

# **FUNERAL GUIDELINES**



**ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH**

GREENDALE, WISCONSIN

Dear Parishioner:

When a loved one dies, we are faced with the need to deal with the emotions of loss and a practical need to make plans and decisions concerning the funeral.

Planning the Funeral Mass is one of the most important and immediate decisions that needs to be made. It presents an opportunity to express our faith in a tangible and healing manner.

The following pages offer options and choices, which makes it possible to put a personal dimension into the Church's public prayer for one who has died.

At St. Alphonsus, we have implemented the most recent directives issued by the Catholic Bishops of Wisconsin regarding planning funerals.

Concerning the need to coordinate Mass times, we have to ask for your understanding. Generally, funeral Masses are celebrated in the morning. Funerals are not celebrated on Sundays, Holy Days, or holidays. If there is to be visitation in the church, it should be scheduled before the funeral Mass. Visitation and the Funeral Mass cannot be scheduled over a 2-day period.

We will make every practical effort to be of assistance, and we truly hope that the Funeral will be a source of comfort and deepening faith in God's mercy and eternal life. Please call the Parish Office, 1-414-421-2442, to discuss your plans.

Blessings and peace to your family in this time of sorrow.

St. Alphonsus Clergy and Staff

# FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDELINES

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## **Scheduling the Funeral Mass and Visitation**

Generally, funeral Masses are celebrated in the mornings. Funerals are not celebrated on Sundays, Holy Days, or holidays. If there is to be a visitation in the church gathering space, it should be scheduled immediately before the funeral Mass. Visitation and the Funeral Mass cannot be scheduled over a 2-day period.

## **The Rite of Committal**

Whenever possible, the priest presider at your loved one's funeral Mass will also celebrate the Rite of Committal at the cemetery (when there is one). However, the priest's schedule may not permit him to lead this ritual. If so, there are several options regarding the funeral service of committal. Prayers at the cemetery may be led by the funeral director or, if available, the cemetery Chaplain. One of the parish deacons may also be available to do the Committal service.

## **The Funeral Home**

The funeral home provides many vital services, both noticed and unnoticed, to families who are mourning a loved one. These include assisting your guests in navigating our worship space as well as setting up and taking down of picture boards, furniture, A/V equipment and supplying the visitation accoutrements.

We are happy to host the visitation for your loved one. However, St. Alphonsus Parish is not a funeral home and cannot provide the same services at a visitation that a funeral home is able to provide. If you should choose to not have the presence of a funeral home at the visitation and Mass you and your family will be responsible for the set up and take down of any picture boards, AV equipment, the moving of furniture, the disposal of flowers, etc.

## **The Planning Meeting**

The priest who will be presiding at your loved one's Funeral Mass will meet with you in the days before to help you plan and organize the Mass. This

meeting should take place at least 48 hours before the Funeral Mass in order to give the priest time to prepare a homily and organize all the details.

### **Bereavement Ministry**

At the funeral planning meeting, you will be introduced to a member of our Bereavement Ministry. The Bereavement Ministry will assist you and your family before, during and after the Funeral Mass. They will share more details about this ministry at that meeting.

### **The Visitation**

These gatherings are scheduled to immediately precede the Funeral Mass. Generally, they are scheduled for one to three hours before Mass and they are usually held in our Gathering Space. Our bereavement ministry will be present during the visitation in a supporting role and they will provide our family room as a place for the family to take a break if needed. Water and very simple snacks will be available in that room. Beyond the simple snacks provided by the Bereavement Ministry, no other food or drink is allowed during visitations. Likewise, no food is allowed in the Church.

### **Post Funeral Gathering**

We recommend that you use a restaurant or catering hall for the funeral luncheon. However, should you be interested in using the Community Room, please inquire with the parish office. Families may use it for *light* refreshments provided it doesn't conflict with other scheduled parish events. Such gatherings may only occur *after* the Funeral Mass.

If you choose to hold a light reception in the Community Room, you are responsible for setting up and taking down the room, cleaning of all of the tables and the room itself afterwards and the removal of all trash bags to the dumpsters behind the church. No alcohol is allowed for funeral receptions.

### **Planning the Funeral Mass**

### The White Pall

This white cloth reminds us that the deceased “*put on Christ*” at Baptism. Up to six family members may assist with placing this on the casket.

### The Readings

You may choose a reading from either the Old Testament or the New Testament, or one of each. You should also select a reading from one of the Gospels.

Those who read during the Funeral Mass should be comfortable doing so in this time of emotions and be able to proclaim the readings in a clear manner.

The Deacon or Priest always proclaims the Gospel.

### The General Intercessions

Please select one of the complete sets of Intercessions to be read during the Funeral Mass.

### The Presentation of Gifts

Family members or friends are encouraged to bring these to the altar. Up to three people may participate.

### Eulogies

Eulogies or “*reflections*” are not a part of the Catholic Funeral Mass and, therefore, are not permitted during Mass.

A family that wishes to have a eulogy would find that this is best done at the funeral home visitation or at the social gathering following Mass. These particular times are most appropriate for sharing of memories, whereas, at the Mass, we focus on Christ and salvation.

