

**St. Cletus Parish**  
**Compassionate Care Ministry**

*To Guide and Comfort*

*Helping your Family  
with Funeral Planning*



**St. Cletus Parish 600 W. 55th St. La Grange, IL 60525**

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## INTRODUCTION

Coping with the death of a loved one or a close friend and the accompanying grief is heart wrenching for the survivors. During such an emotional time, it is hard to make decisions, and yet, there are necessary arrangements that must be made.

The Compassionate Care Ministry (CCM) of St. Cletus is here to offer support, comfort and love during this difficult time. As a Eucharistic community, we believe that each funeral service should reflect our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, as well as the life of the deceased, while meeting the needs of the family.

One of our CCM team members, a funeral planner, will meet with you to discuss the funeral service, help select Scripture readings and music, listen to your preferences, and be a liaison between the priest celebrant, the parish staff including the music director and choir.

The CCM will also provide support in the months after the funeral, including an invitation to our All Souls Day liturgy. Please know that our ministry and parish community are always here for you.

It is our hope that this booklet will be a helpful guide to you and your family while planning the funeral arrangements for your loved one.

## **FUNERAL MASS/SERVICE**

The rituals and prayers surrounding death are a witness to the faith of the one who has died. They give comfort to the community of family, friends and associates who have surrounded the deceased during life. These rituals affirm and express solidarity between the living and the dead in the Communion of Saints.

The funeral liturgy is usually conducted by the priest within the context of a Mass. The funeral Mass is the perfect prayer through which the focus shifts from the ending of a life on earth to its beginning in eternity. A funeral Mass is customarily held in the parish church of the deceased or his/her family. A funeral liturgy outside of Mass, may take place at the funeral home, at a church or at a cemetery chapel, and is called a funeral service.

## **VIGIL SERVICE**

At the wake, usually held the evening before the funeral mass or service, extended family members and friends gather to offer prayers, condolences and to visit with the bereaved family.

The Vigil Service, which is conducted during a wake, is often the first occasion among the funeral rites for the solemn reading of the Word of God. Early during the wake, a priest may meet with the family and pray with them. One of the members of the CCM, if requested, will lead people at the wake in the Catholic Vigil Prayers. We pray that the deceased may enjoy eternal life. During the Vigil Service there is an opportunity for friends and family members to share words of comfort with one another. Vigil Services or visitations are celebrated in the funeral home and may not be conducted in our church.

## **SELECTING SCRIPTURES AND MUSIC**

The following pages outline suggestions for the First Reading, the Second Reading, and the Prayers of the Faithful, which family and friends are invited to read. The funeral planner will guide you through these selections. The priest who will celebrate the mass will choose the Gospel.

Four hymns and a responsorial Psalm should be selected from the suggestions on pages 15-17. The funeral planner can discuss with you the most appropriate time in the Mass when each hymn might be used, but the final placement of the hymns in the liturgy will be determined by the parish Director of Music. The Director of Music will also be happy to assist you with requests for other hymns or musical instruments other than the piano. However, secular music such as Broadway or popular tunes are generally not permitted. Recorded music are not permitted.

## **SPEAKING IN REMEMBRANCE EULOGIES AT FUNERAL MASSES**

Eulogies and personal remembrances have their place at the wake, but not in the funeral Mass itself. The Mass is offered for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of the soul of the departed. However, at the discretion of the priest, a time for speaking in remembrance may be placed between the post-communion prayer and the commendation, toward the end of Mass. A family member or friend may say a word of thanks to those attending and speak about what the deceased meant to those who loved him/her. Because of emotions surrounding the funeral experience, the reflection should be written ahead of time. The words of remembrance should be limited to three minutes and submitted in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the funeral, to the priest who will celebrate the Mass.

## FIRST READING SELECTIONS (C)

### (C3) Wisdom 3:1-6, 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 in the eyes of men, indeed they be punished,  
yet it is their hope full of immortality;  
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God has 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.

### (C5) 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!

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-11**

There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every affair under the heavens.  
A time to give birth, 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 which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the time into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from the beginning to end, the work God has done.

