

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS



FUNERAL PLANNING BOOK

*A Guide for Preparing Funeral Rites at
Our Lady of the Snows*

In death life is changed, not ended...

When the bodies of our earthly dwelling lie in death
we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven.

Death marks a key transition moment in our life. For people of faith, it represents an end *and* a wonderful new beginning.

The death of a family member or friend causes your life to undergo, in some cases, rapid changes. You may have to make many decisions in a relatively short period of time. At the parish we hope that the time and care you take to plan the funeral and select the bible readings and songs for the funeral will be a blessing and comfort to you.

The Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church should reflect as much as possible the life of the deceased, and most importantly, serve as a message of hope at a time of great loss. That is why the Church strongly recommends and encourages family members and close friends to be actively involved in the preparation and participation of the ceremonies. It is recommended that the Funeral Rites of the deceased take place as soon as possible after death or within a reasonable timeframe, after death.

The Funeral Rites of the Church highlight three key moments:

- (1) **Vigil** (evening service before the funeral)
- (2) **Funeral Mass or Service**
- (3) **Burial**

1 It is customary for people to gather the evening before the Funeral Mass for a **Vigil**. Ordinarily, the Vigil is the first public opportunity for people to greet the family, offer sympathy and gather. The Vigil helps prepare us to celebrate the Funeral Mass and is usually celebrated at the church. The structure of the Vigil is flexible but usually includes: the reception or welcome of the deceased's body into the Church; readings from scripture; and prayers. It is most appropriate at this time to ask someone to speak in memory of the person who died. Sometimes the praying of the Rosary, a devotional Catholic prayer, is prayed. Also, it's appropriate for songs to be sung. Some families play a video at this time. Afterward, people can visit. Vigil Services usually begin between 6-7pm and many times are celebrated at the Church or at the funeral home. Sometimes our deacons or lay leaders lead this prayer.



2 The **Funeral Mass or Service** is a celebration of the deceased's life and Christ's invitation to ponder what his victory over death means with regard to the reality of death. Readings are proclaimed from the bible that recall the hope of eternal life that are promised through faith. At a **Funeral Mass** the community, having been spiritually renewed at the table of God's Word, turns for spiritual nourishment to the table of the Eucharist. When we receive Holy Communion we are given a foretaste of eternal life in Christ and are united with Him, with each other, and with all the faithfully departed. Communion indicates the kind of celebration we hope to receive in heaven. When Mass is not celebrated, the **Service** concludes after the readings from scripture and homily. Funeral Masses/Services usually take place in the morning at 10am, 10:30am or 11am and last about an hour. All Masses are held at the Church. Funeral Services without a Mass can be held at the Church or at the funeral home.

3 Following the Funeral Mass or Service, people are invited to travel to the cemetery for the **Burial** where the ground will be blessed and the deceased is laid to rest. The prayers at the Burial are brief, yet very powerful. Out of an abundance or respect for the deceased, it is recommended that burial of the body or interment of ashes take place immediately after the Funeral Mass or Service, or as soon as possible after that time.

Depending on the wishes of the family, the funeral rites are flexible and can accommodate particular family requests, especially when the rites are celebrated in a place other than in the Church.

Burial or Cremation:

The Order of Christian Funerals' Appendix on Cremation states: *"Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites"* (no. 413).

The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, and the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains on the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. (no. 417).



Having said this, more and more people are choosing to be cremated. Beside the practical advantages, this is a dignified manner to honor your loved one. In the case when someone is cremated, appropriate adaptations to the Funeral rites are made. Did you know that people can be cremated after the funeral Mass or Service? In this case, interment of ashes would take place at another time.

It is important to talk to Father and the Funeral Director about the various ways funeral rites can be celebrated, and/or, when and if a body will be present or not.

Some other things to keep in mind.....

Scripture Readings: Readings for funeral services are chosen from among the books of the bible. Any scripture passage that is particularly fitting may be chosen. For your convenience a listing of some of the more popular readings is provided. Poems, letters and other material can be incorporated into the funeral rites but do not take the place of the scriptures.



Luncheon/Hospitality: Depending on the wishes of the family and the availability of the hall, the parish can help to coordinate a funeral dinner/reception for the family's guests at the parish hall after the burial.