These guidelines follow the recommendations of the Bishops of the State of

Wisconsin

A *brief* reflection (5-7 minutes) may be allowed prior to the start of Mass. Please talk to the priest regarding specifics. Anything said during a reflection must be appropriate for the context of a Catholic Church.

### **Music**

St. Alphonsus is blessed with a dedicated group of parishioners who assist us in singing at every Funeral Mass. You may suggest hymns, which have special meaning to you as long as they are sacred and liturgically appropriate. Solo pieces are limited to a meditation after Communion. Choices are also limited to the choir's knowledge of songs and the copyright licensing of the parish. Such songs should be coordinated with the Director of Liturgy and Music, at least 48 hours prior to the funeral.

Guest musicians and/or vocalists must be active music ministers in their church.

Please see music list attached.

### **Concelebrating Clergy**

Family friends or relatives who are Catholic clergy are welcome to concelebrate or to preside, with advance notice and proper documentation. Please consult with the parish priest in advance.

## **Fees**

Our fee schedule for funerals is listed below, with a break-down of costs per item. A single check to cover all fees, with the exception of a guest musician if you choose to hire one, is payable to **St. Alphonsus Catholic Church**.

Building Use, and Musician	\$250	Covers use of church, programs, and stipend for St. Alphonsus musician
Priest Stole Fee	\$75	Covers stole fee of priest or visiting clergy
Guest Musician	Varies	Fee determined by the musician you bring in; check paid separately.



Funeral Planning Document  
St. Alphonsus Church

Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of death \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Visitation \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home will be at church (Yes/No)

**Order of Worship needed** \_\_\_\_\_



Eulogy (Yes/No) Time \_\_\_\_\_ (5-7minutes)

Gathering Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

**Liturgy of the Word**

Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_ (p \_\_\_\_\_)

Responsorial Psalm \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ (p \_\_\_\_\_)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_ (p \_\_\_\_\_)

Intercessions \_\_\_\_\_

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Presentation of Gifts \_\_\_\_\_

Eucharistic Acclamation

Communion Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Reflection Hymn (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Sending Forth \_\_\_\_\_

**After Liturgy:** Burial Luncheon

**Announced by** Funeral Home Priest

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in follow-up: Yes No

Eulogy given by \_\_\_\_\_

Casket/Urn (procession/placed in front of altar)

Family provides Pall Bearers: Yes No

Placement of White Pall

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Liturgy of the Word**

Reader (Old Testament) \_\_\_\_\_

Reader (New Testament) \_\_\_\_\_

Reader for Intercessions \_\_\_\_\_



**Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Presentation of Gifts

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



**Special Notes:**

# Funeral Music

## Responsorial Psalms:

Psalm of the Good Shepherd (Psalm 23)  
In You O Lord (Psalm 131)  
Shepherd Me O God (Psalm 23)  
The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation (Psalm 27)  
The Lord Is Kind and Merciful (psalm 103)  
To You O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul (Psalm 25)

## Hymns Suggestions (Please note that during Lent any hymns with the word Alleluia should not be selected)

Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord (Opening, Closing)	Alleluia Alleluia (Opening, Closing)
All Is Well With My Soul (Any)	Amazing Grace (Any)
Be Not Afraid (Any)	City Of God (Opening, Closing)
Eye Has Not Seen (Offertory, Communion)	Here I Am Lord (Any)
Hosea (Come Back to Me) (Offertory, Communion)	How Great Thou Art (Any)
I Am the Bread Of Life (Communion)	I Have Loved You (Offertory, Communion)
I Know My Redeemer Lives (Opening, Closing)	In Christ Alone (Opening, Closing)
It Is Well With My Soul (Any)	On Eagle's Wings (Any)
One Bread, One Body (Communion)	One Love Released (Communion)
Only This I Want (Offertory)	Prayer Of St. Francis (Offertory)
Precious Lord Take My Hand (Any)	Sing A New Song (Opening, Closing)
Taste and See (Communion)	Though the Mountains May Fall (Opening, Closing)
We Have Been Told (Any)	

## Communion Reflection Song Suggestions:

Ave Maria – Schubert  
Lord, I Need You – Matt Maher  
Thy Will Be Done – Joyce Elaine Eilers  
No More Tears – Terry Piontkowski  
Going Home – Terry Piontkowski  
Cornerstone – Edward Mote, Jonas Myrin

**Note:** A cantor is provided by the parish unless one has been requested by the family. Guest soloists or guest cantors should meet with musician one hour prior to a funeral Mass.

# OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

**A Reading from the Book of Joshua,**

Now, therefore, fear the LORD

and serve him completely and sincerely.

Cast out the gods your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt,

and serve the LORD.

If it is displeasing to you to serve the LORD,

choose today whom you will serve,

the gods your ancestors served beyond the River

or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are dwelling.

As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

**The Word of the Lord**

**A reading from the second Book of Maccabees,**

Judas, the ruler of Israel,  
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**

**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 Redeemer 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**

**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 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 his elect.

**The Word of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Book of Wisdom,**

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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  
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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 his elect.

