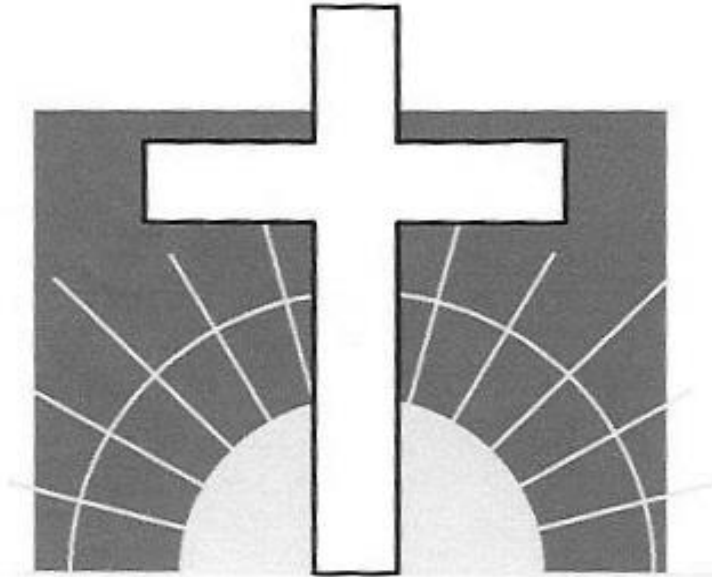


FUNERAL MASS PREPARATION

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

GUIDELINES FOR READERS



St. Francis of Assisi Parish Community
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Section One: Scripture Readings



The following pages are provided for a two-fold purpose. First, to allow you to select readings which will properly place the funeral mass for your loved one in a context of hope in the resurrection of Christ, that it is through His resurrection that He accomplishes our salvation.

Second, to allow you and your family to take an active role in preparing and celebrating the Funeral Mass, three members of the family can act as readers, if desired. The Gospel will ordinarily be chosen by the priest or deacon.

The person(s) reading should be comfortable reading in front of people.

GUIDELINES FOR READERS FUNERAL MASSES

All readers should arrange to meet with the Bereavement Team member upon arrival in order to find the readings in the lectionary (or the prepared binder), to ask any questions, and go over the procedure.

1. Scripture and the general intercessions are read from the **pulpit** (left side, next to the Blessed Virgin Mary statue).
2. **Scripture:** After the opening prayer, the Readers approach the Altar together. The second Reader waits below the pulpit until the Cantor has completed the Psalm, then approaches the pulpit, reads, and both Readers return together bowing to the Altar before returning to their seats.

General Intercessions: After the homily, sometimes the celebrant will sit for a few moments of reflection. If he does, the Reader waits until the priest stands, and then approaches the pulpit as explained above. If the celebrant remains standing after the homily, the Reader goes directly to the pulpit. If there are two Intercession Readers, the Intercessions are read at the lectern. The Reader(s) remain at the pulpit, or lectern, until the celebrant finishes the concluding prayer.

3. The Scripture readings begin with the statement: “A reading from the book of _____” Numerical references are not given. For example:
 - “A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah”
 - “A reading from the book of Wisdom”
 - “A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians”
 - “A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.”

The Scripture readings end with” “The Word of the Lord”. The congregations responds, “Thanks be to God.”

4. The General Intercessions are introduced by the celebrant. The Reader then says, “Our response is:_____” and reads the intercessions. The Reader also says the response with the congregation. The celebrant then reads the concluding prayer.

First Reading

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

1.) A reading from the second book of Maccabees

2 Mc 12:43-46

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord

2.) A reading from the book of Job

Job 19: 1,23-27

Job answered Bildad the Shuite and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead

they were cut in the rock forever!

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

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

Whom I myself shall see:

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

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing

The Word of the Lord

3a.) A reading from the book of Wisdom

(long form)

Wisdom 3:1-9

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

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

But they are in peace.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord

3b.) A reading from the book of Wisdom

(short form)

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

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

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

But they are in peace.

