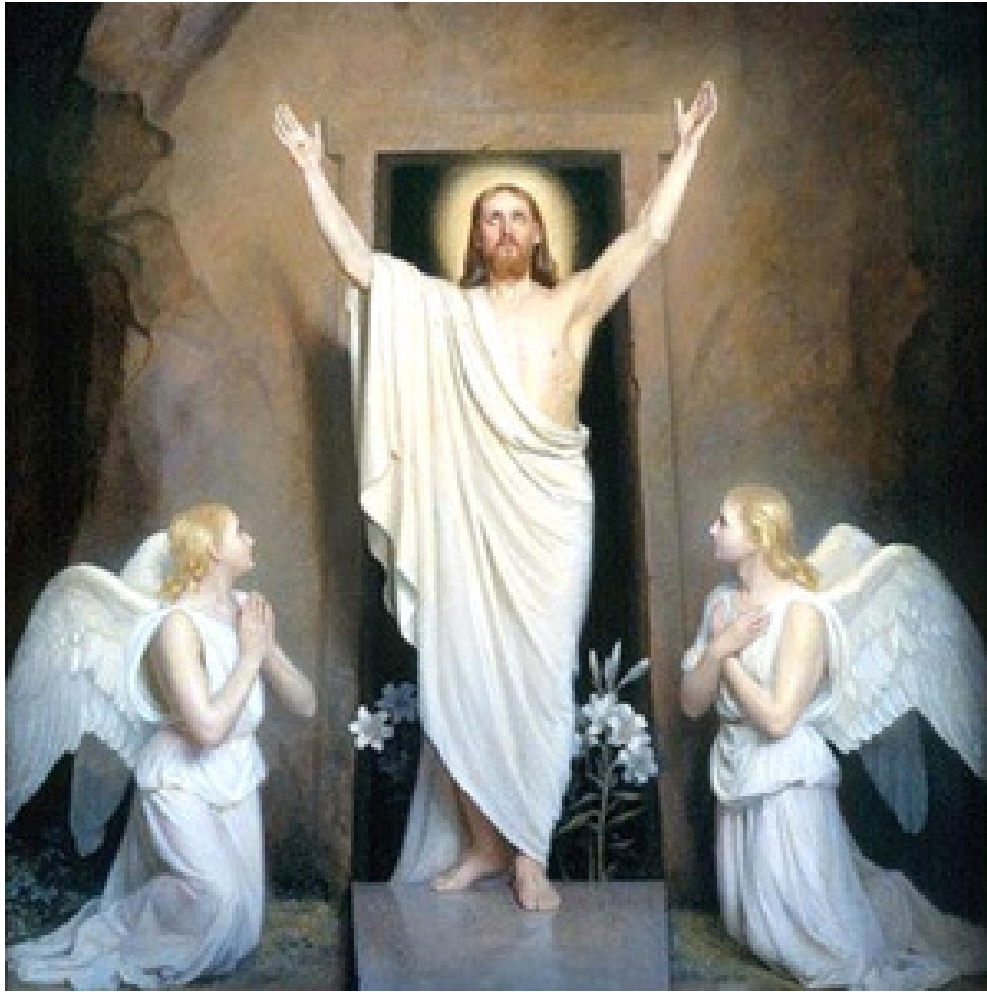


Funeral Mass Preparation



"I Am the Resurrection and the Life."

~ John 11:25

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish

856 Euclid Avenue

Warrington, Pennsylvania

(215) 343-8592

www.saintrobertwarrington.org

God our Father,
Your power brings us to birth,
Your providence guides our lives,
and by Your command we return to dust.

Lord, those who die still live in Your presence,
their lives change but do not end.

I pray in hope for my family,
relatives and friends,
and for all the dead known to You alone.

In company with Christ,
Who died and now lives,
may they rejoice in Your kingdom,
where all our tears are wiped away.
Unite us together again in one family,
to sing Your praise forever and ever.



Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.
Amen.

Dear Friends:

It is with deep sadness that we learn of the death of your loved one. The entire parish of St. Robert Bellarmine grieves with you and extends to you our deepest sympathy and prayers. One of the greatest sources of consolation to a family at the time of death is the spiritual support provided by the funeral liturgy. It is through the prayers of the Church, the readings of Sacred Scripture, and celebration of the Eucharist that death is seen not as an end but as a beginning of a new life with God.