**The Word of the Lord**



**A Reading from the Book of Sirach,**

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.

My son, be steadfast in honoring your father;  
do not grieve him as long as he lives.

Even if his mind fails, be considerate of him;  
do not revile him because you are in your prime.

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**

**A Reading from the Book of Sirach,**

Blessed the husband of a good wife,  
twice-lengthened are his days;  
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,  
peaceful and full is his life.  
A good wife is a generous gift  
bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;  
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,  
and a smile is ever on his face.  
A gracious wife delights her husband,  
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;  
A gift from the Lord is her governed speech,  
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.  
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,  
priceless her chaste soul.  
A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;  
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.  
Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens,  
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

**The Word of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah,**

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 people,  
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**

**A Reading from the Book of Lamentations,**

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**

**A Reading from the Book of Daniel,**

In those days, I, Daniel, heard this word from 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 this 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**

# NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

(can be used as 1st reading during the Easter Season)

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles,**

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: “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 what 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 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 to 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**

(can be used as 1st reading during the Easter Season)

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles,**

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: “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 to 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**



**A Reading from the Letter of St. 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, 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**

**A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans,**

Brothers and Sisters:

If by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one 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 man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the 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**

**A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans,**

Brothers and Sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized in 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 has no power over him.

**The Word of the Lord**

**A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans,**

Brothers and Sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized in 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 has no power over him.

**The Word of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans,**

Brothers and Sisters:

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 receive a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself 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 await for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

**The Word of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans,**

Brothers and Sisters:

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

**A Reading from the Letter of St. 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.

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**

**A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians,**

Brothers and Sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. 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 firstfruits; then at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for “he has 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 and in all.

**The Word of the Lord**



**A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians,**

Brothers and Sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. 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 firstfruits; then at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

**The Word of the Lord**

**A Reading from the First Letter of St. 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 a 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 this which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and this 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**

**A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians,**

Brothers and Sisters:

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**

**A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians,**

Brothers and Sisters:

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

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 judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

**The Word of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Letter of St. 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**

**A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians,**

We do not want you to be unaware brothers and sisters, 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**

**A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy,**

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendent 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**

**A Reading from the First Letter of St. 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**



(can be used as 1st reading during the Easter Season)

### **A Reading from the Book of Revelation,**

I, John, saw a great 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**

(can be used as 1st reading during the Easter Season)

### **A Reading from the book of Revelation,**

Then, 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 will make all thing 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**

# GOSPEL READINGS

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew,**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew,**

At that time Jesus answered, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew,**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark,**

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some bystanders who heard it said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome brought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

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**The Gospel of the Lord**



**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke,**

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread throughout the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke,**

It was about noon and darkness came over the whole land until about three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, had not consented to their plan of action.

He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

At daybreak on the first day of the week the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

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**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke,**

When the soldiers came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke,**

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. As it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" He replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at the table, He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon." Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

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**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John,**

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to the Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John,**

Jesus said to the crowds:

“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.”

**The Gospel of the Lord**



**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John,**

Jesus said to the crowds:

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me, and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John,**

When Jesus arrived, he found Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John,**

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John,**

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' But it is for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

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Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John,**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A Reading from the Holy gospel according to John,**

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Father, those whom you gave me are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

**The Gospel of the Lord**

# PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL



Presider: Brothers and Sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he interceded for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayer to his:

Reader: Our response will be: "Hear our prayer."

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

Lord, in your mercy:

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

Lord, in your mercy:

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

Lord, in your mercy:

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

Lord, in your mercy:

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.

Lord, in your mercy:

The family and friends of (Name) seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness of doubt that comes from grief. Lord, in your mercy:

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:

Lord, in your mercy:

Presider: Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Reader:                   Our response will be: "Lord, hear our prayer."

For (Name) who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she now be admitted to the company of saints. We pray to the Lord.

For (Name) 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.

For the family and friends of our brother/sister (Name), that they may be consoled in their grief.  
We pray to the Lord.

For our deceased friends and relatives and for all who have helped us, that they may be rewarded for their goodness.  
We pray to the Lord.

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.

For all of us gathered here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together 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.  
Amen

Presider: My dear friends, let us join with one another in praying to God, not only for our departed brother/sister (Name), but also for the Church, for peace in the world and for ourselves.

Reader: Our response will be: "Lord, hear our prayer."

That the bishops and priests of the Church and all who preach the Gospel, may be given the strength to express in action the word they proclaim. We pray to the Lord.

That those in public office may promote justice and peace.  
We pray to the Lord.

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God.  
We pray to the Lord.

That God may deliver the soul of his servant (Name) from punishment and the power of darkness.  
We pray to the Lord.

That God in his mercy may blot out all his/her offenses. We pray to the Lord.

That God may establish him/her in light and peace. We pray to the Lord.

That God may call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints.  
We pray to the Lord.

That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life.  
We pray to the Lord.

That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed. We pray to the Lord.

Presider: O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the soul of your departed servants release from their sins. Hear our prayers for those we love and give them the pardon they have always desired. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen