

Saint Bernadette Catholic Church



Funeral Planning

“Do This in Memory of Me”

The Parishioners and Staff of our Parish offer you our deepest sympathy as you experience the death of someone close to you.

We hope to provide your family and friends with a quality experience of the liturgical prayer of the Church.

This guide is intended to help you as we prepare for the services.

The Funeral Liturgy

The normal context for the Rite of Christian Burial or Funeral Liturgy is within a Mass. Every Catholic person has a right to the Funeral Liturgy by the fact that they are baptized. The Funeral Liturgy is the prayer of the Church, the people of God, for the person who has died. The proper place for this to take place is in the church building itself which is where the community gathers for prayer.

If, for good reason and after serious consideration, you should feel that the Funeral Mass is not proper at this time, arrangements may also be made for the Funeral Liturgy without a Mass at the funeral home or the cemetery. If this is your decision, arrangements will be made to have a parish Mass in the near future offered in memory of your loved one.

Family members are encouraged, as much as they are able, to play an active role in the Funeral Liturgy. This includes choosing the music and choosing and reading the Scripture selections used at the liturgy and the placing of the pall on the casket.

The Wake

A priest or deacon from Saint Bernadette's will come during the wake and lead a short prayer service.

Placing of the Pall

The funeral pall is a white cover draped over the coffin at the beginning of the Funeral Mass. The pall reminds us of the white garment given to us at our Baptism. It symbolizes our new life in Christ.

Members of the family or friends of the deceased are encouraged to place the pall on the coffin. If cremated remains are brought into the Church, the placing of the pall is omitted.

Scripture Readings

The word of God brings hope and consolation. You may choose one or two scripture readings for a Funeral Mass from the selections offered in this book. Traditionally, two scripture readings are chosen, one from the Old Testament (**OT**) and one from the New Testament (**NT**). Family members and friends are encouraged to proclaim the readings, and the Universal Prayer (Prayers of the Faithful).

A copy of the readings chosen by the family will be given to the readers at the wake so that the readers can familiarize themselves with the reading before the Funeral.

If family members or friends are not available to read the scriptures, the parish lector will proclaim the scripture readings and prayers.

Music

Music is a very important part of the Funeral Liturgy. Since the funeral is our prayer of thanksgiving to God for the gift of life of our loved one, and the promise of eternal life for him or her through Jesus Christ, it is important that the music for the Funeral Liturgy be sacred music. The texts of the music should reflect the Paschal Mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. Popular non-religious songs are not appropriate at this time. We encourage you to select Church hymns which speak of your faith and which will strengthen and console you at this time. Hymns are listed in this booklet.

While such songs as *Danny Boy* and *Wind Beneath My Wings* are beautiful and remind us of our loved one, they do not fit well into the Funeral Liturgy. Should you feel that this type of song is necessary, please make arrangements for it to be played either at the funeral home during the visiting hours or at the conclusion of the prayers at the cemetery. If you have any question about the appropriateness of a song in the church or its placement in the Funeral Rites, please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to assist you.

Bagpipes

The Music team is happy to welcome music played by a bagpiper, before and after the liturgy, outside the door of the church, during the procession of mourners. Please let us know if a piper is coming, so our music ministry can plan.

Reflection of Remembrance (Eulogy)

While the eulogy is technically not a part of the Funeral Liturgy, we are allowed to have one person, a family member or a friend of the deceased, offer a reflection in his or her memory.

“In the Archdiocese of Boston, one speaker who is chosen by the family may offer a remembrance under five minutes long of the deceased at the Funeral Liturgy.... The remarks are to be simple, brief, and prepared” (*Policy, #700.4*). It is not required that a friend or family member speak at the funeral. If someone is speaking, please be sure that:

- They write out their comments
- They speak for **less than 5 minutes**
- They respect the dignity of the Church and keep their comments appropriate.

Cremation

It has long been the tradition of the Church to pray the Funeral Liturgy in the presence of the body and to bury the body in a cemetery to await the day of resurrection.

While cremation is permitted, it is preferable, if possible, to wait until after the Funeral Liturgy to do so.

(Policy on Ecclesiastical Funeral Rites # 1200.1)

The Graveside

The prayers of committal will be offered at the grave by the priest or deacon.

