

“What must be sung is the Mass, its Ordinary and Proper, and not ‘something else’—even if it seems appropriate—superimposed onto the Mass. To continue to *replace the texts of the Mass* [...] means giving the people chaff instead of good wheat, watered-down wine instead of generous wine. Thus texts must be those of the Mass, *not others*, and singing means singing the Mass not just singing during Mass.”

—Pope Saint Paul VI’s *Consilium ad Exsequendam Constitutionem de Sacra Liturgia* (“Council for the Implementation of the Sacred Liturgy Constitution”); *NOTITIAE* 5 [1969] p. 406.

Missa in exséquiis Funeral Mass

*Saint Mary Catholic Church
239 W Clay Ave • Muskegon, MI 49440*

Date and Time: _____

Name and Gender of the deceased: _____

Designate just one person to handle the music; don’t choose multiple parties. 

Name, email, & phone for person designated: _____

 Funeral Mass proper (*Propria Missae*) and readings are included beginning on page 791 of the *Jogues Illuminated Missal, Gradual, and Lectionary* conveniently **in the pews**.

1. The body is sprinkled with Holy Water at the back of the church.

Ad ingressum in ecclesiam et ad initium Missae, de more unicus habeatur cantus, iuxta normas in *Institutione generali de Missa traditas*.

Ordo Exsequiarum (§37): At the entrance to the church and at the beginning of Mass, there should normally be a single chant, according to the norms given in the *General Instruction for the Roman Missal*.

2. As the body enters, the following (“first option”) is sung:

Cantors will need this score:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/20084-entrance-chant-funeral-mass-missa-in-exsequiis-1970-missal-cf2o/download/>
For reference in the official liturgical books, cf. page 1,799 in *Missale Romanum cum lectionibus* (Pars I, 1977) or page 394 in *Ordo Cantus Missae* (Vatican Press, 1988) or page 1,371 in *Roman Missal, 3rd Edition* (USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship, 2011) or—for additional psalm verses—page 401 in *Graduale Simplex in Usum Minorum Ecclesiarum* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1999). The Entrance Chant may also be sung directly from the official edition in Latin (if this be requested by the family):

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/20117-requiem-aeternam-editio-vaticana-funeral-introit-cf2o/download/>

Congregational insert for booklets:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/20116-Funeral-Entrance-Chant-1970-Missale-Romanum-1900x.png>

3. There is no altar incensation, no Kyrie, and no Gloria.

4. Responsorial Psalm in the *Jogues Missal* (in the pews):

Cantor and Organist will need the musical scores here:

https://noelchabanel.org/psalms/A_4_Lent/

For reference in the official liturgical books, cf. page 1,884 *Missale Romanum cum lectionibus* (Pars III, 1977) or:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/20114-responsorial-psalm-missae-defunctorum-cf2o/download/>

Congregational insert for booklets:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/20113-St-Mary-Funeral-Responsorial-Psalm.png>

5. Gospel Acclamation in the *Jogues Missal* (but not during Lent):

Cantor and Organist will need the musical scores here:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/20110-gospel-acclamation-funeral-simon-le-moyne-requiem-cf2o/download/>

For reference in the official liturgical books, cf. page 394 in *Ordo Cantus Missae* (Vatican Press, 1988)

or page 671 in the *Graduale Romanum* (Solesmes Abbey, 1974).

Vs. (IV Esdr II: 34-35) Réquiem aeternam dona eis, Dómine: et lux perpétua lúceat eis.

Vs. Grant that they may have eternal rest, O Lord, and be forever in the radiance of your light.

Congregational insert for booklets:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/20112-Funeral-ALLELUIA-Simon-Le-Moyne.png>

6. The Offertory Antiphon will be sung as follows:

Cantors will need this score:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/21673-free-pdf-offertory-requiem-mass-gregorian-chant-in-english-cf2o/download/>
For reference in the official liturgical books, cf. page 394 in *Ordo Cantus Missae* (Vatican Press, 1988) or page 671 in the *Graduale Romanum* (Solesmes Abbey, 1974) or page 106 *The Processional* (Society of Saint Gregory, 2011) or page 693 in *The Gregorian Missal* (Solesmes Abbey, 1990). For extra verses, cf. *Offertorale* (Solesmes Abbey, 1985).

Congregational insert for booklets:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/20109-Funeral-Offertory-MISSA-DEFUNCTORUM.png>

7. During the Offertory ... an Organ Interlude will be played.

8. Sanctus: “Roman Missal, Third Edition” :

Thanks to Father Kyle Kilpatrick, the congregation of Saint Mary’s knows very well the “Missal Chants,” which constitute the most common ordinary in the English-speaking world.

We normally sing the SANCTUS in Latin:

Cantor and Organist will need the musical score here:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/24996-jeff-ostrowski-accompaniment-sanctus-xviii-in-feriis-per-annum-cf2o/download/>

Congregational insert for booklets:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/20108-ICEL-Sanctus-Roman-Missal-3rd-Edition.png>

The Second Vatican Council declared [SACROSANCTUM CONCILIIUM §54b] :

“Steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them.”

Nevertheless, the Sanctus can also be sung in Spanish or English at Saint Mary’s upon request:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/31490-harmonized-organ-accompaniments-missal-chants-sanctus-santo-holy-cf2o/download/>

9. Mystérium Fidei: “Roman Missal, Third Edition” in English :

Cantor and Organist will need the musical score here:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/32156-mystery-of-faith-pipe-organ-accompaniment-cf2o/download/>

Congregational insert for booklets:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/20420-BERENIZ-graphic.png>

10. Agnus Dei: “Roman Missal, Third Edition” in English :

Thanks to Father Kyle Kilpatrick, the congregation of Saint Mary’s knows very well the “Missal Chants,” which constitute the most common ordinary in the English-speaking world.

We normally sing the AGNUS DEI in Latin:

Cantor and Organist will need the musical score here:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/30776-cordero-de-dios-missal-chants-harmonized-pipe-organ-spanish-cf2o/download/>

Congregational insert:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/20420-BERENIZ-graphic-AGNUS.png>

The AGNUS DEI in honor of Saint Anne Line is also beautiful and well-known:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/20364-agnus-dei-saint-anne-line-5-different-keys-lamb-of-god-cf2o/download/>

Congregational Insert (Saint Anne Line):

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/20095-congregational-insert-agnus-saint-anne-line-cf2o/download/>

11. Communion Chant :

Cantors will need this score:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/20047-funeral-communion-chant-sans-fauxbourdon-cf2o/download/>

For reference in the official liturgical books, cf. page 1,800 in *Missale Romanum cum lectionibus* (Pars I, 1977) or page 394 in *Ordo Cantus Missae* (Vatican Press, 1988) or page 1,372 in *Roman Missal, 3rd Edition* (USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship, 2011) or—for additional psalm verses—page 413 in *Graduale Simplex in Usum Minorum Ecclesiarum* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1999) or page 676 in the *Graduale Romanum* (Solesmes Abbey, 1974) or page 106 *The Processional* (Society of Saint Gregory, 2011).

Congregational insert for booklets:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/20107-Funeral-Communion-Chant.png>

12. During Communion: Any of the following may be selected.

ANY HYMN found in the *Father Brébeuf Hymnal* (which is in our pews)

Examples of hymns you can choose for Holy Communion:

- Page 799 (*Brébeuf Hymnal*) • “The King Of Love My Shepherd Is” (Psalm 22)
Audio = <https://www.ccwatershed.org/brebeuf/page/799/>
- Page 807 (*Brébeuf Hymnal*) • “O God, Our Help In Ages Past”
- Page 728 (*Brébeuf Hymnal*) • “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
- Page 734 (*Brébeuf Hymnal*) • “Panis Angelicus”
- Page 62 (*Brébeuf Hymnal*) • “Adoro Te Devote”
Audio = <https://www.ccwatershed.org/brebeuf/page/62/>
- Page 800 (*Brébeuf Hymnal*) • “Christ, Enthroned In Highest Heaven”
Audio = <https://www.ccwatershed.org/brebeuf/page/800/>
...an ancient Catholic hymn specifically for those who have died.
- Page 798 (*Brébeuf Hymnal*) • “Help, Lord, the souls which Thou hast made”
Audio = <https://www.ccwatershed.org/brebeuf/page/798/>
- Page 723 (*Brébeuf Hymnal*) • “We Pray Thee, Heavenly Father”
Audio = <https://www.ccwatershed.org/brebeuf/page/723/>

Hundreds more examples from which to choose :

- (a) **Seasonal Index** (unofficial) <https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/84458-personal-use-only-seasonal-index/download/>
- (b) **Alphabetical Index** <https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/84312-index-saint-jean-de-brebeuf-roman-catholic-hymnal/download/>

The family may also choose from the “Thesaurus Musicae Sacrae”—since Catholics in the United States belong to the Latin Rite. That is to say, any piece found in VARIAE PRECES (272 pages), CANTUS VARII (696 pages), CANTUS SELECTI (339 pages), the LIBER CANTUALIS (121 pages) or the *Parish Book of Chant* (Church Music Association of America, 2012). The following (not found in the Brébeuf Hymnal) may also be chosen:

“I Received The Living God” • <https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/32151-indd-i-received-the-living-god-pipe-organ-accompaniment-cf20/download/>

13. After the distribution of Holy Communion:

Ad ultimam commendationem et valedictionem • Dicta oratione post Communionem vel, si sacrificium eucharisticum non celebretur, post expletam liturgiam verbi, sacerdos, indutus planeta vel pluviali, procedit ad ritum ultima commendationis et valedictionis. Stans prope feretrum, versus ad populum, habens apud se ministros cum aqua benedicta et incenso, invitationem profert his vel similibus verbis:

Following the Prayer after Communion, the priest goes to a place near the coffin. The assisting ministers carry the censer and holy water, if these are to be used. A member or a friend of the family may speak* in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins.

* The *ORDO EXSEQUIARUM* indicates such words should take place after the SILENCE, before the “Subveníte”:

Conferentia Episcopalis permettere potest ut, iuxta loci consuetudinem, post pausam silentii addantur verba salutationis a propinquis defuncti proferenda.

