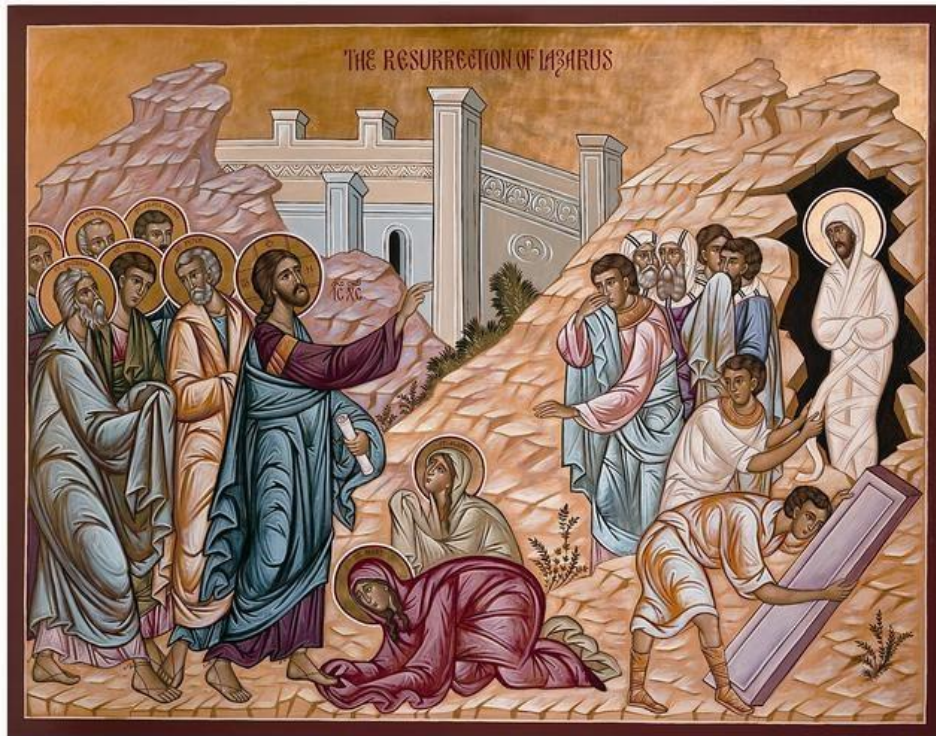


A Catholic Funeral Guide

Sebago Lakes Region Parishes



THE RAISING OF LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD
John 11:1-43

*Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the
kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world.*

ST. ANNE
299 Main St.
Gorham
839-4857

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
919 Roosevelt Trail
Windham
892-8288

ST. ANTHONY
268 Brown St.
Westbrook
857-0490



Seabago Lakes Region Parishes

St. Anne, Gorham ~ St. Anthony, Westbrook ~ Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Windham

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It can be difficult and challenging to plan for the funeral of a loved one in the midst of personal grieving. Our parish staff is well aware of this, so please know that we are here to guide you through the planning process and to be of service to you in whatever ways that we can in order to make it less burdensome on you. We want to respect your private sadness while also recognizing that a funeral Mass or service is a public act of worship whereby the community of God's people gathers together in prayer for the deceased as well as for those who grieve. The funeral rites, when carefully planned and carried out, have the capacity to affirm our belief in Jesus' promise of eternal life and help us find hope and peace in our grief and pain.

You are invited to help the priest and members of the parish staff adapt and personalize the funeral rites in a way that meaningfully conveys the Church's consolation while reflecting the faith, life and personality of the deceased. In choosing the scriptural readings, designating family members or friends as readers, selecting the hymns, and by providing the priest with a better understanding of the life of the deceased, families help to provide this special meaning to the funeral rites.

Know that you are in my prayers now and in the days ahead.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Lou Phillips, Pastor

GENERAL INFORMATION

PLANNING THE FUNERAL LITURGY

All funerals in the Catholic Church are conducted according to the Order of Christian Funerals. This is because a Catholic funeral is an event that involves the whole Church community. While the funeral does take place according to this Order, we invite the family and loved ones of the deceased to be involved in making certain decisions about the funeral liturgy. The following information and guidelines are to help you complete the Funeral Liturgy Planning Aid that is included at the back of this booklet. Please feel free to contact the parish office to meet with a Priest, Pastoral Life Coordinator or parish staff about the funeral liturgy.

MUSIC

A Parish Musician will arrange for music to be provided at the funeral. This will include a pianist/organist and a professional cantor. There are instances in the liturgy where you can choose music and make musical requests. We invite you to make your selections and requests from the options included in this guide.