### **Proverbs 31:10a, 13-22, 25-31**

Who can find a woman of worth? Far beyond jewels is her value. She seeks out wool and flax and weaves with skillful hands. Like a merchant fleet, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household. She picks out a field and acquires it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength; she exerts her arms with vigor. She enjoys profits from her dealings; her lamp is never extinguished at night. 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 is not concerned for her household when it snows – all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in

wisdom; kindly instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed: "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. Acclaim her for the work of her hand, and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

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In addition to the previous selections, the following readings may be used.

- |                           |                                          |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| (C1) 2 Maccabees 12:43-46 | "He acted in an excellent and noble way" |
| (C2) Job 19:1, 23-26      | "I know that my Redeemer lives"          |
| (C4) Wisdom 4:7-15        | "The just man though he die early"       |
| (C6) Lamentations 3:17-26 | "It is good to hope in silence"          |
| (C7) Daniel 12:1-3        | "Many of those who sleep in the dust"    |



## Second Reading Selections (E)

### (E5) Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

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 us?

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.

### (E6) Romans 14:7-12

No one 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. 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.

### (E11) Philippians 3:20-21

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly bodies to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

**(E12) 1 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 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 be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

**(E15) 1 John 3:14-16**

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that Jesus laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

**2 Timothy 4:1-2, 6-8**

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

## **Philippians 4:4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, dear ones, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

## **(E10) 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

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

In addition to the previous selections, the following readings may be used.

- (E1) Romans 5:5-11                      “Hope does not disappoint”  
(E2) Romans 5:17-21                    “If by the transgression of one”  
(E3) Romans 6:3-9                      “Are you unaware that we who were baptized”  
(E4) Romans 8:14-23                    “Those who are led by the spirit of God”  
(E7) 1 Corinthians 15:20-23            “So too in Christ shall all be brought to life”  
(E8) 1 Corinthians 15:51-57            “Death is swallowed up in victory”  
(E13) 2 Timothy 2:8-13                “If we have died with him, we shall also live with him  
(E14) 1 John 3:1-2                      “We shall see him as he is”

**First Readings during The Easter Season**

- (C8) Acts 10:34-36, 42-43            “In truth I see God shows no partiality”  
(C9) Revelation 14:13                    “Blessed are the dead”  
(C10) Revelation 20:11 – 21:1        “The dead were judged according to their works”  
(C11) Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7        “I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth”

## Prayers of the Faithful A

To each of the following prayers, please respond:

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For N. who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of our brother/sister N., that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

## Prayers of the Faithful B

To each of the following, please respond: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

Our brother/sister N. was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister N. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

## Music Selections

### ST. CLETUS PARISH FUNERAL MUSIC GUIDELINES/SUGGESTIONS

*Revised January 2023*

Typically four hymns plus a Responsorial Psalm should be chosen by the family.

The following is a list of where, within the mass, music is appropriate:

Processional  
Responsorial Psalm  
Preparation of the Gifts  
Communion  
Recessional

While suggestions offered by the family and parish funeral planner will be honored whenever possible, final placement of the songs within the funeral liturgy will be determined by the parish Director of Music Ministries.

Additional hymns possibly may be added as either a prelude, 2<sup>nd</sup> Communion Hymn (if a large attendance at the mass is expected) or a Communion Meditation (song to be sung only by the choir/soloist). The addition of a hymn beyond the required four (plus Psalm) is optional and not required.

In all instances liturgically appropriate music is to be selected. It is suggested that secular songs, near and dear to the deceased and the family, be incorporated into the visitation at the funeral home or after the mass, perhaps at the luncheon or family gathering.

