St. Ambrose Funeral Liturgy 2026

Music Selection

As a parish family, we want to begin by offering our condolences on the loss of your loved one. The Mass follows the Catholic rite of burial and the parish takes the selection for the music in the funeral liturgy very seriously. Music should be sacred and reflect the idea of resurrection and hope.

You may have in mind some specific songs which may or may not be appropriate during the Mass. Below are suggestions for various points during the Mass. There are many songs not listed that may also be appropriate. Kim Boatman is the St. Ambrose funeral liturgy coordinator. She can assist you in choosing your music. Darren Modde is the music director and he has the final decision on what songs are appropriate to play/sing. He will assign a parish cantor to lead the congregation in prayer and song. A family may choose to hire their own cantor if this person has experience singing for Catholic funeral liturgies or is well versed in Catholic music repertoire.

Some music is not appropriate for a funeral Mass. For example, *O Danny Boy* is a wonderful song, but because it does not have sacred words, it is not appropriate for a Catholic Mass. The sacred and communal nature of our Catholic funeral Mass requires careful planning in the selection of music. This planning will ensure the ability of all those gathered to actively participate in the celebration. Because of the sacredness of the Mass, secular instrumental or vocal music, or the use of recorded music of any kind may not be used.

The entrance, Communion, and recessional hymns should be selections that the congregation should be encouraged to sing. Solos are more appropriate during offertory, or as a Communion meditation.

Your selections should include the following:

Entrance

Responsorial Psalm (text only)

Offertory

Communion

Final Commendation

Recessional

These songs are appropriate for Entrance or Recessional:

All Creature of Our God and King #568	Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee #572
Alleluia Sing to Jesus #730	Lead Me, Lord #640
Amazing Grace #447	Let There Be Peace on Earth #480
Be Not Afraid #439	Lord of All Hopefulness #553
Canticle of the Sun #432	O God Beyond All Praising #563
Christ Be Our Light #464	On Eagle's Wings #441
City of God #382	The King of Love My Shepherd Is #519
Holy God We Praise Thy Name #207	To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King #722
I Know that My Redeemer Lives #684	We Shall Rise Again #605

These responsorial psalms (texts) have music settings:

Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want
Psalm 25: To you O Lord I lift my soul
Psalm 27: The Lord is my light and my salvation
Psalm 40: Here I am Lord I come to do your will
Psalm 42: As a deer longs for running streams, so I long for you O Lord
Psalm 103: The Lord is kind and merciful
Psalm 130: Out of the depths I cry to you Lord

These songs are appropriate for Offertory or Communion:

Abide With Me #630	In This Place #308
All Is Well with My Soul #518	One Bread One Body #327
All My Days	Only In God #453
Ave Maria	Open My Eyes #418
Bread of Angels (Panis Angelicus) #378	Prayer of St. Francis #473
Come To Jesus	Seek Ye First #450
Come to the Water #592	Servant Song #385
Eye Has Not Seen #529	Stand By Me #423
Give Me Ears to Listen #655	Taste and See #337
Hail Mary Gentle Woman #702	The Summons #388
Here I Am Lord #390	There Is a Season #517
How Can I Keep From Singing #445	These Alone Are Enough #428
How Great Thou Art #431	This Alone #421
I Am the Bread of Life #355	You Are Near #448
In Christ Alone #549	

These songs are appropriate for the Final Commendation:

Go In Peace #682	O Loving God #680
Go Light Your World	Peace I Leave With You #479
I Know That My Redeemer Lives #684	Song of Farewell (Old Hundredth) #812
Irish Blessing #395	Song of Farewell (Sands)
Litany of the Saints #719	Song of Farewell (Celtic)

There are appropriate Italian songs that you may want played instrumentally or sung at the funeral:

Col sole che nasce	Mira il tuo popolo
Di Te Vorrei	Nome dolcissimo
La Vera Gioia	Pane di vita nuova
Laudamus Te	Santa Lucia
Lodate dio	T'Adoriam ostia divina
Luce divina	Vi Adoro

Updated: 1/12/2026