A word about music: The nature of our liturgy and Catholic worship requires that sacred music be chosen for the Vigil and Mass/Service because sacred music best expresses our Christian faith.

If there is a secular song that is particularly meaningful to you, the deceased or the family, it is best placed at a moment before/after the religious rites have taken place, as long as it conforms to the dignity of the funeral rituals and the Christian message.

Our musicians are eager to help you select music for the services. Feel free to contact them and share your thoughts.

The parish Staff is available to assist you in any way we can to prepare to celebrate the life and memories of your loved one, and Christ's invitation to participate in his victory over death.

Fr. Ronald Wekerle

Father Ronald Wekerle
Pastor



The Funeral

What are funerals all about and what do they do for us?

The Funeral helps confirm the reality and finality of death.

Provides a climate for mourning and the expression of grief.

Allows the sorrows of the One to become the sorrows of the Many.

Is one of the few times love is given and not expected in return.

Is a vehicle for the community to pay its respects.

Encourages the affirmation of religious faith.

**Is a celebration of a life as well as a sociological statement
that a death has occurred.**

Ideas for how families and friends can participate

The Church calls the faithful to full, active and conscious participation in the liturgy.

Listed below are some ways of involving family members and friends in the funeral rites.

1. **Greeting Guests:** Family members are invited to arrive at church before the services and greet guests and visitors as they enter the church.
2. **Blessing of the Casket:** At the Vigil Service or whenever the body is welcomed to the church, family members and friends may bless the casket with holy water or bless it with the sign of the cross. This is an expression of love.
3. **Cover Casket:** Family members may join in covering the casket with the white funeral pall at the beginning of the Vigil Service or Funeral Mass. In doing so, the deceased is wrapped in a blanket of God's glory.
4. **Lead Procession:** Family members or friends may lead the entrance procession by carrying the paschal candle.
5. **Placing of Symbols:** Family members or friends may place religious symbols such as a bible, cross or rosary on the casket during the Funeral Liturgy. Remember: this is a keepsake that stays with the family; it is not placed in the coffin for burial.
6. **Readings:** Family members or friends may proclaim one or more readings from scripture for the Vigil Service and/or Funeral Mass.



7. **Sharing Memories/Eulogy:** Family members or friends may speak in remembrance of the deceased at the Vigil service or following Communion at the Funeral Mass.
8. **Bring Up Gifts:** Family members or friends may bring up the gift of bread and wine during the Funeral Mass.
9. **Lower Casket into ground:** As part of the Rite of Committal and depending on circumstances, the casket may be lowered into the ground while family and friends are present. This choice can be an emotional moment for the family and friends, but at the same time it provides a sense of closure and helps in the grieving process.
10. **The church is your home:** Since the parish was the spiritual home of the deceased, it is appropriate to have all services at the church.
11. **Poems, letters, etc:** The Vigil Service may include poems, songs, etc., that mean a lot to the family but are not “religious” in nature.
12. **Photo Display / Memorabilia Table:** A display or table may be set up by family members. It may be set up in the gathering space at the Church and/or afterwards it can be set up in the Hall.
12. **Livestreaming:** The funeral rites can be live streamed for those unable to attend. Talk with the parish office about setting up the equipment.



Holy Signs

**“Since liturgical celebrations involve the whole person,
it requires attentiveness to all that affects the senses.”**

Order of Christian Funerals, #21

Holy Water: Holy Water reminds us of the saving waters of baptism and the great promise of eternal life that God gives to those who believe. Through baptism we become God’s children.

*In the waters of baptism we die with Christ. One day,
may we share with him eternal glory.*

Catholic Funeral Rite



Easter Candle: The Easter Candle reminds us of Christ’s undying presence among us, of his victory over sin and death, and of our share in that victory by virtue of our baptism.

*You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as
children of the light and keep the flame alive in your
hearts. When the Lord calls you, may you go out to
meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.*

Catholic Baptismal Rite



Incense: Incense is used both as a sign of reverence and of the community’s prayers rising to God.

Let my prayer rise, O Lord, like incense before you.

