by the cantor. Choose one reading from the Old Testament and one reading from the New Testament. You can also choose a Gospel reading or you can let the priest who is celebrating the Mass choose the Gospel reading.

You can choose two people to do the Scripture readings or one person could do both readings. You may also choose someone to do the General Intercessions (Prayer of the Faithful) which comes after the Homily. If you do not the Priest or Deacon will do the Intercessions.

On the pages following the scripture readings and the General Intercessions there are listings of music for the funeral mass. Music is integral to the funeral rites. It allows the community 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. Mrs. Linda Pfefferle is our music director and she can assist you in planning the music selections.

After you have selected the readings please contact the Rectory and we can discuss the remainder of the preparations for the Funeral Mass. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. IHM Rectory 215-483-1000.