

The Braintree Catholic Collaborative

St. Clare Parish

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Ministry of Consolation to the Bereaved

OUR MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

The family of the Braintree Catholic Collaborative extends our heartfelt sympathies to you on your loss. As believers in Jesus Christ, we turn to the Lord and rely upon his words of comfort and support, proclaimed during his famous Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are the sorrowful for they shall be consoled.” (Matthew 5: 4)

Although we cannot remove your pain, we pledge to you and your family our prayers—prayers of consolation, prayers of support, and prayers of hope.

A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

The reality of death confronts all of us. The Braintree Catholic Collaborative is privileged to have trained individuals who will assist you during this difficult time. Their ministry serves you in a three-fold way:

First--to act as a point of contact with the family of the deceased so that we may tangibly convey our condolences, to learn as much as we can about the deceased, and to entertain and subsequently respond to any questions

Second--to provide guidance, assistance and suggestions in planning the funeral liturgy

Third--to offer prayers for the deceased as well as for you and your family.

The LITURGY:
YOUR PARTICIPATION and YOUR SELECTIONS

Over a decade ago, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) produced a revision in the *Order of Christian Funerals* (Funeral Rites). Accordingly, the Archdiocese of Boston has instituted “Guidelines for the Celebration of the Funeral Mass,” ensuring that the Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated with grace, dignity and respect.

With these thoughts in mind, the following outline guides you through the Funeral Liturgy and highlights those moments in the liturgy when particular participation is invited. Suggestions for music are provided to assist you in preparing the liturgy. Should you prefer, our Music Director will make appropriate selections for you.

Introductory Rites

- The casket is brought into the church; the family and mourners follow.
- All national symbols (i.e. American flag) are removed. They are replaced at the conclusion of the funeral liturgy.
- The priest greets the family and sprinkles the casket with holy water to serve as a reminder of Baptism.
- The family places the PALL on the casket. *The Pall is a large white cloth that serves as a symbolic reminder of the garment that was presented to the deceased at Baptism.*
(up to 6 participants)

The Liturgy of the Word

- ONE reading from the Old Testament is selected (by the family) and may be proclaimed by a family member or friend. **(1 participant)**
- ONE reading from the New Testament is selected (by the family) and may be proclaimed by a family member or friend. **(1 participant)**
- The PRIEST (or a deacon) will select and proclaim the Gospel and will preach a Homily.

The Preparation Rites

- Prior to Mass, the gifts of Bread and Wine are placed on a table near the front of the church.
- Family members will be called forward to present the gifts to the priest. **(2-4 participants)**

Remarks of Remembrance

These are the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Boston for remarks at the conclusion of the Funeral Mass:

- The remarks will be no more than 5 minutes in length. Two typed, double-spaced pages satisfy this time frame.
- The day before the Funeral Mass, please present the typed or written remarks to the priest, deacon or bereavement minister at the wake or bring them, email them (parish@sfab.org) or fax them to the parish office (781.848.0976). These remarks will assist the priest in preparing a personalized homily for your loved one.
- The remarks are to be delivered by only one person. **(1 participant)**

Family members or friends may offer Remarks of Remembrance without restriction at the funeral home or at the graveside following the Service of Committal.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Please select one.

(2L) A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-9)

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. 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 his elect. ***The word of the Lord.***

***(4) A Reading from
the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (25:6a, 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!” ***The word of the Lord.***

(5) 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 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 I will 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.***

(6) A Reading from the Book of the Prophet 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.” *The word of the Lord.*

(7) A Reading from the Second Book of 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. *The word of the Lord.*

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

Please select one.

(1L) A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-43)

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 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 in his name. ***The word of the Lord.***

(4L) 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.***

(6) 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 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. *The word of the Lord.*

***(7) A Reading from the Letter of Paul
to the Romans (14:7-9, 10c-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 accounting of himself to God. *The word of the Lord.*

***(8S) A Reading from the First Letter of Paul
to the Corinthians (15:20-23)***

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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ. *The word of the Lord.*

***(10) A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul
to the Corinthians (4:14-5:1)***

We know 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.*

***(13) A reading from the First 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 arch angel 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.*

(15) A Reading from the First Letter of 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. *The word of the Lord.*



MUSIC SELECTIONS FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

In the Catholic Funeral Mass, the community gathers to give thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, to commend our loved ones to the Lord's mercy and care, and to proclaim the paschal mystery.