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

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord

4.) A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom 4:7-15

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing
of time,

nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;

he who lived among sinners was transported--
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the
Fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of
wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord

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

Is 25:6a, 7-9

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:

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

This is the LORD for whom we looked;

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

The Word of the Lord

6.) A reading from the book of Lamentations

Lam 3:17-26

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

The Word of the Lord

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

Dn 12:1-3

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

"At that time there shall arise

Michael, the great prince,

guardian of your people;

It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress

since nations began until that time.

At that time your people shall escape,

everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake;

some shall live forever,

others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly

like the splendor of the firmament,

And those who lead the many to justice

shall be like the stars forever.

The Word of the Lord

During the Easter Season (Easter through Pentecost); the Old Testament is usually replaced by a Reading from Acts or the Book of Revelation.

Suggestions:

(long form)

1.) A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10: 34 -43

Peter proceeded to speak 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 all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord

(short form)

2.) A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10: 34-36, 42-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly

is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

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

To him all the prophets bear witness,

that everyone who believes in him

will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

3.) A reading from the Book of Revelation

Rev 14:13

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this:

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

"Yes," said the Spirit,

"let them find rest from their labors,

for their works accompany them."*

The Word of the Lord

4.) A reading from the Book of Revelation

Rev 20:11-21:1

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

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

I saw the dead, the great and 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; The 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

5.) A reading from the Book of Revelation

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

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

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

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

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.

He will dwell with them and they will be his people

and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes,

and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,

for the old order has passed away.”

The one who sat on the throne* said,

“Behold, I make all things new.”

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water.

The victor* will inherit these gifts,

and I shall be his God,

and he will be my son.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalms

Psalm 23

R: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Verse 1: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures He gives me repose.

By restful waters He leads me; He refreshes my soul.

R: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Verse 2: He guides me in right paths, for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil

For you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage

R: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Verse 3: You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.

R: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 25

R: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Verse 1: Lord, make me know your ways;
Teach me your paths and keep me in the way of Your truth,
For you are God, my savior.

R: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Verse 2: For the Lord is good and righteous,
Revealing His way to those who seek Him,
Gently leading the poor and the humble.

R: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Verse 3: To the ones who seek the Lord,
Who look to his Word, who live his love,
He will always be near,
He will show them His mercy.

R: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Psalm 27

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Verse 1: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

If God is my help, whom should I fear?

The Lord is my refuge, my stronghold and my strength;

Why should I be afraid?

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Verse 2: There is but one thing that I want:

To live in the dwelling place of God;

To look all my days on the beauty of the Lord,

And contemplate God's holy temple.

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Verse 3: I shall see for myself the grace of God,

The dawn of that day among the living.

Wait for the Lord, find strength in your hearts;

Have courage and wait for God.

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Psalm 103

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Verse 1: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all my being bless his Name;
Bless the Lord and forget not his benefits.

R: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

Verse 2: He pardons all your iniquities and comforts your sorrows,
redeems your life from destruction and crowns you with his kindness.

R: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

Verse 3: Merciful, merciful, and gracious is our God;
Slow to anger, abounding in kindness.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Psalm 116

R: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Verse 1: Gracious is the Lord and just; yes, our God is merciful.

The Lord keeps the little ones; I was brought low, and he saved me.

R: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Verse 2: I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted";

I said in my alarm, "No man is dependable."

R: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Verse 3: Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant, you have losses my bonds.

R: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second Reading

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



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me..” ~ John 14.7

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

Rom 5:5-11

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

2.) **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**
Rom 5:17-21

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

The law entered in so that transgression might increase
but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, So that,
as sin reigned in death,
grace also might reign through justification for eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

3a.) **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**
Romans 6:3-9

(Long Form)

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

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

Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

(Short Form)

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

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

Rom 8:14-23

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 received a spirit of adoption,

through which we cry, "Abba, Father!"