The Music Ministry will make every effort to accommodate requests for other music not found on the following list of hymns, but may not always be able to accommodate a request due to liturgical guidelines, inability to secure the music, etc. Any questions, at any time, regarding the music for a funeral mass may be directed to:

Ryan Rump, Director of Music Ministries,  
708-215-5423 or [rrump@stcletusparish.com](mailto:rrump@stcletusparish.com)

## Music Selections

### SUGGESTED HYMNS

(Source: G = Gray Gather 4th Edition and UIC = United in Christ Hymnal)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, G 1018	Jesus, Remember Me, G 804	Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling, G 1058
Amazing Grace, G 701	Joyful, Joyful We Adore You, G 663	Steal Away to Jesus, G 947
Ave Maria (Shubert/solo)	Lead Me, Guide Me, G 712	Take and Eat, G 1009
Be Not Afraid, G 754	Let There Be Peace on Earth, UIC 546	Taste and See, G 1006
City of God, G 857	Like a Shepherd, UIC 643	The King of Love My Shepherd Is, G 786
Eat This Bread, G 1022	Lord of All Hopefulness, G 714	The Servant Song, G 831
Eye Has Not Seen, G 785	Lord, When You Came, G 867	The Supper of the Lord, UIC 540
Fly Like A Bird, G 263	Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, G 893	Though the Mountains May Fall, UIC 665
For All the Saints, G 971	Morning Has Broken, UIC 776	There Is a Place, G 1079
Gift of Finest Wheat, G 1032	O God, You Search Me, G 644	We Shall Rise Again, G 948
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman, UIC 439	On Eagle's Wings, G 749	We Will Rise Again, UIC 656
Healer of Our Every Ill, G 1064	One Bread, One Body, G 1042	We Walk by Faith, G 740
Here I Am Lord, G 844	Panis Angelicus (Franck/solo)	You Are All We Have, G 643
Holy, Holy, Holy, G 611	Prayer of St. Francis, G 893	You Satisfy the Hungry Heart, G 1032
Hosea, G 514	Precious Lord, Take My Hand, G 784	<b>ETHNIC SONGS</b>
How Great Thou Art, G 630	Sing with All the Saints in Glory – (tune: Joyful, Joyful) G 563	*Celtic Song of Farewell (tune: Danny Boy)
I Am the Bread of Life, G 1008		*Serdeczna Matko (traditional Polish/instrumental)
I Have Loved You, UIC 645		
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, G 781		



**RESPONSORIAL PSALMS: (Source: Gray Gather 4th Edition - choose one)**

Psalm 16: You Will Show Me the Path of Life G 32

*"You will show me the path of life, you my hope and my shelter; In your presence is endless joy, at your side is my home forever."*

Psalm 19: Words of Everlasting Life/Palabras de Vida Eterna G 34

(bi-lingual refrain Spanish/English with English verses)

*"Lord, you have the words of everlasting life, Tu tienes, Señor, palabras de vida eternal"*

Psalm 23: Shepherd Me O God G 39

*"Shepherd me O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life."*

Psalm 23: My Shepherd Is the Lord (Gelineau/chant) G 37

*"My Shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want."*

Psalm 25: To You O Lord G 43

*"To You O Lord I lift my soul, to You I lift my soul."*

Psalm 33: Let Your Mercy Be On Us O Lord G 50

*"Let your mercy be on us, O God, as we place our trust in you."*

Psalm 91: Be With Me Lord G 91

*"Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble, be with me, Lord, I pray."*

Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful (Cotter) G 77

*"The Lord is kind and merciful; the Lord is kind and merciful.  
Slow to anger, rich in kindness, the Lord is kind and merciful."*

## The Order of a Funeral Mass

Greeting and Sprinkling

Placing of Pall / Religious symbols

Processional Hymn

Opening Prayer

### LITURGY OF THE WORD:

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST:

Presentation of Gifts

Preparation Hymn

Eucharistic Acclamations

Our Father

Communion Hymn

Final Farewell

Recessional Hymn

# Funeral Planning Sheet

Name of Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time Funeral \_\_\_\_\_

Placing of Pall - Funeral Dir. \_\_\_\_\_

Placing of Religious Symbols \_\_\_\_\_

Vigil Prayers \_\_\_\_\_

## **READINGS**

Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_

Read by \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament \_\_\_\_\_

Read by \_\_\_\_\_

Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions \_\_\_\_\_

Read by \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation of Gifts by \_\_\_\_\_

## **MUSIC**

Processional \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation of Gifts \_\_\_\_\_

Communion \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional \_\_\_\_\_

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