The involvement of a family in the choosing of readings, the selection of music and the designation of people for the various roles assumed at Mass helps the process of grieving and allows the family full participation in the liturgical life of the Church. We are confident that you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Enclosed, please find a planning sheet for preparing the funeral Mass in the center of the booklet. The guidelines will be explained to you by a member of the clergy or a representative of the parish. We kindly ask the family of the deceased to select which options you will use and list the names of the participants you choose. This needs to be returned to the Parish as soon as possible before the Mass so that the appropriate arrangements can be made. On the reverse side of the Planning Sheet, please use the space to write any personal notes about the deceased to assist the priest in preparing the Homily. We are committed to do everything we can to make the liturgy both worthy and meaningful.

May the Risen Lord bring eternal life to your loved one and a sense of peace to those who remain behind.

Sincerely yours,

The Clergy and Staff of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish

Words of Remembrance

To speak in “words of remembrance” means to give a brief reflection on the life of the deceased in the context of his or her life of faith. Any remarks should revolve around God’s action in the life of your deceased love one, and how God’s blessings have enriched our world through that life. Above all, the words of remembrance are meant to convey the consolation of Gods love, grace and mercy.

For this reason, words of remembrance are not the same as a eulogy, which is a reminiscing, tribute or toasting of the life of a departed loved one, outside the context of faith. This eulogy, or reminiscing of the life of our loved ones, more appropriately takes place during the following settings:

- At the viewing, where mourners are gathered
- As part of the farewell at the cemetery after the graveside prayers
- During part of the customary luncheon that often follows a funeral Mass and Burial

When a family chooses to include some words of remembrance during the funeral liturgy, please be aware of the following guides:

- Only one family member or friend is to speak
- The words of remembrance should be brief, lasting no more than five minutes
- Because of the intensity of emotions at the time of the funeral, the words of remembrance should be submitted in writing to the priest celebrant in advance

“When God crowns our merits, He does nothing else than crown His own gifts.” ~ St. Augustine

What About Cremation?

Although cremation in the United States was in the past closely associated with opinions that rejected our faith in the resurrection of the body, the Church no longer prohibits it, so long as it is not used as a sign of disrespect for the dead or a denial of the bodily resurrection.

If cremation is chosen, it is always preferable that it take place following the funeral Mass, and the cremated remains are then entombed or buried, without delay, in the same dignified way that the body would be. The following is *prohibited*:



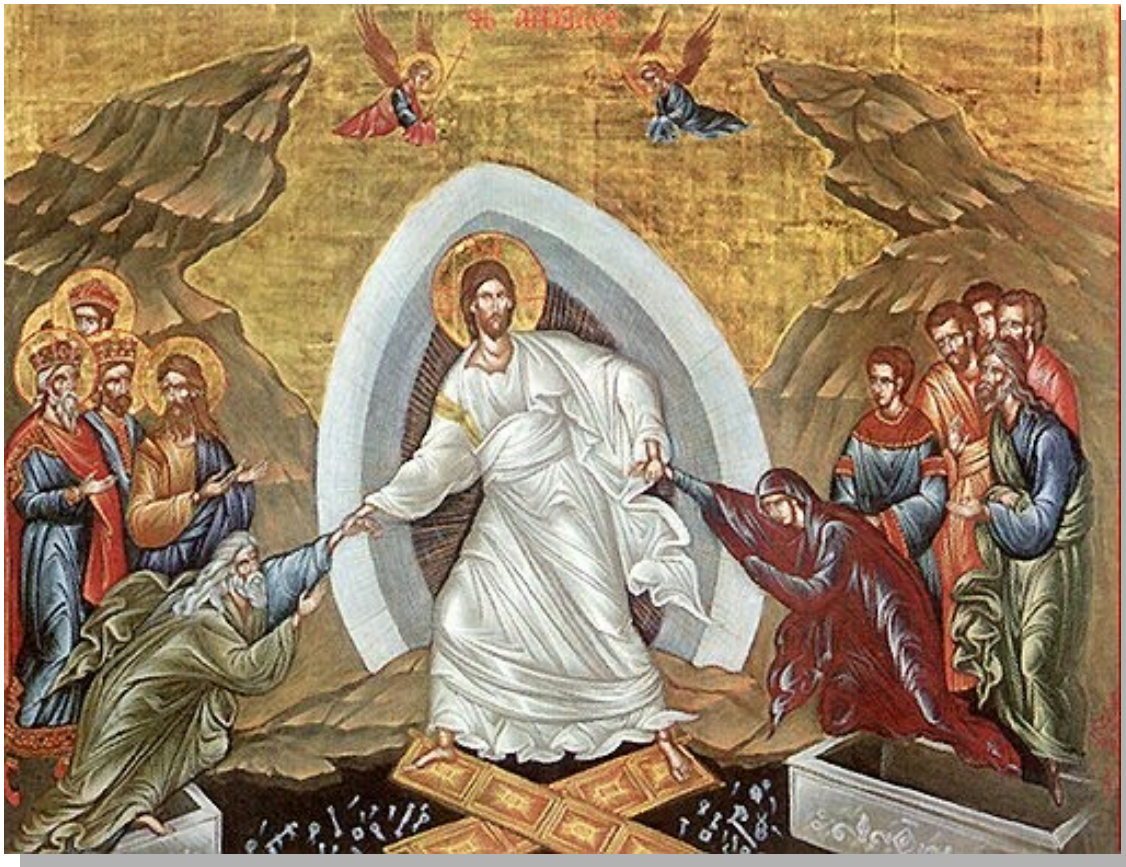
- Scattering the cremated remains
- Permanently storing the cremated remains in one's private home
- Mixing the remains of one deceased person with that of another
- Dividing the cremated remains or placing them in lockets or jewelry

