

Saint Francis of Assisi
Orland Park, IL

**Parish Funeral Liturgy
Planning Guide**

Parish Office
Phone: (708) 460-0042
Fax: (708)460-0136

The Funeral Mass expresses faith in Jesus' victory over death and our personal share in resurrection. It does so through prayers and blessings, through songs and readings, through ceremonies and symbols. A few words on some of these may make the liturgy more understandable and more consoling.

The color of the priest's vestments. We normally associate the color white with Easter, weddings, baptisms and other events of joy, happiness and victory. Since we are not merely grieving over a loved one's loss, but celebrating his or her entrance through death into life forever, the priest generally wears white vestments.

The Easter or paschal candle. For 50 days after Easter the large paschal candle stands in the sanctuary. It symbolizes the risen Christ and tells us he has conquered sin and death and now lives in our midst. We carry this candle in procession or place it before the casket or cremains as a reminder that the deceased, through his or her death, shares in that victory of Jesus over the powers of darkness.

Sprinkling of the casket or cremains. We first share in the resurrection of the Lord through baptism. At the font, saving waters poured over our bodies made us Christians and our whole beings new creations filled with the Holy Spirit. When the priest sprinkles holy water over the casket or cremains it should serve to recall that

initial washing in baptism. It is this which gives us the basis for hope in the personal rising of loved ones to life forever.

Placement of the Pall: The Pall (white cloth reminiscent of Baptism) may be placed on the casket or cremains by family members if you so choose. Please notify the funeral home if this is your desire.

Scripture Selections: Once you have read the Scripture passages, you will need to select a First Reading from the Old Testament section, and a Second Reading from the New Testament section. We encourage you to select two family members/friends to proclaim the readings at the liturgy. ***The Celebrant will select and read the Gospel Reading.***

Prayers of the Faithful: See [page 48](#) for a sample of General Intercessions. They may be used as-is, adapted or written to your particular circumstances. A family member may present these petitions.

Gifts: 2 cruets of wine and water along with a ciborium of hosts are brought up to the priest. Two/three people are asked to bring up the gifts.

Incensing of the body. As Christians we believe the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and one day will be resurrected by God's mighty power. During the Funeral Mass, the priest walks around the casket or cremains and incenses the

body as a sign of our respect for the remains, as a symbol of the community's prayers for the deceased rising to the throne of God, and as a final farewell.

The final commendation and committal. The last ceremony after Mass and at the cemetery is called a Liturgy of Final Farewell or Commendation and Committal. In some ways, this is the most difficult time, for it is a final good-bye to one we have loved through life. Our separation, our faith tells us, is but a temporary one. The following prayer, one of several which concludes the service, summarizes these thoughts:

*Our brother/sister N. has gone to his/her
rest in the peace of Christ.*

*May the Lord now welcome him/her to
the table of God's children in heaven.*

*With faith and hope in eternal life,
let us assist Him/her with our prayers.*

*Let us pray to the Lord also for ourselves.
May we who mourn be reunited one day
with our brother/sister;
together may we meet Christ Jesus when
he who is our life appears in glory.*

Liturgical Concerns:

Music: A parish vocalist/cantor will be provided to sing at the liturgy. Only hymns and songs appropriate to the structure of the liturgy will be considered. Secular pieces, even if they are the request of the decedent, may be best suited to the wake service. Final approval of all songs is to be determined by the Director of Music. See page 47 for suggested hymns.

Eulogies: The practice of eulogizing the decedent should take place outside the liturgy. Often, it undermines the homily, and puts the emphasis on personal grief. It is suggested that this be done at the wake service. If there is to be a eulogy, it is to be delivered by one person and be three to five minutes in length. It takes place after Communion.

Cremation: If the decedent is to be cremated, following the funeral liturgy, St. Francis of Assisi will adhere to the same mass protocol. If the decedent is cremated prior to the liturgy, Mass can be celebrated (with the remains present) provided they are placed on a table in front of the church, but not on the altar. Provisions must be made for the interment of the remains.