READINGS

The Order of Christian Funerals normally includes a reading from the Old Testament and from the New Testament in addition to a Gospel reading and Psalm. We invite you to select the New and Old Testament readings, and the Psalm from the available options the rite gives, which are included in this guide. The Gospel reading will be chosen by the priest or deacon who is presiding at the liturgy.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

If you so desire, you are welcome to select family and friends to participate in some of the ministries at mass by reading the readings during the Liturgy of the Word, reading the General Intercessions, and presenting the gifts for the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

Symbols play an important role in the celebration of a Catholic Funeral. If you wish, you may choose some family or friends to place a Book of the Gospels or a Bible on the coffin as a sign that a Christian lives by the word of God and that fidelity to that word leads to eternal life. A cross may also be placed on the coffin as a reminder that a Christian is marked by the cross in baptism and through Jesus' suffering on the cross is brought to the victory of his resurrection.

THE FUNERAL LITURGY AT A GLANCE:

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Greeting at the entrance of the church
- Sprinkling with Holy Water & Placing of the Funeral Pall
- Placing of the Christian Symbols
- Procession to the Altar
- *Words of Remembrance*
- Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel Reading
- Homily
- General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST


- Preparation of the Gifts
- Eucharistic Prayer and Acclamations

COMMUNION RITE

- The Lord's Prayer
- Rite of Peace
- Fraction Rite
- Communion Procession
- Post-Communion Prayer

FINAL COMMENDATION

- Invitation to Prayer
- Incensing of the Casket
- Song of Farewell
- Prayer of Commendation
- Procession to the Place of Committal



These items are not included if this funeral liturgy is not a mass.

READINGS FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

FIRST READING – FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Please choose one of the following readings

1. WISDOM 3:1-6, 9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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 in the eyes of 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 his elect.

The word of the Lord.

2. ISAIAH 25:6A, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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.

3. LAMENTATIONS 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

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.

The word of the Lord.

4. ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every thing under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
A time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
A time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task that God has appointed for the sons of men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without man's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.
The word of the Lord.

5. ISAIAH 49:13-16A

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth, break forth into song, you mountains. For the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted.

But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name.

The word of the Lord.

6. WISDOM 4:7-15

**The following reading may be particularly appropriate for the funeral of one who passed away in mid-life.*

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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.

The word of the Lord.

7. PROVERBS

**The following reading may be appropriate for one who was a wife and mother.*

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good all the days of her life.

She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night, her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household, all her charges are doubly clothed.

She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all."

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS: FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Please choose one of the following:

1) 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 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.

2) PSALM 27:1, 4, 7 & 8b & 9a, 13-14

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?

One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, that I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate his temple.

Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me. Your presence, O Lord, I seek. Hide not your face from me.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord.

3) PSALM 42:2, 3, 5CDEF; 43:3, 4, 5

Response: My soul is thirsting for the living God.

As the hind longs for the running waters, so my soul longs for you, O God.

A thirst is my soul for God, the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God?

I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God. Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving, with the multitude keeping festival.

Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on and bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling-place.

Then will I go in to the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy; then will I give you thanks upon the harp, O God, my God!

Why are you so downcast, O my soul? Why do you sigh within me? Hope in God! For I shall again be thanking him, in the presence of my savior and my God.

4) PSALM 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory, for your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.

Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.

As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.

5) PSALM 103:8 AND 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger, and abounding in kindness. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. For he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. Man's days are like those of grass; like a flower of the field he blooms; the wind sweeps over him and he is gone, and his place knows him no more.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity, to eternity toward those who fear him, And his justice toward children's children among those who keep his covenant and remember to fulfill his precepts.

6) PSALM 116:5, 6, 10-11, 15-16AC

Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Gracious is the Lord and just; yes, our God is merciful.

The Lord keeps the little ones; I was brought low, and he saved me.

I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted"; I said in my alarm, "No man is dependable."

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. O Lord, I am your servant, you have loosed my bonds.

7) PSALM 122:1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Response: I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to the house of the Lord. I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the Lord." And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings.

Because of my relatives and friends I will say "Peace be within you!" Because of the house of the Lord, our God, I will pray for your good.

8) PSALM 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6AB, 6C-7, 8

Response: I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.

If you, O Lord, mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.

I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in his word. My soul waits for the Lord more than the sentinels wait for the dawn.

More than the sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord, for with the Lord is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

SECOND READING – FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Please choose one of the following readings:

1. ROMANS 6:3-4, 8-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

The word of the Lord.

2. ROMANS 8:31B-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, 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.

3. 2 CORINTHIANS 4:14--5:1

**This readings is particularly suitable for someone who has suffered a long or debilitating illness*

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Knowing 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.

4. JOHN 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: 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.

5. REVELATION 21:1-5A, 6B-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation

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."

The word of the Lord.

6. PHILIPPIANS. [2:1-5A]

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians.

If there is any encouragement in Christ, and solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but, also, everyone for those of others.

Your attitude must be that of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

7. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:31—13:13

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love,
I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the
gift of prophecy, and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over
so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, it is not pompous,

It is not inflated, it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interests,

it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,

it does not rejoice over wrongdoing

but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing;

if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.

For we know partially and we prophesy partially,

but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child,

reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things.