The Church also permits the celebration of the funeral Mass in the presence of the cremated remains. The cremated remains must be brought to the Church in a solid, durable and worthy vessel. Again, the remains of your loved one must always be honored with the same reverence and respect given to an intact body.

“...and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints fallen asleep arose...” ~ Matthew 27:52

Remembering Our Deceased Loved Ones

After the burial, we do not forget our loved ones. Indeed, we need to remember and to pray for them. For this reason, it is customary to visit the graves of the deceased, frequently to remember them in prayer, and to request Masses be offered for the repose of their souls, especially on important anniversaries. In addition to special Masses, the Church prays for all deceased Christians on All Souls' Day



“It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins. “ ~ 2 Maccabees 12:46

Section One: Scripture Readings



The selection of readings for a funeral liturgy should be seen as a comfort rather than a burden. If at any time you find it burdensome or overwhelming, please contact the rectory and we will assist you or if you wish, we may choose the readings for you. These following pages are provided for a two-fold purpose. First, to allow you to select readings which will properly place the funeral mass for your loved one in a context of hope in the resurrection of Christ, that it is through His resurrection that He accomplishes our salvation. Second, they will allow you and your family to take an active role in preparing and celebrating the Funeral Mass as two members of the family can act as readers, if desired. The Gospel will ordinarily be chosen by the priest. However, if there is a particular Gospel you would like to use, please contact the priest.

There are a few things to keep in mind for anyone who wishes to read at a funeral Mass:

- It is preferable that anyone reading at a funeral Mass have some experience already of reading at Mass. If this is not possible, then the person(s) reading should be comfortable reading in front of people.
- The readers should try to check in with the priest prior to the Mass when arriving at Church for any final instructions necessary.
- Ordinarily, the priest may invite the reader(s) up to the pulpit after the Opening Prayer. The readers should exit their pew, bow to the altar in front, and then proceed to the pulpit to the left (facing the Altar). They may be seated behind the pulpit when not reading. After the First Reading, a Responsorial Psalm will be sung by the cantor and they may be seated at this time. After the readings are finished, the reader(s) will return to their seat after bowing to the altar.
- The reading may be done from this booklet as it is the same translation found in the lectionary or the lectionary may be used whichever is more convenient.

First Reading

*The readings on the following pages are for use
outside of the Easter Season. Please choose
one.*



1.) A reading from the second book of Maccabees

2 Mc 12:43-46

Judas, the ruler of Israel, then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord

2.) A reading from the book of Job

Jb 19: 1,23-27

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead

they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,

and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him,

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing

The Word of the Lord



3a.) A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wis 3:1-9

(long form)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord

3b.) A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wis 3:1-6, 9

(short form)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord

4.) A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wis 4:7-14

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing
of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported--
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.
Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the
Fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of
wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord

5.) A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Is 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples

A feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.

On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.