Interment is a requirement of the Church, and Completes the Rite of Burial.

Memorial Services: In the event of a parish Memorial Service, St. Francis of Assisi Parish will adhere to the same mass protocol. Memorial displays (collages, etc.) will be placed in the narthex at the entrance to church. Pictures or other displays may not be placed on the altar.

Order of the Funeral Mass:

This Funeral Planning booklet will help guide you:

Parts of the Liturgy	Family/Church to Advise
Gathering/Processional	Select a hymn
First Reading	Select an Old Testament Reading Choose a family/friend to read
Psalm	Select a hymn
Second Reading	Select a New Testament Reading Choose a family/friend to read
Gospel	Presider will select
Prayers of the Faithful	Review/adapt General Intercessions Choose a family/friend to read
Preparation	Select a hymn Choose family/friends to bring up gifts
Communion	Select a hymn
Eulogy [OPTIONAL]	
Meditation [OPTIONAL]	Select a hymn
Final Commendation	Select a hymn
Closing	Select a hymn

READINGS FOR ADULT FUNERALS

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

- Select 1 from the following readings

Job, who has been afflicted with terrible sufferings does not give in to despair but proclaims, "I know my Vindicator (God) lives." Even in suffering God hasn't let Job down.

1. Job 19: 1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

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. I will see for myself, my own eyes, not
another's, will behold him:

And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost
being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

It may seem that those who die are punished by God. But not so. King Solomon says God's care is "with his elect."

2. Longer form, Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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 to others, indeed, they seem 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 judgment, they shall shine and 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.

3. Shorter form, Wisdom 3: 1, 6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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 to others, indeed, they seem 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.

One may be young and die early but that which is honorable comes not with age but "understanding and an unsullied life."

4. Longer form, Wisdom 4: 7-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But the righteous, though they 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 passes for gray hair, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

The one who pleased God was loved, living 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 that consideration into account.

The Word of the Lord.

5. Shorter form, Wisdom 4: 7-9, 13, 14

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But the righteous one though he dies 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 passes for gray hair, and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Tears will be wiped away. God will destroy death and, in the ages-to-come, there will be rejoicing.

6. Isaiah 25: 7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

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

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: "Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he saved us!

This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that God has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

*Peace and happiness are gone. Our soul is
downcast. But we will recall in faith our reason
for hope: the Lord, who is our portion; the
Lord, who is our saving hope.*

7. Lamentations 3:17-26

My life is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what
happiness is;

My enduring hope, I said, has perished before the
Lord.

The thought of my wretched homeless is
wormwood and poison;

Remembering it over and over, leaves my soul
downcast.

But this I will call to mind; therefore, I will hope:

The Lord's acts of mercy are not exhausted, his
compassion is not spent;

They are renewed each morning— great is your
faithfulness!

The Lord is my portion is the Lord, I tell myself,
therefore will I hope in him.

The Lord is good to those who trust in him, to the
one that seeks him;

It is good to hope in silence for the Lord's
deliverance.

The Word of the Lord.

Those who believe will escape death. They are written in "the book of life." The wise shall shine brightly. All those who lead just lives will "be like the stars forever."

8. Daniel 22:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

"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 to everlasting life,
others to reproach and everlasting disgrace.
But those with insight 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.

9. Sirach 3: 1-6,14

A reading from the book of Sirach

Children, listen to me, your father; act accordingly, that you may be safe.

For the Lord sets a father in honor over his children and confirms a mother's authority over her sons.

Those who honor their father atone for sins; they store up riches who respect their mother.

Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children, and when they pray, they are heard.

Those who respect their father will live a long life; those who obey the Lord honor their mother.

Kindness to a father will not be forgotten; it will serve as a sin offering—it will take lasting root.

The Word of the Lord

10. Sirach 44: 1a, 10b-15

A reading from the book of Sirach

I will now praise the godly, our ancestors, in their own time, their virtues have not been forgotten.

Their wealth remains in their families, their heritage with their descendants.