Using one of the following, or using one of many “INVITATIONS TO PRAYER” found in the *Rituale* (or similar words), the priest faces the people and begins the final commendation:

BEFORE WE GO our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother/sister. May our farewell express our affection for him/her; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him/her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

185. Ántequam dividámur, fratrem nostrum consalutémus, ut valedictio, quae in hoc loco postrénum exprimitur, amórem significet, léniat dolórem, spem nostram confirmet: ibi enim aliquándo fratrem nostrum íterum in amicitiae gáudio complectémur, ubi amor Christi, qui ómnia vincit, mortem ipsam pénitus superábit.

TRUSTING in God, we have prayed together for **N.** and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see **N.** again and enjoy his/her friendship. Although this congregation will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of his kingdom. Therefore let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

WITH FAITH in Jesus Christ, we must reverently bury the body of our brother/sister. Let us pray with confidence to God, in whose sight all creation lives, that he will raise up in holiness and power the mortal body of our brother/sister and command his/her soul to be numbered among the blessed. May God grant him/her a merciful judgment, deliverance from death, & pardon of sin. May Christ the Good Shepherd carry him/her home to be at peace w/ the Father. May he/she rejoice for ever in the presence of the eternal King and in the company of all the saints.

14. All pray in silence.

Et omnes aliquantulum sub silentio orant.

15. Subveníte Responsory (a.k.a. “Final Commendation” or “Song of Farewell”)

Deinde fit aspersio et thurificatio corporis, quae tamen peragi potest etiam post cantum valedictionis.

The coffin may now be sprinkled with holy water and incensed, or this may take place **during** or after the **SUBVENÍTE RESPONSORY** (a.k.a. “final commendation” or “song of farewell”). If the body was sprinkled with holy water during the rite of reception at the beginning of Mass, the sprinkling is ordinarily omitted in the rite of final commendation.

This 3-page PDF file provides the version for a deceased male as well as for a deceased female. The official version (in Latin) is also provided:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/20093-subvenite-sancti-dei-occurrite-1970-missal-male-female-cf2o/download/>

Congregational insert for booklets:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/20431-Funeral-Song-of-Farewell-SUBVENITE.png>

16. Recessional Antiphon (as the body is carried out) • “**In Paradísum**”

48. Deinde sacerdos dicit orationem:

INTO YOUR HANDS, Father of mercies, we commend our brother/sister **N.** in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, he/she will rise with him on the last day. We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon **N.** in this life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ. Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we all meet in Christ and are with you and with our brother/sister for ever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

The priest usually says: **V.** In peace let us take our brother/sister to his/her place of rest.

Cantor will need the musical score here:

<https://archive.ccwatershed.org/pdfs/21706-plainsong-pdf-file-in-paradisum-gregorian-chant-cf2o/download/>

Congregational insert for booklets:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/20089-Funeral-Recessional-Carrying-Body-IN-PARADISUM.png>

186. Postquam pro fratre nostro preces fidénter effusæ sunt, postrémum nunc valedicimus. Nostrum autem «vale», etsi tristitiam non ámbigit separatiónis, spei tamen solámine recréatur. Aspéctu enim fratris nostri eiúsque amicítia íterum fruémur, et, Dei misericórdia donánte, nostram hanc congregatiónen, quam nunc mæsti in aula ecclésia dimittimus, læti aliquándo in regno Dei componémus. Consolémur ergo ínvicē in fide Christi.

46. Débitum humáni córporis sepeliéndi officium fidélium more compléntes, Deum cui ómnia vivunt fidéliter deprecémur, ut huius fratris nostri corpus, a nobis in infirmitáte sepeliéndum, in virtúte et órdine sanctórum resuscítet, et eius ánimam sanctis et fidélibus iúbeat aggregári. Tríbuat ei in iudicio misericórdiam, ut, morte redemptus, débitis solútus, Patri reconciliáitus, boni Pastórēs húmeris reportátus, in comitátu Regis atérni perénni gáudio et sanctórum consórtio pérfrui mereátur.

the company of all the saints.

In manus tuas, clementissime Pater, fratris nostri [sororis nostræ] ánimā commendámus, spe certa suffúlti eū [eam], sicut omnes in H̄sto defunctos, cum H̄sto esse resurrectiū [resurrectiū] in novissimo die. Tibi grátiás ágimus, pro ómnibus beneficiis, quibus fámulū tuū [fámulam tuam] in hac vita mortáli ita cumulásti, ut éadē nobis signa tua fierent bonitáti et beatáe sanctórum communióniis in H̄sto. Páteant ergo, Dñe, précibus nostris aures misericórdiæ tuæ, ut portæ paradísi aperiántur fámulō tuo [fámulæ tuæ], et étiam nos, qui relinquimur, ínvicem consolémur in verbis fidei docēc occurrámus omnes in H̄sto, et sic semper tecum et cum fratre nostro [sorore nostra] esse possimus. Per H̄stū Dñm nostrū. **R.** Amen.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.