

Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

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MUSIC FOR FUNERAL LITURGIES

The church today places paramount importance on music in the Liturgy. Music at Funeral Liturgies is no less important, with particular emphasis being placed on the participation of the assembly.

Many people believe that the most important selection is that of the hymns or songs, when in fact the most important music is that of the Mass Responses: The Responsorial Psalm, The Gospel Acclamation and the Eucharistic Acclamations (The Holy, Holy, The Memorial Acclamation and The Concluding Acclamation). These parts rightfully belong to the congregation as their response. For this reason, these settings are never recited at Masses with music.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal and "Sing To the Lord: Music in Divine Worship", which are the documents that guide our decisions with regard to Liturgy and Music offer options, guidelines and suggestions for Liturgy in general as well as for Funeral Liturgies. It is important to remember in making choices of hymns and songs for the Funeral Liturgy, that these selections be appropriate to the theme of the liturgy and relate to the readings selected. For this reason, music must reflect the sacred nature of the liturgy. This is why secular, popular and recorded music is never permitted. These types of music would be better suited at the Christian Wake Service, following the Committal Service or other time outside of the Liturgy in the church.

The choice of hymns or songs for the Funeral Liturgy should convey the themes of "Eternal Life" and "Resurrection" with the best examples being those hymns and songs that would ordinarily be sung during the Easter Season. It would therefore be best to avoid selecting hymns or songs mainly because they may be a favorite, or something we simply like to hear, rather, opting for selections that fit the above criteria more closely.

For Funeral Liturgies at Immaculate Heart of Mary, an organist is always provided. The stipend for the organist is included in the Mass Offering made to the church. Our "Resurrection Choir" also assists with providing music at most of our Funeral Liturgies. They are a group of competent volunteers who minister to families offering a Funeral Liturgy here at I.H.M. A cantor is not normally provided, however, a professional cantor may be requested, if available, for an additional fee. Please be sure to contact the director as soon as possible with this request. Some families do not wish to make particular selections of music at a Funeral Liturgy. For those families we have a preselected program of appropriate Liturgical Music, which can be found on the next page. Other families may wish to select all or some alternate liturgical music selections. A list of other appropriate selections follows, along with the part of the liturgy where they would be most appropriate. If you wish, you may make alternate selections from this list. This list is compiled from our in-pew hymnal *RitualSong*. If you have music requests that are not on the list, or other special requests, these must be discussed with the director, however, these requests must be in keeping with the above mentioned criteria. We will do our best to accommodate special requests, however, please remember that due to scheduling, time constraints, unavailability of music, etc. some things may not be possible.

When making alternate selections, we request that you please contact the Director of Music, Mr. Thomas Bozek at the phone number or email listed above at least 24 hours prior to the Funeral Liturgy. There is a voice mail system to take your call in the event that the director is not available. Please remember that as the director is here on weekends, the office is not staffed on all weekdays, however, the voice mail and email is monitored especially when there is a Funeral scheduled, therefore, please leave a detailed message with phone numbers where the director may reach you. You can also send an email with detailed information. As sometimes communications can fail, sending both and email followed by a phone message is advised. If you have difficulty in reaching the director, you may also contact the parish office at 410-668-7935.

We hope that this information will be helpful in arranging the music for the Funeral Liturgy.

FUNERAL MUSIC SELECTIONS

Entrance: "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES" (RitualSong Hymnal 582)

Responsorial Psalm: "TO YOU, O LORD" (Marty Haugen)(RitualSong Hymnal 53 refrain I)

Gospel Acclamation: "ALLELUIA" (Gregorian)(RitualSong Hymna1273)

NOTE: During Lent the acclamation: "GLORY, PRAISE AND HONOR TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST"(Steven Janco, from Mass of the Angels and Saints) will be used.

Presentation of Gifts: "LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS" (RitualSong Hymnal 713)

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

The Eucharistic Acclamations will be taken from "THE MASS OF WISDOM" by Steven R. Janco (found in the insert in the front of the hymnal p. 4,5 & 6)

Breaking of Bread: "LAMB OF GOD" from Holy Cross Mass (Isle)(RitualSong Hymnal 305)

Communion: "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE" (RitualSong Hymnal 931)

Rite of Final Commendation: "SAINTS OF GOD" (RitualSong Hymnal 284C) as the casket/urn is incensed

Recessional: "SING WITH ALL THE SAINTS IN GLORY" (RitualSong Hymnal 595)

FUNERAL MUSIC ALTERNATIVE SELECTIONS

E=Entrance P=Presentation of Gifts C= Communion R=Recessional

670: ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING - E, P, R *

914: ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS - E, P, R *

737: AMAZING GRACE - E, P, R

578: AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING - E, P, R

734: BE NOT AFRAID - P, C

626: CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS - E, P, R

758: EYE HAS NOT SEEN- P, C

889: FOR ALL THE SAINTS - E, P, R *

663: HOW GREAT THOU ART - G, P, R

913: I RECEIVED THE LIVING GOD - C

593: JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY - E, P, R *

884: LIFT HIGH THE CROSS - E, P, R

874: LORD, BID YOUR SERVANT GO IN PEACE - P, R

830: MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE (Prayer of St. Francis) - P

735: O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST - E, P, R

740: ON EAGLES WINGS - P, C

754: PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND - P

756: SHEPHERD ME, O GOD - P, C (may not be used as a responsorial psalm)

686: SING A NEW SONG - P, R *

587: THE STRIFE IS O'ER - E, P, C, R *

764: THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD - P, C

629: TO JESUS CHRIST, OUR SOVEREIGN KING - G, P, R

489: WAKE, O WAKE, AND SLEEP NO LONGER - P

723: WE WALK BY FAITH - E, P, R

886: YE WATCHERS AND YE HOLY ONES - E, P, R *

44: Psalm 23: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD - alternative responsorial psalm

AVE MARIA (Arcadelt) P (available as a choir only selection)

Items with a * may not be used during Lent

NOTE: Hymns/songs dedicated to the Blessed Mother are not generally appropriate to the Funeral Liturgy. If requested, certain selections may be used during the Presentation of Gifts only. Please consult the director regarding Marian hymns and songs at the Funeral Liturgy.