

Funeral Music Guidelines

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 power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love. The texts of songs chosen for a particular celebration should express the Paschal Mystery of the Lord's suffering, death, and triumph over death and should be related to the readings from Scripture.

Since music can evoke strong feelings, the music for the celebration rites should be chosen with great care. The music at funerals should support, console, and uplift the participants and should help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and the Christian's share in the victory.

The Music Ministry of St. Margaret of Cortona offers prayers, thoughts and condolences to you and your family at this difficult time. In an effort to ease the planning of the funeral Mass for your loved one, a list of appropriate music has been compiled for you to choose hymns and psalms. You are asked to choose an Opening Hymn to accompany the casket, family and friends into church; an Offertory Hymn, a Communion Hymn and a Closing Hymn. If you prefer, you may ask that the Director of Music to choose the selections for the liturgy. The Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia's" will be sung (unless the funeral mass occurs during the season of Lent). The "Holy, Holy, Holy," "Memorial Acclamation," "Amen," and "Lamb of God" are taken from The Heritage Mass written by Owen Alscott.

St. Margaret of Cortona follows the guidelines for music in the Liturgy as set forth by the Vatican and the Archdiocese of Newark. These guidelines prohibit the use of secular music, "pop" during or after the Liturgy. We suggest that if your loved one had a favorite song which does not fit within these guidelines that it be played at the funeral home during visitation hours or at a gathering after the funeral service.

Because music has such a dignified place within the funeral liturgies, at St. Margaret of Cortona Catholic Church, we presume that our Director of Music/Organist/ Cantor will be assisting at each funeral. Guest musicians or cantors will be considered at the family's request and could be incorporated into the funeral liturgy according to specific abilities and preferences of each musician or cantor.

Please take a moment to read the music list of "[Hymns for the Rite of a Christian Burial](#)."

If you have any questions regarding the music, please contact Eileen directly - 201-843-1097.

Every effort will be made to ensure a meaningful celebration of the Paschal Mystery and your loved one's life.

Eileen M. Ballone • Director of Music
Phone #: 201-843-1097
e-mail: musicmomemb@yahoo.com