Through God's covenant their family endures, and their offspring for their sake.

And for all time their progeny will endure, their glory will never be blotted out;

Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name lives on and on.

At gatherings their wisdom is retold, and the assembly
proclaims their praises.

The Word of the Lord.

11. Isaiah 43: 1-3a, 4a, 5a, 7, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you,
Jacob, and formed you, Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have
called you by name: you are mine.
When you pass through waters, I will be with you;
through rivers, you shall not be swept away.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be
burned, nor will flames consume you.
For I, the Lord, am your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your savior.
Because you are precious in my eyes and honored,
and I love you,
Fear not, for I am with you;
All who are called by my name I created for my
glory; I formed them, made them.
You are my witnesses—oracle of the Lord—
my servant whom I have chosen
To know and believe in me and understand that I
am he.
Before me no god was formed, and after me there
shall be none.
I, I am the Lord;
there is no savior but me.

The Word of the Lord.

12. Proverbs 31: 10-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of worth? Far beyond
jewels is her value.

Her husband trusts her judgment; he does not
lack income.

She brings him profit, not loss, all the days of her
life.

She seeks out wool and flax and weaves with
skillful hands.

Like a merchant fleet, she secures her provisions
from afar.

She rises while it is still night, and distributes food
to her household, a portion to her
maidservants.

She picks out a field and acquires it; from her
earnings she plants a vineyard.

She girds herself with strength; she exerts her
arms with vigor.

She enjoys the profit from her dealings; her lamp
is never extinguished at night.

She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers
ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and
extends her arms to the needy.

She is not concerned for her household when it
snows— all her charges are doubly clothed.

She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and
purple are her clothing.

Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he
sits with the elders of the land.

She makes garments and sells them, and stocks
the merchants with belts.

She is clothed with strength and dignity, and
laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom; kindly instruction
is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household, and
does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her blessed; her
husband, too, praises her:
"Many are the women of proven worth, but you
have excelled them all."
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the
woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Acclaim her for the work of her hands, and let her
deeds praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

13. Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, 11,14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to give birth, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

God has made everything appropriate to its time. Whatever God does will endure forever, there is no adding to it, Or taking from it.

The Word of the Lord.

14. Solomon 2: 10-13

A reading from the book of Solomon

My responded and said to me,
"Arise, my friend, my beautiful one, and come!
For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and
gone.

The flowers appear on the earth, the time of
pruning the vines has come, and the song of
the turtledove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines, in
bloom, give forth fragrance.

Arise, my friend, my beautiful one, and come!

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

- Select 1 from the following readings

God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive or dead.

1. Longer Form, Acts 10: 34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 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 Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised 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.

2. Shorter form, Acts 10: 34-36, 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 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.

Hope does not disappoint us for Christ died for us while we were still sinners, reconciling us with God.

3. Paul to the Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters

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.

Let us walk in newness of life.

4. Longer form, Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and Sisters:

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.

5. Shorter form, Romans 6: 3-4,8-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

The sufferings of the present are nothing compared to the glory to be revealed in us through Jesus.

6. Romans 8: 14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?

7. Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Whether alive or dead we are the Lord's All belong to the Lord.

8. Romans 14: 7-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

9. 1 Cor 13:1-13

A reading from the First letter of Paul to the
Corinthians

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So, faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

All people will be brought to life in Christ

10. Longer form, 1 Cor 15: 20-28

A reading from the First letter of Paul to the
Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

But now 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.

11. Shorter Form, 1 Cor 15: 20-23

A reading from the First letter of Paul to the
Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Death is swallowed up in victory

12. 1 Cor 15: 51-57

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the
Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.

13. 2 Cor 4: 14 – 5:1

A reading from the Second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Knowing 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.

We have an everlasting home in heaven.

14. 2 Cor 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the Second letter of Paul to the
Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Our citizenship is in heaven.

15. Phil 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

16. Phil 4: 4-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you. The Word of the Lord.

We shall stay with the Lord forever.