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,

if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time

are as nothing compared with the glory to be

revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation

The revelation of the children of God;

for creation was made subject to futility,

not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,

in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to

corruption and share in the glorious freedom

of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;

and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,

we also groan within ourselves

as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord

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

Rom 8:31-35, 37-39

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,

will he not also give us everything else along with him?

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

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,

Or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly

through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

Nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things,

nor future things, nor powers, nor height,

nor depth, nor any other creature will

be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

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

Rom 14:7-9, 10c-12

Brothers and sisters:

No one 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 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

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

1 Cor 15:20-28

(long form)

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 man,

The resurrection of the dead came also through a 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 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.

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

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

1 Cor 15:20-23

(short *form*)

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 man,

The resurrection of the dead came also through a 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 first fruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;

The Word of the Lord

8.) A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians
1 Cor 15:51-57

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

9.) A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians
2 Cor 4:14 - 5:1

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

10.) A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians
2 Cor 5:1, 6-10

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

11.) A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians
Phil 3:20-21

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

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

1 Thes 4:13-18

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

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

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

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

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

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

13.) **A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy**
2 Tim 2:8-13

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

14.) A reading from the first letter of John

1 Jn 3:1-2

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

15.) A reading from the first letter of John

1 Jn 3:14-16

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

Section Two:

The Prayer of the Faithful

(General Intercessions)

A member (or two) of the family may wish to read the Prayer of the Faithful.

Prayer of the Faithful

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

Reader: Our response is — Lord hear our prayer.

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

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

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

Reader: 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.

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

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

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

All: Amen.

Alternate:

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

Reader: Our response is — Hear our prayer.

Reader: In Baptism _____ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

Lord in your mercy:

Reader: Our brother/sister _____ who was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

Lord in your mercy:

Reader: 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:

Reader: 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:

Reader: 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:

Reader: The family and friends of _____ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

Lord in your mercy:

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

Lord in your mercy:

Priest: Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ and the voices of the people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Addendum:

[For a child]

Celebrant: Let us pray for [N], his/her family and friends, and for all God's people.

Reader: Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For _____, child of God and heir to the kingdom, that he/she be held securely in God's loving embrace now and for all eternity, let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: For _____ family, especially his/her mother and father, [his/her brother(s) and sister(s)], that they feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief, let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: For _____ friends, those who played with him/her and those who cared for him/her, that they may be consoled in their loss and strengthened in their love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: For all parents who grieve over the death of their children, that they be comforted in the knowledge that their children dwell with God, let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: For children who have died of hunger and disease, that these little ones be seated close to the Lord at his heavenly table, let us pray to the Lord.

Reader: For the whole Church, that we prepare worthily for the hour of our death, when God will call us by name to pass from this world to the next, let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Lord God, you entrusted _____ to our care and now you embrace him/her in your love. Take _____ into your keeping together with all children who have died. Comfort us, your sorrowing servants, who seek to do your will and to know your saving peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Section Three: Sacred Music

Another key component of a worthy Funeral Mass is the selection of appropriate Sacred Music. The Sacred Music selections found on the following pages are chosen specifically due to their appropriateness to the Funeral Mass. Other selections from our Parish Hymnal are possible. If there is a selection not found on the following pages that is in the hymnal that you wish to use, please consult the Bereavement Team representative to discuss your choice. Ordinarily music found outside the hymnal is not permitted mostly due to copyright and licensing laws. The music is arranged to show the best use for each selection, however you are not limited to the categories listed.

For example, it is possible to use a song listed as a Communion Hymn for the Recessional. Again, just check with the Bereavement Team.

All music must be approved by the Director of Music.

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

Approved Music for Funeral Liturgies

* Hymns that cannot be used during Lent

Entrance Hymn

This Hymn will begin the Liturgy. Judgment should be made as to whether the family would like to set a joyous tone or a more reflective one.

