

# Music for Catholic Funerals

*“Sacred music has an integral role in the funeral rites, since it can console and uplift mourners while, at the same time, uniting the assembly in faith and love (Order of Christian Funerals = OCF #30). Funeral music should express the Paschal Mystery and the Christian’s share in it (OCF #30), since music can evoke strong feelings, it should be chosen with care. It should console the participants and ‘help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ’s victory over death and in the Christian’s share in that victory.’” (OCF #31)*

## Selecting Music

In a general sense, music that is appropriate for a Catholic Mass is appropriate for a Funeral Liturgy. We have assembled a list of common songs used at Funeral Liturgies. We encourage families to select music from our hymnals, in order to facilitate the congregation’s ability to participate in the prayer.

Usually, four songs are needed: an Entrance Hymn, for the Offertory, a Communion Hymn and a Recessional Hymn. Optionally, you can select an Offertory Song and a Song of Thanksgiving following Communion. If you pick out 3 or 4 songs, we can help arrange them appropriately within the liturgy. We encourage the Responsorial Psalm to be sung; some recommended psalms are included in the music list below.

## Responsorial Psalms

Psalm 23: Shepherd Me O God (Marty Haugen) - #39 in Gather Hymnal

Psalm 27: The Lord is My Light (D. Haas) - #44 in Gather Hymnal

And various other Psalms, Hymnal from Psalm 8 #28 – Psalm 146 #100

## Common Songs

Ave Maria # 982

Amazing Grace # 701

Be Not Afraid # 754

Come Holy Ghost # 601

GOD We Praise You # 682

Hail Holy Queen # 967

Holy GOD, We Praise Your Name 662

How Great Thou Art # 630

I Am the Bread of Life # 1008

Lead Me, Guide Me # 712

Lift High the Cross # 968

O GOD Beyond All Praising # 674

On Eagle’s Wings # 749

Prayer of St. Francis/Make Me A Channel of Your Peace # 893

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty # 664

Praise to You O Christ, Our Savior # 658

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of GOD # 715

To Jesus Christ our Sovereign King # 618

On Eagle’s Wings # 749

You satisfy the hungry heart # 1032

**Solo Pieces** (if a soloist is available)

Panis Angelicus

Ave Maria

**Additional Selections**

A Mighty Fortress is Our GOD # 752

Baptized in Water # 993

Christ Be Besides Me # 724

Eye Has Not Seen # 785

Faith of Our Father # 744

Hosea # 514

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say # 781

Immaculate Mary # 977

Jesus, Remember Me # 804

O GOD, Our Help in Ages Past # 755

Soon and Very Soon # 941

The Hand of God Shall Hold You # 1072

The Summons # 869

We Walk by Faith # 740

We Shall Rise Again # 948

**Eucharistic Songs** (*particularly appropriate for Communion*)

At This First Eucharist # 1017

I Am the Bread of Life # 1008

I Receive the Living GOD # 1015

One Bread, One Body # 1042

Take and Eat # 1009

Taste and See # 1006

We Remember # 1005

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart # 1032

**Traditional Songs**

For All the Saints # 971

How Great Thou Art # 630

Jerusalem, My Happy Home # 949

Lord of All Hopefulness # 714

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling # 767

O God Our Help in Ages Past # 755

Sing With All the Saints in Glory # 563

The King of Love My Shepherd Is # 786

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones # 972