17. Longer form: 1 Thes 4: 13-18

A reading of the First letter of Paul to the
Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters:

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.

18. Shorter form: 1 Thes 4: 13-14, 18

A reading of the First letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

But we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

If we have died with him then we shall live with him.

19. 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading of the Second letter of Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

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.

20. 2 Tim 4: 6b-8

A reading of the Second letter of Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

I have competed well;

I have finished the race;

I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits
me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award
to me on that day,

and not only to me, but to all who have longed for
his appearance.

The Word of the Lord.

We shall see God as he really is.

21. 1 Jn 3:1-2

A reading of the First letter of John

Beloved:

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.

We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.

22. I John 3:14-16

A reading from the First letter of John

Beloved:

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.

Happy are those who die in the Lord.

23. Rev 14: 13

A reading from the book of Revelations

I 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.

The dead have been judged according to their works.

24. Rev. 20:11-15, 21:1

A reading from the book of Revelations

Next, I 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.

There will be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.

25. Rev. 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the book of Revelations

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. 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.

READINGS FOR FUNERALS OF CHILDREN

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

- Select 1 from the following readings

1. Is 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

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

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:

Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he
saved us!

This is the Lord to whom we looked; let us rejoice
and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord.

2. Lam 3:22-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations

The Lord's acts of mercy are not exhausted,
his compassion is not spent;

They are renewed each morning—
great is your faithfulness!

The Lord is my portion, I tell myself,
therefore I will hope in him.

The Lord is good to those who trust in him,
to the one that seeks him;

It is good to hope in silence
for the Lord's deliverance.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

- Select 1 from the following readings

1. Eph 1: 3-5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will

The Word of the Lord.

2. 1 Thes 4: 13-14, 18

A reading of the First letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

But we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

3. Rev. 7:9-10,15-17

A reading from the book of Revelations

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb.”

“For this reason, they stand before God’s throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.

They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them.

For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Word of the Lord.

4. Rev. 21:1a, 3-5a

A reading from the book of Revelations

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. 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."

The Word of the Lord.

Hymn Selections

Gathering / Offertory / Closing:

Amazing Grace; Ashes; Be Not Afraid; *Be With Me Lord*; Behold the Lamb; *Christ, Be Our Light*; Come and Rest in the Arms of God; *Come to Me O Weary Traveler*; Eye Has Not Seen; *God Will Wipe the Tears*; How Can I Keep from Singing; *How Great Thou Art*; I Am the Bread of Life; *I Have Loved You*; I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say; *In the Garden*; Jerusalem, My Destiny; *Lead Me, Guide Me*; Lord of All Hopefulness; *Make Me A Channel of Your Peace*; O God, You Search Me; *On Eagle's Wings*; Panis Angelicus; *Peace Be With Those*; Precious Lord Take My Hand; *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*; Soon and Very Soon; *Surely The Presence*; The Clouds Veil; *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*; The Lord is My Light and My Salvation; *There Is A Place*; We Remember

Responsorial Psalms:

Be With Me Lord; *Taste and See*; The Lord is Kind and Merciful; *To You O Lord*; Your Words are Spirit and Life

Communion:

Behold the Lamb; *Come to Me*; I am the Bread of Life; *One Bread, One Body*; Panis Angelicus; *Taste and See*; The King of Love My Shepherd Is; *We Remember*

Final Commendation:

An Old Irish Blessing; *Celtic Farewell Blessing*; Go in Peace; *How Bright the Day*; Quietly Peacefully; *Saints of God*; Song of Farewell

Marian Devotion or Meditation (optional):

Ave Maria; *Hail Mary, Gentle Woman*; *Lady of Knock*; Serdeczna Matko (Polish)

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Our response is: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

In baptism (Name) received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

In faith we pray

R.. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Our brother/sister (Name) was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

In faith we pray...

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

In faith we pray...

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone.

In faith we pray...

The family and friends of (Name) seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

In faith we pray...

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister (Name). Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.

In faith we pray...