



**St. Boniface Church**

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## **Music for the Funeral Mass**

The Church encourages family members of the deceased with liturgical planning experience to participate in the selection of appropriate music for the Mass of Christian Burial. As with other liturgical celebrations, music is an important part of the ceremony and must be selected with utmost care. Both the Funeral Coordinator and Music Director at St. Boniface are eager to help with this part of the planning.

Care must be taken that the music—like other elements of the celebration—is helpful in supporting the Christian themes of death, resurrection, and eternal life. A simple identification of “favorites” of the deceased or of the family members is incomplete.

### **Where is music needed?**

Music selections will be needed as follows:

Entrance Procession (E)	Preparation of Gifts (P)
Responsorial Psalm	Communion (C)
Gospel Alleluia	Closing Procession (CL)

The musicians will take responsibility for including an appropriate Gospel Acclamation (“Alleluia” before the Gospel), Ordinary parts of the Mass (e.g., Holy, Holy, the Mystery of Faith, Great Amen, and Lamb of God) and the Song of Farewell just prior to the Closing Procession.

### **Are there suggested hymns for the funeral Mass?**

While there is no exhaustive list of appropriate music for the funeral Mass, the following hymns are offered as suggestions.

Ave Verum Corpus (C – cantor)	Look Beyond (C)
Be Not Afraid (E, P, CL)	Lord of All Hopefulness (E, P, CL)
Center of My Life (E, P)	Now the Green Blade Rises (E, P, CL)
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (E, P, CL)	O God, Our Help In Ages Past (E, CL)
Crown Him with Many Crowns (E, CL)	On Eagles Wings (E, CL)
Day is Done (E, CL)	Sing with All the Saints in Glory (E, CL)
Eat This Bread (C)	Soon and Very Soon (E, P, CL)
Eye Has Not Seen (E, P, CL)	Steal Away to Jesus (P, C)
For All the Saints (E, CL)	Take and Eat (C)
God Be In My Head (P)	Taste and See (C)
I Am the Bread of Life (C)	The God of Abraham Praise (CL)
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (E, P, CL)	The King of Love, My Shepherd Is (P, C)
I Received the Living God (C)	The Strife is O’er (E, P, CL)
Jesus Christ is Risen Today (E, P, CL)	We Have Been Told (E, P, CL)
Jesus Lead the Way (E, P, CL)	We Walk By Faith (E, P, CL)
Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All (C)	What Wondrous Love Is This (P, C)
Jesus, Remember Me (E, P, CL)	Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones (E, P, CL)
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (E, CL)	

### **What about the Responsorial Psalm?**

For the Responsorial Psalm—sung immediately after the First Reading—the following are commonly used at funeral Masses:

Psalm 16	In You, my God, my body will rest in hope.
Psalm 23	My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.
Psalm 25	To You, I lift my soul, O Lord, my God.
Psalm 27	I believe I shall see the good things of the Lord, in the land of the living.
Psalm 27	The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom shall I be afraid?
Psalm 34	Taste and see, the goodness of the Lord.
Psalm 37	My soul is thirsting for the Lord; when shall I see him face to face?
Psalm 63	My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, thirsting for you my God.
Psalm 71	I will sing of your salvation.
Psalm 84	How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts.
Psalm 91	Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble, be with me Lord, I pray.

### **Are there other things to consider?**

Give consideration to the current season of the church year. For instance, the Advent/Christmas cycle offers additional hymn selections, as do the Lenten and Easter seasons. During Lent, no “Alleluias” can be included in the liturgy. Also, pop music and movie favorites are not permitted anywhere in the funeral liturgy. And finally, recorded music of any kind is not appropriate.