Reflective		Joyous	
Be Not Afraid		I Know That My Redeemer Lives	
Here I Am, Lord		Blest Are They	
On Eagle's Wings		Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	
We Will Rise Again		*For All the Saints	
Christ, Be Our Light		*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus	
		*The Strife is O'er	

Responsorial Psalm

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." Psalm 23 (Owen Alstott)	Not in Hymnal
"To you, O Lord, I lift my soul." Psalm 25	
"The Lord is my light and my salvation." Psalm 27	
"The Lord is kind and merciful." Psalm 103 (Marty Haugen)	
Psalm 116 – "In the Presence of God" "I will walk in the presence of the Lord."	

Hymn for the Preparation of the Gifts

This selection can be any one of the following or a similar song. If you selected a joyous setting for the Entrance Hymn, consider using a more reflective song here.

Reflective	Joyous
Prayer of St. Francis	I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Amazing Grace	Blest Are They
We Remember	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Come To Me	Servant Song
Shepherd Me, O God	All Is Well with My Soul
I Have Loved You	To You, O Lord
Be Not Afraid	Loving And Forgiving
By Name I Have Called You	Not in Hymnal

Communion

This selection should have a Eucharistic theme and should speak of gathering.

Reflective	Joyous
I Am The Bread of Life	Taste and See
One Bread, One Body	Behold the Lamb
Eye Has Not Seen	Eat This Bread
Gift of Finest Wheat	That There May Be Bread
The Supper of The Lord	We Are Many Parts
In Remembrance of Me	Not in Hymnal

Meditation

After communion, there is the option of a Meditation song. All choices named below are reflective in nature.

Ave Maria		Lady of Knock Not in Hymnal	
You Are Mine		Hail Mary: Gentle Woman	
Amazing Grace		Prayer of St. Francis	

Commendation Hymn

Song of Farewell (Sands)		Song of Farewell (OLD HUNDREDTH)	
Celtic Song of Farewell Not in Hymnal		In Paradisum (chant)	
Saints of God - Song of Farewell (Hass)		Song of Farewell (LaManna)	

Recessional Hymn

It is appropriate to use an uplifting song to bring the liturgy to a close. Below is a list of choices that reflect this sentiment.

How Great Thou Art		City of God	
Let There Be Peace on Earth		Canticle of the Sun	
On Eagle's Wings		We Will Rise Again	
*Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise		*The Strife is O'er	
*Sing A New Song		*For All The Saints Still Striving	

***“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened
and I will give you rest.” ~ Matthew 11:28***

“Words of Remembrance”

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

For this reason, words of remembrance are different from a eulogy, which is a reminiscing, tribute or toasting of the life of a departed loved one, outside the context of faith. A eulogy or reminiscing about the life of our loved ones, more appropriately takes place during the following settings:

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

When it is desired to present these “**words of remembrance**” prior to Mass, compliance with the following **is required**:

- Only **one** person should be designated to deliver the “Words of Remembrance”
- The Words of Remembrance are given from the **lectern** (right side, next to the St. Joseph statue).
- A **time-limit of 3 to 4 minutes** should respectfully be met.
- The “Words of Remembrance” are to be prepared in advance: **limited to one sheet** of paper, **font size 12 pt., and double spaced**.
- The draft should be delivered/faxed/e-mailed to the Celebrant for review no less than 24 hours prior to the Funeral.
(Fr. Costa frajcostasfa@gmail.com or Rectory Fax No. 610-604-0283.

- There can be no exceptions to these boundaries as the intention is to maintain the liturgical sacredness of the Holy Mass.

These Special remarks about your loved one are made **prior to Mass**.

Helpful suggestions:

- This is **not** a biography about your loved one so there is no need to include what was mentioned in the obituary / death notice.
- **Remarks that speak to your loved one's character, integrity, faith, commitment, love, family life, work ethic, and giftedness are appropriate.**
- The remarks must be **appropriate for the context of the Mass**. At times, people want to be humorous and it ends up being inappropriate.

If you have any questions, please call St. Francis Rectory 610-543-0848 and ask for Father Costa (ext. 126). We are here to help you in whatever way we can.

May the Holy Spirit guide you in your preparation and may you find healing and peace in the coming weeks.