At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face.

At present I know partially; then I shall know fully,

as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three;

but the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

GUIDE FOR COMPOSING WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Dear Friend:

You have been asked to share some "words of remembrance" about the deceased loved one at the funeral Mass. This honor and privilege carries important responsibilities with it, and in composing your reflection, we offer the following guidelines that are aimed at both enhancing and complementing the liturgy. A funeral includes a homily (presented by the priest), and not a eulogy. This is why we refer to what you will offer at the Mass as "words of remembrance" or a "reflection" rather than a "eulogy." Eulogy is Greek for "word of praise," and during a funeral Mass, our praise should be directed toward God. Since the focus of a Catholic funeral is on Jesus and His promise of eternal life, the commonplace "eulogy" is not part of our Catholic tradition and is not permitted at the funeral Mass.

That said, there is a real need, however, for respectful and sincere remembrance. The funeral Mass begins at the doors of the church, precisely where infant baptism or the catechumenal rites begin. At the funeral Mass, we use the baptismal pall to cover the casket (when present) and always use the Paschal candle to remind us of baptism. In this context of baptism, your task is to give a kind of "final report" to the church. The church placed a candle into the deceased's or godparent's hand once, and said, "See to it that the flame of faith is still burning when the Lord comes." How did this person, how did this faithful follower of Jesus, carry that flickering flame into life and how did he or she nurture it and share it with others? If you capture the answer to these questions in a few minutes, you will effectively and respectfully contribute to the overall dignity and holiness of this funeral Mass.

Please review the following points on the reverse side of this letter that are intended to help you compose your reflection. If you have any questions about these requirements or the appropriateness of something you intend to say, please contact the priest who will be presiding at the funeral Mass. May God bless you, and the Holy Spirit guide you in preparing a loving and respectful reflection commending the deceased into the arms of our good and loving God.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Lou". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Lou Phillips, Pastor

GUIDE FOR COMPOSING THE WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

1. The Words of Remembrance must be written out in their entirety. Whenever possible, a copy should be provided to the priest during the wake service at the funeral home. Sometimes even the best-intentioned speaker is overcome with emotion—this allows the priest to step in and complete the reflection should the speaker not be able to complete the words of remembrance.
2. The Words of Remembrance must be limited to 5 minutes in length. The best reflections are delivered in 3 to 4 minutes. The time allotted to the words of remembrance should not detract from the order of the Mass; also, the cemetery staff will be expecting the funeral party to arrive in a timely manner.
3. Stand-up comedy is not appropriate. Some stories that might be appropriate and appreciated at the reception or at family gatherings would not be complementary of the sacredness of the church setting.
4. The words of remembrance are not about you, but rather, about the deceased. While a personal story may be appropriate, the focus should not be on you. If you plan on sharing a personal story, first ask yourself: "Is this story more about me, or is it more about the deceased?"
5. Only one person should deliver the words of remembrance. Another family member or friend may stand next to you for support if this is your wish, but only one speaker may deliver the words of remembrance. Sometimes, in preparing their reflection, we have had the speaker ask other family members and friends ahead of time to share with them their thoughts and memories about the deceased. Then, the speaker weaves these responses into his or her own reflection. This is certainly an option you might wish to consider if you have the time and opportunity to do so, and are able to summarize your conversations with others in five minutes or less.

MUSIC FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

Music plays an important role in the funeral liturgy by uniting those present in heart and mind, and by expressing those thoughts and emotions that are difficult to express. If you wish to request some of the music for the funeral liturgy, please make as many as four selections from the list below. These songs were selected since they particularly express the paschal mystery of the Lord's suffering, death, and triumph over death and each baptized person's share in this mystery. If you do not wish to make any of the music selections, you may leave this up to the Musician. Please make your selections from the following list:

- Ave Maria
- Amazing Grace
- Be Not Afraid
- How Great Thou Art
- I Am the Bread of Life
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- May Choir of Angels (escort you into paradise)
- On Eagles Wings
- Panis Angelicus "Bread of Angels"
- Psalm 23: "The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want"
- Psalm 34: Taste and see that the Lord is good
- Psalm 27: The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom should I fear
- Psalm 42: Like a deer that longs for running streams, my heart longs for you O God
- Psalm 115: Grant him/her eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on him/her for ever.

*Musical requests other than those on this list will be honored if possible. Please indicate the title and composer in the space below.

Additional Music Requests:

FUNERAL LITURGY PLANNING AID

Date/Time of Funeral: _____

Name of Deceased: _____

1. Placing of Christian Symbols? Yes No

Placed by: _____

2. Words of Remembrance? Yes No

Read by: _____

3. First Reading: _____

Read by: _____

4. Responsorial Psalm: _____

5. Second Reading: _____

Read by: _____

6. Preparation of the Gifts: Yes No

Gifts brought forward by: _____

7. Music: You are welcome to make four selections from the list provided.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

8. Announcements _____