The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the LORD for whom we looked;

let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord

6.) A reading from the book of Lamentations

Lam 3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the LORD.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the LORD are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the LORD, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.
Good is the LORD to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

7.) A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

Dn 12:1-3

I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:

"At that time there shall arise

Michael, the great prince,

guardian of your people;

It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress

since nations began until that time.

At that time your people shall escape,

everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep

in the dust of the earth shall awake;

some shall live forever,

others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly

like the splendor of the firmament,

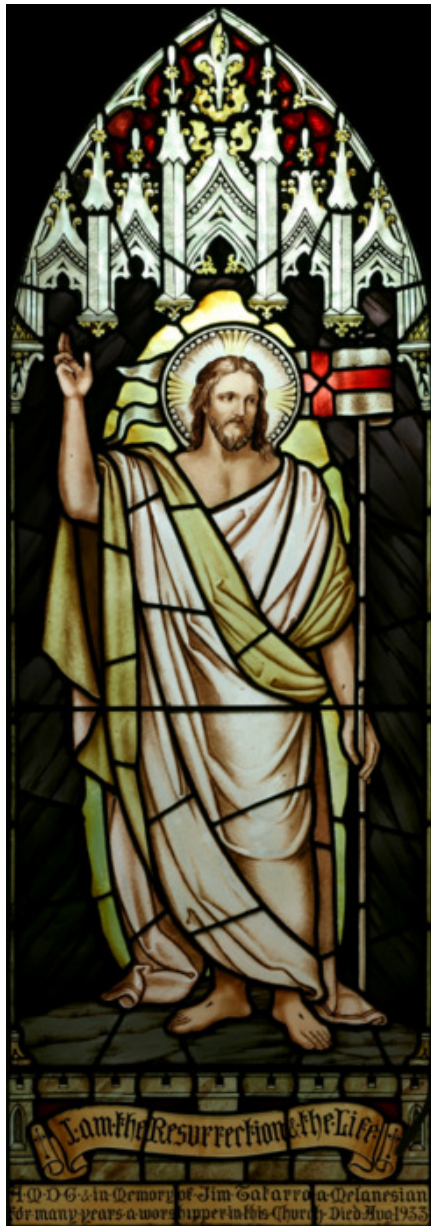
And those who lead the many to justice

shall be like the stars forever.

The Word of the Lord

First Reading

*The readings on the following pages are special readings for use only **during** the Easter Season. Please choose one.*



“...Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

~ 1 Corinthians 15: 54^b-55

1a.) A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:34-43

(long form)

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said,

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.

You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and (in) Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised (on) the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

1b.) A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:34-43

(Short Form)

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said,

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.

You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites

as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

2.) A reading from the Book of Revelation

Rv 14:13

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say,

"Write this:

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," said the Spirit,

"let them find rest from their labors, for their works
accompany them."

The Word of the Lord



3.) A reading from the book of Revelation

Rv 20:11 – 21:1

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.

This pool of fire is the second death.

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord

4.) A reading from the book of Revelation

Rv 22:1-5a; 6b-7

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new.
I (am) the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring
of life-giving water.

The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son.

The Word of the Lord

Second Reading

The readings on the following pages are for use throughout the year. Please choose one.



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.” ~ John 14:1

1.) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom 5:5-11

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God
has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit
that has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at
the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just
person, though perhaps for a good person one
might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we were
still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his
blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled
to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once
reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Not only that, but we also boast of God through our
Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now
received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

2.) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom 5:17-21

For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more,

So that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

3a.) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 6:3-9

(Long Form)

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into
Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into
death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the
dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live
in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a
death like his, we shall also be united with him in
the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him, so
that our sinful body might be done away with, that
we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we
shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no
more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord

3b.) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 6:3-9

(Short Form)

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into
Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into
death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the
dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live
in newness of life.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we
shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no
more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord



4.) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom 8:14-23

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!"

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord

5.) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom 8:31-35,37-39

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

6.) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Rom 14:7-12

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die,
we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or
die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he
might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do
you look down on your brother? For we shall all
stand before the judgment seat of God;
for it is written:

“As I live, says the Lord,
every knee shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then each of us shall give an account of
himself to God.

The Word of the Lord

7.) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 15:20-28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet."

But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.

When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will (also) be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

8.) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 15:51-57

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.

And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

"Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

9.) A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

2 Cor 4:13 - 5:1

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in His presence.

Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen, but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord

10.) A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

2 Cor 5:1,6-10

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed, we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

So we are always courageous, although we know that
while we are at home in the body we are away from the
Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the
body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at
home or away.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of
Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according
to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord

11.) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Phil 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also
await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body to conform with his
glorified body by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord

12.) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thes 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

13.) A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

2 Tim 2:8-13

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him,
we shall also live with him.

If we persevere,
we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him,
he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord

14.) A reading from the first letter of John

1 Jn 3:1-2

See what love the Father has bestowed

on us that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know
us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;

what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like
Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

The Word of the Lord



15.) A reading from the first letter of John

1 Jn 3:14-16

We know that we have passed from death to
life because we love our brothers.

Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer
has eternal life remaining in him.

The way we came to know love was that
he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The Word of the Lord

Section Two: The Prayer of the Faithful (General Intercessions)

A member (or two) of the family may wish to participate by reading the Prayer of the Faithful.



Prayer of the Faithful

Priest: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ His Son from the dead; with confidence we ask Him to save all His people living and dead.

Lector: Our response is — Lord Hear our prayer.

Lector: For _____ who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints,
we pray to the Lord.

Lector: For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ,
The Bread of Life, that he/she may be raised up on
the last day,
we pray to the Lord.

Lector: For our deceased relatives and friends and for all
who have helped us, that they may have the reward
of their goodness,
we pray to the Lord.

Lector: For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face, we pray to the Lord.

Lector: For the family and friends of our brother/sister _____, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, we pray to the Lord.

Lector: For all of us gathered here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom, we pray to the Lord.

Priest: God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Section Three: Sacred Music



Another key component of a worthy Funeral Mass is the selection of appropriate Sacred Music. The Sacred Music selections found on the following pages are chosen specifically due to their appropriateness to the Funeral Mass. Other selections from our Parish Hymnal are possible. If there is a selection not found on the following pages that is in the hymnal that you wish to use, please call the Parish Office to discuss your choice. Ordinarily music found outside the hymnal is not permitted mostly due to copyright and licensing laws. The music is arranged to show the best use for each selection, however you are not limited to the categories listed. For example, if you want to use a song listed as a Communion Hymn for the Recessional, it is possible. Again, just check with the Parish Office.

Ordinarily, the parish provides a cantor and an organist for the Funeral Mass. If you wish to provide your own instrumentalist or vocalist, please inform the Office immediately so that arrangements can be made. Other instrumentalists besides an organist or cantor are ordinarily not permitted but again, exceptions can be made.

Approved Music for Funeral Liturgies

Entrance Hymn

Alleluia Sing to Jesus

Be Not Afraid

Come to Me

Come to the Water

Gather Us In

Here I Am Lord

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

Jesus Remember Me

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Sing a New Song

We Gather Together

We Remember

We Walk By Faith

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Preparation of the Gifts

Amazing Grace

At Thy First Eucharist

Blessed Be the Lord

Bread that Was Sown

Come to the Water

Eye Has Not Seen

Holy, Holy, Holy

I Have Loved You

Jesus Come to Us

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Like a Shepherd

Only in God

Only This I Want

Prayer of Saint Francis

Seek Ye First

The Cry of the Poor

Those Who See Light

To Be Your Bread

We Are Many Parts

We Remember

You Are Mine

Communion

Amazing Grace
At Thy First Eucharist
Behold the Lamb
Bread that Was Sown
Earthen Vessels
Eat this Bread
Eye Has Not Seen
Gift of Finest Wheat
I Am the Bread of Life

I Am the Living Bread
In the Breaking of the Bread
O Lord I Am Not Worthy
One Bread, One Body
Panis Angelicus
Soul of My Savior
Taste and See
We Remember

Communion Meditation (optional)

Ave Maria

Recessional

A Mighty Fortress
City of God
Crown Him With Many Crowns
Faith of our Fathers
For All the Saints
Glory & Praise to Our God
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
How Great Thou Art
I Sing the Mighty Power of God
I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee
Lift High the Cross
Now Thank We All Our God
O God Our Help in Ages Past
On Eagles Wings
Praise God From Whom All
 Blessings Flow
Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens
Praise to the Lord
Sing a New Song

*“Come to me,
all you who labor and are burdened...*



*...and I will give you rest.”
~ Matthew 11:28*