

# *Funeral Mass Guide*



## **Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist**

120 Broad Street

Charleston, South Carolina 29401



Dear Friends,

The Church offers us the Sacred Scriptures, prayers and rituals of the Mass of Christian Burial so that we may intercede on behalf of your deceased loved one, commending them to the mercy of God and confident in the belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The celebration to the Funeral Mass also brings hope and consolation to those who grieve their loss as we hear the comforting words of God and receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

As we prepare for the funeral of your loved one, we invite you to examine the options within this booklet. You will find a form to complete to make your planning easier. Please feel free to discuss this with your family, and then a member of my staff will be in touch with you. If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 724-8395 and we will be happy to assist you.

On behalf of the staff of the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist, I extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family. I pray that you may know God's loving presence as you grieve the loss of your loved one.

Sincerely,

Very Rev. Gregory B. Wilson, V.G., Rector



## Table of Contents

General Guidelines.....	2
Old Testament Readings.....	3
New Testament Readings.....	6
Responsorial Psalm and Introit.....	12
Music.....	13
Scripture and Music Selections.....	15
Contact Information.....	16

## **General Guidelines and Information**

† The Funeral Mass may not be held on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation. No Funeral Mass may be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

† Members of the family of the deceased may assist in the selection of readings and music.

† Readings and music selections must be made from those approved for Catholic funerals and listed in this guide.

† A family member or friend may share some thoughts or stories about the deceased at the Vigil Service, the cemetery, or reception.

† Non-Catholics may not receive Communion.

† A cantor and an organist are provided by the Cathedral at a cost of \$150.00 each.

† The Bereavement Committee of our parish is available to assist families on behalf of the parish by providing foods such as desserts, side dishes, casseroles, etc. which can be delivered to the church for pick up by the family.

† Family members may drape the pall over the coffin if they wish.

† You are welcome to bring a photograph or other mementos for display in the back of the church prior to the service.

† You may wish to prayerfully consider suggesting to family and friends memorials made to the Cathedral in memory of your deceased loved one.

+ If you need assistance with any details, please call the parish office at 724-8395.

# The Funeral Liturgy

## Old Testament Readings *(Please choose one)*

### **Job 19: 1, 23-27a**

*I know that my Vindicator lives.*

Then Job answered Bildad the Shuhite 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.

### **Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9**

*He will destroy death forever.*

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 to whom we looked;

let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

## Wisdom 4: 7-15

*An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.*

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 the 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.

### **Daniel 12:1-3**

*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.*

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 justice shall be like the stars forever.

### **Wisdom 3:1-9**

*As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

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 offering he took them to himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine  
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

The shall judge nations and rule over people,  
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.



## **New Testament Readings** (*Please choose one*)

### **Romans 8:14-23**

*We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*

Brothers and sisters:

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 expectations 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 firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

## **Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39**

*What will separate us from the love of Christ?*

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over to us all, will he not also give us everything else along him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? Is it 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 angles, 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.

## **Romans 5:5-11**

*Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.*

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 proved 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 not received reconciliation.

## **II Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10**

*We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.*

Brothers and sisters:

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 judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

## **Philippians 3: 20-21**

*He will change our lovely bodies to conform to his glory.*

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.

## **1 John 3:1-2**

*We shall see him as he is.*

Beloved:

See what love of 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.

## **1 Corinthians 15: 20-23**

*So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.*

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through a 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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

## **1 Corinthians 15: 51-57**

*Death is swallowed up in victory.*

Brothers and sisters:

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 in 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.

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*We shall always be with the Lord.*

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.

## **Revelation 20:11-21:1 (During Eastertide)**

*The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

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, the 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. The 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.

**Romans 14: 7-9, 10c-12**

*Whether we live or dies we are the Lords.*

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we dies, we dies for the Lord;

So then, whether we live or dies, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ dies 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.

**Additional Readings:**

Acts 10:34 *(During Eastertide)*

Romans 6:3-9 *We too might live in the newness of life.*

II Corinthians 4: 14-5:1 *What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.*

## Responsorial Psalm

†Responsorial psalms are sung at each Funeral Mass between the first and second readings. The psalm verses are sung by the canto with the response by the congregation as indicated below.

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

*Response:* 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;  
beside restful waters he leads me: he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me in the 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.  
You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life.;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.

†At Funeral Masses there is no "Opening Hymn" rather the Church prescribes the chanting of the following "Introit":

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine  
et lux perpetua luceat eis,  
them.

Te decet hymnus Deus, in Sion,  
et tibi reddetur votum in Ierusalem.

Exaudi orationem meam;  
ad te omnis caro veniet.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,  
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

them.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord  
and let perpetual light shine upon

A hymn becomes you, O God, in Zion,  
And to you shall a vow be repaid in  
Jerusalem.

Hear my prayer;

to you shall all flesh come.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon

## Music Options

Please choose only one each for Offertory and Communion.

### **Offertory:**

Ave Maria— F. Schubert (sung by cantor)

Faith of Our Fathers— Tune: St. Catherine

O God, Our Help in Ages Past— Tune: St. Anne

Salve Regina— Gregorian chant

Hail, Queen of Heaven— Tune: Stella

Eternal Father, Strong to Save— Tune: Melita

I Know That My Redeemer Lives— Tune: Duke Street

### **Communion:**

Panis Angelicus— C. Franck (sung by cantor)

Ave verum Corpus— W. A. Mozart (sung by cantor)

Ave verum Corpus— E. Elgar (sung by the cantor)

### **Hymns appropriate for either Offertory of Communion:**

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus— Tune: Hyfrydol

Be Thou My Vision— Tune: Slane (8th Century Gaelic)

Holy, Holy, Holy— Tune: Nicea

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence— Tune: Picardy

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say— Tune: Kingsfold

Shepherd of Souls— Tune: St. Agnes

Spirit Seeking Light and Beauty— Tune: Domnach Trionide (Gaelic)

Pie Jesu— G. Fauré (sung by cantor)

Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All— Tune: Sweet Sacrament

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee— Tune: St. Agnes

The Church's One Foundation— Tune: Aurelia



Notes:

## **Our Scripture Selections are:**

† Old Testament Reading:

† Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23– The Lord is my Shepherd

† New Testament Reading:

## **Our Music Selections are:**

† Offertory (one):

† Communion (one):

† Would you like someone from the Bereavement Committee to contact you regarding food?

Yes

No

## **Contact Information**

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**Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving  
Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow  
and everyday.**

**Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you  
unfailing strength to bear it, Be at peace then, and put aside  
anxious thoughts and imaginings.**

**-St. Francis de Sales**

