



Office of Liturgy & Music

Stephen Adams, Director
St. John the Baptist-Holy Angels Parish
82 Possum Park Rd. • Newark, Delaware 19711
Office 302.731.2219
sjhamusic@gmail.com



Music for the Funeral Liturgy

“Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death, we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven.” As Christians, we believe that death is a transition, not an end. We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. We believe that by dying he destroyed our death, and through his rising, he restored our life. We are participants in the resurrection, not simply spectators. This participation begins with our baptism and will continue through the transition of death.

“Music is integral to the funeral rites. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the [gathered] Assembly in faith and love.” (Order of Christian Funerals, §30)

The following list of suggested music reflects our beliefs. It is not intended to be a definitive list of approved liturgical funeral music; however, it is a starting point. (Secular or non-liturgical music is not permitted during the funeral rites.) You are encouraged to take a moment to pray, then to review the following hymns and psalms—making your choice for each musical prayer moment in the liturgy.

Musical pieces with an asterisk (*) are frequently chosen in our parish.

Processional Hymns

- *All Creatures of Our God and King¹
- Alleluia, Sing to Jesus¹
- *Amazing Grace
- *Be Not Afraid
- City of God
- Faith of Our Fathers (A Living Faith)
- For All the Saints¹
- *Here I Am, Lord
- I Am the Bread of Life
- I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- Lord of All Hopefulness (Tune: SLANE)
- *On Eagle’s Wings
- Sing with All the Saints in Glory
- We Shall Rise Again

¹These cannot be sung during Lent.

Our Processional Hymn Selection:

Responsorial Psalms (titles are underlined)

- “Be Merciful, O Lord for we have sinned.”
- “Be With Me Lord, when I am in trouble; be with me, Lord, I pray.
- “O Lord, you are the Center of My Life...”
- “I Will Take the Cup of Life, I will call God’s name all my days.”
- “In the Land of the Living, I will walk with God, all my days.”
- “The Lord is Kind and Merciful.”
- “My Soul is Thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.”
- “Shelter me O God, hide me in the shadow of your wings...”
- * “Shepherd Me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my needs, from death in life.” (Psalm 23, “The Lord is my shepherd”)
- * “Taste and See the goodness of the Lord.”
- * “The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation, of whom should I be afraid?”
- * “The Lord is My Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.”
- “This Day Was Made by the Lord, let us rejoice, let us be glad!”¹
- “This Is The Day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!”¹
- * “To You, O Lord I lift my soul, to you, I lift my soul.”
- * “What Return Can I Make for all God gives to me?”

¹ These cannot be sung during Lent.

Our Responsorial Psalm Selection:

Preparation of Gifts

This is usually instrumental but can be sung if selected.

- *Amazing Grace
 - *Ave Maria (Schubert, Gounod, Chant)
 - *Be Not Afraid
 - Center of My Life
 - Come to Me (...come when you are weary)
 - *Gentle Woman (Hail Mary)
 - I Have Loved You
 - I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
 - *Instrumental
 - Lord of All Hopefulness
 - Mary's Song (My soul doth glory...)
 - *On Eagle's Wings
 - Panis Angelicus* (Franck or Lambilotte)
 - *Prayer of St. Francis
 - Seek Ye First¹
 - *Servant Song
 - Shall We Gather at the River?
 - Shelter Me, O God
 - *You Are Mine
- ¹ These cannot be sung during Lent.

Our Preparation Hymn Selection:

Closing Hymns

This can be instrumental or sung.

- Alleluia, Sing to Jesus¹
 - Amazing Grace
 - Be Not Afraid
 - *Canticle of the Sun
 - City of God
 - Glory and Praise to Our God
 - *Holy God We Praise Thy Name
 - *How Great Thou Art
 - *I Am the Bread of Life
 - Instrumental*
 - Jesus Christ Is Risen Today¹
 - *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
 - Lead Me, Lord
 - Let There Be Peace on Earth
 - Lift High the Cross
 - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
 - *May the Choirs of Angels Come Greet You
 - *On Eagle's Wings
 - Precious Lord, Take My Hand
 - *Sing with all the Saints (Tune: Ode to Joy)
 - Shall We Gather at the River?
 - Soon and Very Soon
 - We Shall Rise Again
- ¹ These cannot be sung during Lent.

Our Closing Hymn Selection:

Communion Hymns

- *Be Not Afraid
- *Behold the Lamb
- *Blest Are They
- *Center of My Life
- Eat This Bread
- Eye Has Not Seen
- *Here I Am, Lord
- *I Am the Bread of Life
- I Have Loved You
- Now We Remain ("We hold the death...")
- *On Eagle's Wings
- *One Bread, One Body
- *Prayer of St. Francis
- Shelter Me, O God
- Shepherd Me, O God
- *Servant Song
- *The Supper of the Lord
- *Take and Eat
- *Taste and See
- *We Remember
- *You Are Mine
- You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Our Communion Hymn Selection:

Song of Farewell

Options (check one):

___ "May the choirs of angels come to greet you, may they speed you to paradise..."

___ "May songs of the angels lead you home, and guide you along your path..."

___ "May holy angels lead you forth to paradise..." (Tune: Danny Boy)

Name/Age of Deceased: _____

Family Contact's Name: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Date of Funeral Liturgy: _____

Time: _____

Church: _____

If you need any assistance, please call or e-mail the parish Director of Liturgy & Music at the Parish Office.