

OMGC Funerals and Memorial Celebrations

For Funerals:

The ordinary fee for in parish registered and contributing \$500.00 or more within the past 12 months is \$300.00*. All other funerals will be \$500.00*

For Memorial Mass:

The ordinary fee for in parish registered and contributing \$500.00 or more within the past 12 months is \$200.00*. All other memorials will be \$400.00*

*this does not include the stipend for priest/deacon and music fees

Music

The musicians of **Our Mother of Good Counsel** are available to you for your special liturgy or celebration. It's our job to take the stress out of this portion of your planning, so don't worry!

The parish office will refer you to a musician who will coordinate the music for your liturgy and handle the booking of the additional musicians for you, if desired. If that musician is unavailable on the date of your event, they will refer you to another musician on our roster who best suits your needs. Preferred method of contact is by phone.

Vocalists/Cantors

James Bailey++	james@jamesthomasbailey.com	323-273-7300
Gary Grantham++	gigrantham@gmail.com	818-764-3857
Randy Guiaya+	rguiaya@sbcglobal.net	818-692-2642
Beth Maldonado+++	bethmaldonado95@gmail.com	818-219-1715
Michele Ryan++	rryan@cathedralhighschool.org	310-465-9568
Clarissa Gipprich	Carissa.gipprich@gmail.com	610-451-5430

Piano/Organ

Mark Abulencia++	markimus7@hotmail.com	323-240-2832
Randy Guiaya+	rguiaya@sbcglobal.net	818-692-2642
Barbara James+++	BBSLRJAMES@aol.com	310-713-0871

Guitar, Drums, Percussion

Gary Grantham++	gigrantham@gmail.com	818-764-3857
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* *Bass guitar may also be arranged.*

Flute, Oboe, Violin, Cello

Patty Sikorski++	PS6702@aol.com	310-837-6702
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**Patty plays flute. Trios, quartets, and other instrumentation can also be arranged by Patty.*

Please note: Additional OMGC musicians may be recommended if none of those listed above are available. Please consult the parish office.

+ *Plays at the Saturday 5:30 pm mass*

++*Plays at the Sunday 9:00 am mass*

+++Plays at the Sunday 11:00 am mass

Pricing

Each OMGC musician is a skilled professional and familiar with liturgy at our parish. The cost per musician is \$200. Although there is a minimum booking of two musicians (piano and cantor) for a full mass, some of our musicians can both play and sing and may be willing to do so to enhance the music for no extra charge. If there is no singing in the liturgy, only the pianist is required.

If you wish to book string or wind instrumentation other than flute, there is an additional \$50 contractor fee.

If you are not having a mass, but rather a “liturgy of the word” with outside musicians and no OMGC musicians are booked, there is a \$50 bench fee for sound system set-up.

Payment

Payment is to be made to the individual musicians. Checks or cash are acceptable and should be given to the coordinator prior to the liturgy. Please don't make the musicians ask for their fee! Marriage certificates will not be released until this has been taken care of.

Cantor —What is it and why do I need one?

A cantor is much more than a soloist. There are many places in the liturgy that call for vocal music of one kind or another. For some of these liturgical moments, solo vocal music can be very effective, such as during the seating of parents during a wedding, during communion, or during a visitation to Mary's altar. However, there are many other parts of the liturgy that ideally involve the singing of the entire congregation, such as an opening hymn, the responsorial psalm, the gospel acclamation, and (if you're having a full mass) the various congregational responses during the Eucharistic prayer. These congregational parts are always more festive when sung – rather than spoken – and they require the specialized services of a well-trained cantor to lead the congregation in song (as well as to render the solo verses, such as those in the responsorial psalm and gospel acclamation).

If you are planning a full mass with communion, please be aware that utilizing a cantor is required, and only experienced cantors from Our Mother of Good Counsel are permitted to serve in this capacity. The role of the cantor is a unique one, and it differs quite markedly from simply singing as a soloist. Cantors must be thoroughly familiar with the musical requirements of the liturgy, and comfortable working with the acoustics of the OMGC church building and its sound system. Our cantors are very experienced in working with OMGC pianists and clergy, and all of our cantors are well-trained, professional singers.

What instrumentalists should I have?

Instrumentalists can add significantly to the festivity of the liturgy, and we are often asked our opinion on what works best, especially if you're on a fairly tight budget. First, if you're on an extremely tight budget, piano and cantor are fine (and are required for a full mass). If you're not having a mass but rather a liturgy of the word (without communion), you don't necessarily need a cantor and could choose to add an additional instrumentalist instead. Guitar, flute, violin, oboe, cello and brass may all be added to enhance the music. Our musicians will work with you to recommend the best choice for your celebration and budget.

Trios and quartets are contracted independently and may require additional fees.

What if I have a friend or family member who sings or plays an instrument?

