



Our Lady of The Valley Parish

Holy Rosary Church, 10 Fr. Salemi Drive, Ansonia, CT
Church of the Assumption, 61 N Cliff Street, Ansonia, CT

Funeral Mass Planning Sheet *A Guide for Family Participation*

On behalf of the priests, deacons, parish staff and parishioners, please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of your loved one. We know how painful this time is and assure you that we are here for you. If you would like to speak with us about anything, please do not hesitate to ask. We are all one family under God.

Contained in this packet you will find the choices of the Old and New Testament readings. There is also the Prayers of the Faithful included if you wish someone to read it. Having family members read is always recommended but not required. There is also a music sheet with suggested hymns.

At the end of the packet is an information sheet that contains important information that will help the priest or deacon get to know your loved one. Remember, life is about change, not ending. While it is impossible to say all that is in your heart, please provide us with the information you would mainly like us to know. If you do not plan to have any wake service, kindly fill in the information sheet and give it to the Funeral Director, to give to us.

If you want to give a eulogy about your loved one, you may do so before the Mass. However, eulogies at the church should be brief and faith-centered to inspire others to grow in their Catholic faith. Other aspects about daily lives could be said at the Funeral Home or during the reception.

Finally, please know that you are in our prayers. May God be with you and your family and may the Lord call your loved one into His wonderful Kingdom where pain and suffering no longer exists and life is eternal. It is a beautiful custom to schedule a Mass for your deceased relative at a future date. Please come to the rectory office for available dates and times. God be with you as you grieve for your loved one.

(203) 735-7857 —— (203) 735-7874

www.olvansonria.org

Old Testament Readings

(#1) Wisdom 3: 1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom. 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 to others, indeed, they seem 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. In the time of their judgment they shall shine and dart about as sparks through stubble. They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the LORD shall be their King forever. 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 the elect. *The word of the Lord.*

(#2) Isaiah 25: 6a,7-9

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah. 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!" *The word of the Lord.*

(#3) Daniel 12: 1-3

A reading from the book of Daniel. I, Daniel, mourned and heard this word of the Lord: "At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since the nation began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some to everlasting life, others to reproach and everlasting disgrace. But those with insight shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever. *The word of the Lord.*

New Testament Readings

(#1) Romans 6: 3-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans, Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. *The Word of the Lord.*

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

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans, If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

(#3) 1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, 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 must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this 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.

New Testament Readings (cont.)

(#4) 2 Corinthians 5: 1, 6-10

A Reading from the second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, 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 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 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.*

(#5) 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, 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.*

General Intercessions

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 begins: Our response will be, **“Lord, Hear our Prayer.”**

1. In baptism _____ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord.
2. Our brother/sister _____ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The family and friends of _____ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord.
6. We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister _____. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. We pray to the Lord.

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 the Lord. *Return to seat once Priest concludes*



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Funeral Information Sheet

We have provided this "Funeral Planning Sheet" in order to assist bereaved family members in the preparation of the funeral Mass. When completed, please return this sheet and the next to either the church or the funeral director at least one day prior to the Funeral Mass.

Name of Deceased: _____ **Nickname:** _____

Date/Time of Funeral Mass: _____

Location of Funeral Mass: **Church of the Assumption** **Holy Rosary Church**

Are there calling hours? Yes / No _____ **If so, date/time:** _____

Casket **Urn** **Other:** _____

Was deceased a Veteran? Yes / No _____ **Date of Death:** _____ **Age:** _____

Address: _____

Next of Kin: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Will there be a burial? Yes / No _____ **Cemetery:** _____

Funeral Home/Director: _____

Please select two scripture readings, one from each of the sections above, and choose readers to come forward and proclaim the Word during the funeral Mass. If you do not have anyone who would like to read, the church will be happy to provide the lector for the Mass.

First Reading: Old Testament (1-3)

Reader Name: _____ # _____

Second Reading: New Testament (1-5)

Reader Name: _____ # _____

Reader Name for General Intercessions: _____

Usually two (or more) family members or friends of the deceased will come forward with the gifts of bread and wine after the Prayer of the Faithful. The president will indicate the appropriate time to bring the gifts forward

Names of Gift Bearers: _____

The "Eulogy": Eulogies are not required nor recommended during a Catholic funeral Mass. The more appropriate time to share stories and fond memories of loved ones is during the wake or repast luncheon following. However, if ONE member of the family would like to offer words of remembrance, it can be done at the beginning of the mass, immediately following the opening prayer. **Comments MUST be written out and be no longer than 5 minutes.**

Name of Eulogist: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Music: Music is an essential part of the funeral liturgy and the Church encourages us to participate as fully as possible. There are usually **three (3) hymns** in the course of the Mass. We would like to ensure that the funeral liturgy for your loved one is celebrated as prayerfully as possible. It is appropriate for the music director to choose the musical selections. If, however, you have a special music request, we will do our best to accommodate you. It is important to keep in mind that the Church has formal guidelines and expectations which must be followed, given the sacredness of the occasion. Please note any special music request(s) in the space provided below. Neither secular music nor pre-recorded tapes or CD's are permitted during a funeral liturgy.

The funeral mass is a reverent celebration and tribute to the life of the deceased. Great care must be taken in the selection of music. Please select **three (3) hymns** from the following list. Based on your selection, Music Director will arrange the order of hymns appropriate to the action of the Mass.

Choose three selections:

- Be Not Afraid.
- How Great Thou Art.
- Fly Like a Bird
- On Eagles Wings.
- Amazing Grace.
- Here I Am, Lord
- I Am the Bread of Life.
- Let There Be Peace On Earth.
- Ave Maria
- Prayer to St. Francis.
- Hail, Holy Queen.
- Other

If you have any questions, Mr. Anthony Burke, Music Director of Our Lady of The Valley Parish, will be happy to speak to you, by phone, and further assist with hymn selection.

Notes on the Life of the Deceased: Below or on the other side of this sheet, please include any notes about the deceased that would be helpful to the presider in preparing the homily.