For the First Reading,
Choose one from the Old Testament Readings #1 to #6

OT #1 A Reading from the Book of Job 19:1, 23-27

Job answered 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 Redeemer 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.

The Word of the Lord

OT#2 A reading from the Book of 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 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

OT #3

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

4:7-15

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

OT #4

A reading from the Book of the Prophet 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,
and 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

OT #5 A reading from the Book of Lamentations

3:17-26

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 I will 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

OT #6 A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

3:1-11

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair 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 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.

The Word of the Lord

For the Second Reading,
Choose one from the New Testament Readings #1 to #12

NT #1

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

14:13

I heard a voice from heaven say,
“Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”
“Yes,” said the Spirit, “let them find rest from their labors,
for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord

NT #2

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

5:5-11

Brothers and Sisters:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet 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 proves 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 this 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 now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

NT #3

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint John

3:1-2

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

NT #4

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

6:3-4, 8-9

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

Brothers and Sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children 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 expectation 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 first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord

Brothers and Sisters:

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

NT #7 A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12

Brothers and Sisters:

None of us 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.
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 account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord

NT #8 A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-23

Brothers and Sisters:

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

The Word of the Lord

NT # 9 A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 15:51-57

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 with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality. And when that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that 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.

The Word of the Lord

NT #10 A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 4:14—5:1

Brothers and Sisters:

We know 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

NT #11 A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the 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.

So we are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are always 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 judgment seat of Christ,
so that each one may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord

NT #12 A Reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

Brothers and Sisters:

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.

The Word of the Lord

Music

At Mass, music is essential to the celebration of the Liturgy.

Therefore, all Funeral Masses at Saint Bernadette's utilize the skills and talents of both an Organist/Pianist and a Cantor/Leader of Song. These professionals will lead us in the singing of Church Appropriate Songs.

You are invited to choose from the following list of songs for the Mass.

Please choose only one from each category.

Entrance Hymn

Be Not Afraid
Here I Am, Lord
Amazing Grace
Christ Be Our Light
Morning Has Broken

Communion Hymn

Give Me Jesus
Here I Am, Lord
I Am the Bread of Life
I Have Loved You
On Eagle's Wings
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Taste and See

Preparation Hymn

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Ave Maria
The Lord is My Light
Fly Like a Bird
Loving and Forgiving
How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place

Recessional Hymn

Amazing Grace
How Great Thou Art
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Prayer of Saint Francis
On Eagle's Wings

Prayers of the Faithful

(Option A, for a man)

Priest: Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:

Reader: Please respond, “**Lord, hear our prayer**” to the following petitions

In baptism (Name) received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now, and lead him over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Our brother (Name) was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord: *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: *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, We pray to the Lord: *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: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

The family and friends of (Name) seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother (Name). Strengthen our hope so that we may live in expectation of your Son’s coming. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Priest:
Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful

(Option B, for a man)

**Priest: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead;
with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:**

Reader:

Please respond, “**Lord, hear our prayer**” to the following petitions:

For (Name) who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For our brother who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life,
that he may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord: ***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 : ***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: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the family and friends of our brother (Name), 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: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Priest:

**God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people.
Hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters.
Cleanse them of their sins, and grant them the fullness of redemption.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

Prayers of the Faithful

(Option A, for a woman)

Priest: Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:

Reader: Please respond, "**Lord, hear our prayer**" to the following petitions

In baptism (Name) received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now, and lead her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Our sister (Name) was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord: *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: *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,
We pray to the Lord: *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: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

The family and friends of (Name) seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our sister (Name). Strengthen our hope so that we may live in expectation of your Son's coming.
We pray to the Lord: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Priest:
Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful

(Option B, for a woman)

Priest: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:

Reader:

Please respond, “**Lord, hear our prayer**” to the following petitions:

For (Name) who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

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

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

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

For the family and friends of our sister (Name), 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: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Priest:

God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: Hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins, and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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Funeral Planning Sheet

Name of the Departed: (First): _____
(Last): _____

Date of Funeral: _____ Time: _____

Entrance Hymn: _____

First Reading: # _____ Read by: _____

Second Reading: # _____ Read by: _____

Prayers of the Faithful, Option A or B? _____ Read by: _____

Preparation Hymn: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Remembrance given by: _____
(One person only, 5 minute time limit)

Recessional Hymn: _____

Notes: _____