“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. The texts of the songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death and triumph over death.” (Order of Christian Funerals, par. 30)

At any Catholic liturgy, it is always the intention of the Church to facilitate the full, active and conscious participation of the assembled worshippers. This is no less true at a Funeral Mass. Each part of the Mass has its own purpose and character. The music director of the Braintree Catholic Collaborative offers these suggestions with a brief explanation of what the liturgy specifically calls for at these times during the Mass.

SUGGESTED MUSIC

Entrance Procession: A song for the entire congregation as a sign of unity and solidarity rather than a song suitable only to a soloist.

<i>Alleluia, Alleluia*</i>	<i>Amazing Grace</i>
<i>Be Not Afraid</i>	<i>Christ the Lord is Risen Today*</i>
<i>For All the Saints*</i>	
<i>God of Day and God of Darkness</i>	
<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	<i>I Heard the Voice of Jesus</i>
<i>I Know That My Redeemer Lives</i>	
<i>O God Our Help in Ages Past</i>	
<i>Sing a New Song*</i>	<i>Sing with All the Saints in Glory</i>
<i>The Strife is O'er*</i>	
<i>To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King</i>	
<i>We Walk by Faith</i>	

Responsorial Psalm: Must be a psalm text and in responsorial style that calls for the participation of the entire congregation.

<i>Be With Me, Lord</i>	<i>My Soul Thirsts (Psalm 63)</i>
<i>On Eagles Wing</i>	<i>Shelter Me O God</i>
<i>The Lord Is My Light (Psalm 27)</i>	
<i>The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)</i>	
<i>I Lift Up My Soul, (Psalm 25)</i>	
<i>You Are Near (Psalm 139)</i>	

Alleluia and Other Acclamations: Because the acclamations are to be sung by everyone, including visitors to the parish, we use Mass settings and other acclamations that the staff has determined will be familiar to the most people.

Presentation of Gifts: This can be a hymn, a solo piece, or instrumental music. Since it is not tied to any particular ritual action, the music here can be more flexible—such as a hymn or song to the Blessed Mother, if so desired.

<i>As I Kneel (Ave Maria)</i>	<i>Ave Maria (Solo)</i>
<i>Hail Mary, Gentle Woman</i>	
<i>Here I Am Lord</i>	<i>I Have Loved You</i>
<i>Only This I Want</i>	<i>Prayer of St. Francis</i>
<i>We Have Been Told</i>	<i>You Are Mine</i>

Communion Song: We sing during the communion procession as a sign of our unity. Music that speaks directly of communion, the Lord's Supper and unity is most appropriate here. Because people are in motion at this time, it is desirable to choose something with a short refrain, easily sung, with no need for a book or worship aid.

Behold the Lamb

Bread of Life

I Am the Bread of Life

One Bread, One Body

*Song of the Body of Christ**

The Supper of the Lord

We Will Rise Again

Blest Are They

Eat This Bread

On Eagles Wings

Precious Lord Take My Hand

Taste and See

We Remember

You Are Near

Procession to the Committal/Closing Song:

Abide with Me

Be Not Afraid

Eternal Father Strong to Save

*For All the Saints**

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Lift High the Cross

Sing with All the Saints in Glory (Ode to Joy)

*Alleluia Sing to Jesus**

Blest Are They

How Great Thou Art

**Because the use of the word "alleluia" is prohibited during Lent, songs marked with an * are not used from Ash Wednesday to Easter.*

We offer these selections to help you choose appropriate music for the Mass of Christian Burial. It is not an exclusive list, and we are open to your suggestions provided that they adhere to the liturgical norms of the Archdiocese of Boston. Our bereavement ministers and music director, Deacon Joseph MacDonald, are available to help you and will make the final determination as to what is suitable and its proper use and placement within the liturgy. Arrangements for music are made through the music director:

**Deacon Joe MacDonald
781-843-1332**

deaconjoemac@gmail.com.

All music for the funeral is subject to the approval of the music director. Only Braintree Catholic Collaborative approved vocalists and musicians are permitted to participate.

