

Funeral Planning Guide



Name: _____

Date Prepared: _____

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Diocese of Little Rock
INTRODUCTION

The Church accompanies us at every stage of life, including the moment we commend our souls to God. Making funeral plans in advance is a profound act of faith and love—it ensures that your wishes are known and eases the burden on your family at the time of your death.

This planning guide is offered by the Diocese of Little Rock to help you record your decisions for funeral rites, liturgical preferences, and burial arrangements. Sharing this plan with your loved ones will provide them with both clarity and comfort during a difficult time.

We encourage you to complete this guide with the help of family members. Keep one copy with your personal papers (such as your will) and give a copy to a trusted loved one. If you have also made arrangements with a funeral home, you may wish to share this plan with them as well.

General Guidelines

To assist you in choosing, the appendices contain the approved music, readings (first, psalm, and second), and gospel readings from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Please contact your pastor concerning any specific questions or concerns you may have regarding your funeral plan.

**Diocese of Little Rock
Funeral Arrangements**

Vigil Service

Name of Person: _____

Where: (Funeral Home/Parish): _____

Presider: _____

Opening Song (if any) : _____

1st Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Psalm: _____ Reader: _____

Gospel Acclamation: _____ Gospel: _____

Homilist (if a cleric other than Presider): _____

Eulogy? ☐Yes ☐No Whom: _____

***Note: Eulogies are generally to be done at the Vigil and not at the Funeral Mass.**

Blessing: _____

Closing Song (if any): _____

Rosary

Rosary: ☐Yes ☐No Recited by: _____

Mysteries: _____

Mass of Christian Burial

Name of Person: _____

Parish of the Mass of Christian Burial: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Name of Family Contact: _____ Family Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Children: _____

Name of Funeral Home: _____ Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

Casket: ☐ Yes ☐ No **Open Casket:** ☐ Yes ☐ No **Cremation:** ☐ Yes ☐ No -> ☐ Before ☐ After

***Note:** The Church prefers cremation wait until after the Mass of Christian Burial

Celebrant: _____

Concelebrant(s): _____

Deacon(s): _____

Musician/Cantor/Choir: _____

Placing of the Pall: _____

Family Processional: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Entrance Song: _____

1st Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____ Reader: _____

2nd Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Gospel Acclamation: _____ Gospel: _____

Homilist (Celebrant, Concelebrant, Deacon): _____

Prayers of the Faithful / Intercessions: _____

Offeratory Song: _____

Presentation of the Gifts: _____

Communion Song: _____

Recessional Song: _____

Other instructions: (i.e., who is to receive crucifix etc.) _____

Military Service: ☐Yes ☐No Branch: _____ Rank: _____

Medals and Awards: _____

Rite of Committal

Presider: _____

Cemetery / Columbarium: _____

Contact Information: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Military Honors ☐Yes ☐No Branch of Military: _____

Sign and date this form with a loved one:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make copies of this document & store with your will

Appendix 1

Examples of Appropriate Liturgical Music

Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Bread of Life from Heaven/Pan de
Vida Come to Me
Eye Has Not Seen
Here I Am, Lord
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
How Can I Keep from Singing
How Great Thou Art
I Am the Bread of Life
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
I Know My Redeemer Lives
I Want to Walk as A Child of The Light
Will Be the Vine
In Paradisum
Just A Closer Walk with Thee
Lord of All Hopefulness
Morning Has Broken
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
On Eagle's Wings
Pescador de Hombres
Prayer of St. Francis
Sing with All the Saints in Glory
The Cloud's Vail
The King of Love My Shepard Is
The Old Rugged Cross

Appendix 2

Readings and Psalms

First Reading

Old Testament

2 Maccabees 12: 43-46
Job 19: 1, 23-27a
Wisdom 3: 1-9 LV
Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9 SV
Wisdom 4: 7-15
Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9
Lamentations 3: 17-26
Daniel 12: 1-3

During Easter Time

New Testament

Acts of the Apostles
10: 34-43
Acts of the Apostles
10: 34-36, 42-43
Revelation 14: 13
Revelation 20: 11-21: 1
Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23: 1-3, 4,5,6
Psalm 25: 6-7b, 17-18
20-21
Psalm 27: 1, 4, 7 and 8b
and 9a, 13-14
Psalm 42: 2, 3, 5cdef: 43
3, 4, 5
Psalm 63: 2, 3,4, 5-6, 8-9
Psalm 103: 8 and 10, 13-14,
15-16, 17-18
Psalm 116: 5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac
Psalm 122: 1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Psalm 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c,7,8
Psalm 143: 1-2, 5-6, 7ab, 8ab, 10

Second Reading

New Testament

Romans 5: 5-11
Romans 5: 17-21
Romans 6: 3-9 LV
Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9 SV
Romans 8: 14-23
Romans 8: 31b-35,
37-39
Romans 14: 7-9,
10c-12
1 Corinthians 15:
20-28 LV
1 Corinthians 15:
20-23 SV
1 Corinthians 15: 51-57
2 Corinthians 4: 14-5: 1
2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10
Philippians 3: 20-21
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
2 Timothy 2: 8-13
1 John 3: 1-2
1 John 3: 14-16

Appendix 3

Gospel Acclamations

Matthew 11: 25
Matthew 25: 34
John 3: 16
John 6: 39
John 6: 40
John 6: 51
John 11: 25a, 26
Philippians 3: 20
2 Timothy 2: 11-12a
Revelation 1: 5a, 6b
Revelation 14:13

Gospel Readings

Matthew 5: 1-12a
Matthew 11: 25-30
Matthew 25: 1-13
Matthew 25: 31-46
Mark 15: 33-39, 16: 1-6 LV
Mark 15: 33-39 SV
Luke 7: 11-17
Luke 12: 35-40
Luke 23: 33, 39-43
Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53, 24: 1-6a LV
Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53 SV
Luke 24: 13-35 LV
Luke 24: 13-16, 28-35 SV
John 5: 24-29
John 6: 37-40
John 6: 51-58
John 11: 17-27 LV
John 11: 21-27 SV
John 11: 32-45
John 12: 23-28 LV
John 12: 23-26 SV
John 14: 1-6
John 17: 24-26
John 19: 17-18, 25-39

Additional Instructions:

Source: Bereavement and Funerals, USCCB, www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/bereavement-and-funerals#tab--order-of-christian-funerals-general-introduction-nos-22-23. Accessed Oct. 2025.