If you have a special friend or family member whom you would like to have sing or play at the liturgy, we are more than happy to consult with you on how to include them. Please remember, it is also important that those serving as musicians for your liturgy be truly competent. Too often, friends or relatives are asked to serve as musicians out of friendship rather than competence. Please note that if you are having a full mass, an OMGC pianist and cantor are still required because it ensures a desirable continuity with the church's regular worship life. It also helps guarantee that the service will go smoothly because presider, cantor, pianist and instrumentalists are accustomed to working with each other as well as with the specific acoustical demands of the liturgical space.

How do I select music?

Our musicians will guide you through the process. Please note that not all secular/popular songs are appropriate for a mass, and even if they are, they are usually only appropriate for prelude or postlude. While it is clearly possible that musical selections designed for purposes other than liturgical worship (such as popular show tunes, love songs and secular ballads) can be beautiful or meaningful, music of this type is often best left to the family reception, where another dimension of the celebration prevails. If you have specific songs that you would like to include, we will help you decide the appropriateness of the music and the placement in the liturgy.

If you are having a full mass, there are also choices to be made for the gathering song, psalm, offertory, communion and recessional. If you have specific choices from Breaking Bread (the hymnal we use at OMGC), we will try to include them.

If you have no idea what to choose or how to do it, don't worry! We can make all the selections for you and offer you some choices that will enhance the celebration.

Selecting Music For A Funeral

Catholic funeral music is an integral part of any Catholic liturgy, and a Catholic funeral mass (or liturgy outside of mass) is no exception. Music for a Catholic funeral must conform to liturgical norms and be suitable for use in the Christian assembly. There are opportunities for creativity, since there are no hard and fast rules about musical styles or specific hymns. But care must be taken to stay within the spirit of the liturgy. These are the portions of the liturgy which contain music:

Reception at the Church/Entrance Song

The reception of the body takes place at the entrance of the Church at the beginning of Mass unless it has already taken place at the vigil. The procession follows the sprinkling rite and the laying of the funeral pall. Whenever possible, the procession should be accompanied by the song of the assembly, expressing its belief in the resurrection.

If the rite of reception was held previously, the Mass begins with the entrance song.

Liturgy of the Word

Responsorial Psalm

Following the first reading, the responsorial psalm is sung. The style of the psalm is responsorial; a cantor/choir sings the verses with the assembly joining in the refrain. It is highly desirable that the responsorial psalm be sung, but not necessary. The responsorial psalm follows the first reading, and there are many psalms from which to choose. The priest will help you select your psalm if it is spoken. We can make suggestions if it is sung. If you are printing a program, be sure to print the words of the psalm refrain so your guests can join in the singing.

Gospel Acclamation

Before the gospel reading, an Alleluia is always sung (except during Lent). This will be led by the cantor. During the season of Lent, Alleluias are omitted from the Church's liturgies, and the Lenten gospel acclamation "Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ" is sung instead, led by the cantor. This will be selected by the musicians.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory (full mass)

If you are planning a full mass, the liturgy continues with music during the offertory and preparation of the altar. The song may be instrumental, sung by the cantor/soloist or sung by the entire congregation.

Acclamations (full mass)

During mass, the Eucharistic Prayer follows next. The cantor will lead the congregation in singing the responses within the prayer. Also called acclamations, these include the Sanctus (Holy, Holy), the Memorial Acclamation (Christ has died), and the Great Amen. These responses are taken from the standard liturgical repertoire, and will be selected by the musicians.

Lord's Prayer

Sometimes couples ask to have the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) sung. Although this generally works well on Sundays in your local church, keep in mind that your guests will likely come from several different churches and faiths. Since this is the one common prayer among all Christian denominations, it is very important that everyone be able to join in praying it together. For these reasons, the Lord's Prayer is spoken, rather than sung, at OMGC.

Sign of Peace (full mass)

Since the sign of peace involves speaking and movement on the part of the congregation, and since the Lamb of God follows immediately, we do not have music at this point.

Lamb of God (full mass)

The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) is sung immediately following the sign of peace, just before communion. As with the other acclamations, musical settings of the Lamb of God are taken from the standard liturgical repertoire, and will be selected by the musicians.

Communion (full mass)

In selecting music for communion, it is important to keep in mind the nature of the

Eucharistic rite as a sign of the unity of everyone gathered. If you have a congregation that likes to sing, a congregational hymn would be very appropriate here. A vocal solo or a meditative organ/instrumental selection could work well here too. Please note that one piece of music is usually sufficient for communion.

Final Commendation and Farewell

The sprinkling and incensing of the body follows the presider's words and a time of silence, and is accompanied by the song of farewell. The song of farewell affirms hope and trust in the paschal mystery and is the climax of the final commendation. The musicians will make the selection of music for this rite. If the song of farewell is not sung, the assembly may recite the invocations provided in the rite.

Final Procession

A version of In Paradisum (May the angels lead you into paradise) may accompany the funeral procession out of the church or another suitable closing hymn or instrumental music may be used.

Appropriate songs for the funeral mass from Breaking Bread (the hymnal used at OMGC) include:

Amazing Grace
On Eagle's Wings
Be Not Afraid
Only in God
You Are Mine
Softly and Tenderly
We Will Rise Again
Here I Am
We Walk By Faith
Shepherd Me, O God
Eye Has Not Seen
Now We Remain