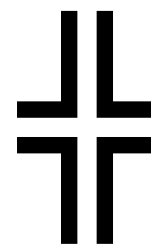
Invocation from the Liturgy of the Hours



Cross: The Cross is a sign of God's unconditional love. We use it to begin and end our ceremonies and prayers. Placing the Cross on the casket is a visible sign that we ask God now to share his victory with the deceased.

In baptism we received the Cross of Christ. May our loved one now share in Christ's victory over sin and death.

Catholic Funeral Rite



Funeral Pall: The funeral pall is a powerful reminder of God's promise of glory. It is spread over the casket and is a reminder of the white cloths we use at baptism. It reminds us of the dignity of the human body which housed the Spirit of God.

You have become a new creation...clothe yourself in Christ. Receive this baptismal garment as a reminder of your dignity. Bring your dignity and life unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have ever-lasting life.

Catholic Baptismal Rite



Suggested Donations for the Church, Musicians & Luncheon

The parish is glad to be of assistance.

Below is a guide you can use to determine an appropriate donations

As you are aware, there are expenses and costs involved in celebrating a funeral. The major funeral costs will be those which are paid to the funeral home for their valuable services. In addition, however, and when it is possible, it is also customary to make a gift to the **Church** and pay the **musicians** for their time and skills as well as make a donation to the **Hospitality Committee** who may coordinate a Luncheon for you as a way of expressing your appreciation.

When the costs of a funeral cause a financial hardship for a family, the stipend given to these groups should be something that the family can afford and should not be a burden.

Stipends are made directly to the parish or musicians or committee.

Suggested Donation to the Church

It's important to keep in mind that the services of the priest are free, however, it is customary for those who are able to make an offering to the parish to cover the costs for the building, preparation, maintenance and clean up. Below is a suggested donation, but any gift will be appreciate.

If for some good reason a funeral takes place in a location other than the Church, an appropriate honorarium should be offered.

Suggested Donation to the Church

Vigil, Funeral Mass/Service & Burial — \$500

Suggested Donation to the Musicians

All Catholic funerals should involve a ministry of music. Music planning takes time and involves expertise. In many cases musicians must take time away from their work and families to coordinate funeral music. The “honorarium” or “stipend” for music includes preparation time, practices and coordination with other music ministers. There is a lot of behind the scenes preparation involved in planning funeral music. Oftentimes, the actual time of the ceremony is the least time-consuming part of the ministry they offer. Given this, it is appropriate for a family to express their appreciation to the music ministers by paying them a fee for their help and assistance. Fees for musicians are made directly with the them.



Suggested Donation to the Musicians

Pianist: \$150—\$250 • Singer: \$75 - \$125

The Luncheon

Frequently the family chooses to invite people to gather for a meal after the Funeral Mass. Unless there is a serious conflict, the parish hall will be available for this purpose and volunteers from the parish help to coordinate, set up, clean up and serve a meal.

The funeral meal usually consists of salads, some hot dishes, desserts and beverages. The family is responsible for the cost of the main dish (ham/chicken or sandwiches).



In lieu of a meal it is possible to coordinate a delicious reception of cakes, desserts, cookies, fruit, cheese trays & refreshments.

Families are always invited to bring their own food to the luncheon or arrange for a caterer.

Families will be asked to give the office a number of expected guests so that the proper quantity of food can be prepared. If you expect more than 150 people you will want to find a different venue for the luncheon. Ordinarily the luncheon lasts no more than 1-1/2 hours. This time frame gives the funeral luncheon committee time to clean up.

Summary of Suggested Costs, Donations, and Gifts

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Stipend for Vigil, Mass & Burial | Typical range — \$500 |
| 2. Stipend for Music | Pianist—\$150-\$250; Singer—\$75-\$125 |
| 3. Cost for meal and/reception | Cost is variable, depending on number of people and menu. |

Information about Memorial Gifts

Gifts given in memory of the deceased are a way to both remember the person who has died and to help the parish pass on the legacy of faith to future generations. There are three basic ways that families and friends may offer memorial gifts in the honor of the deceased:

1. Mass Stipends

A \$10 donation to the Church is given if one wants to have a Mass offered for a deceased loved one or for the consolation of his/her family. Forms for having Masses are available in the parish office.

2. Gifts to the Church for Capital Improvements

Donations and memorial gifts in any amount are welcome and greatly appreciated by the Catholic community. In lieu of sending flowers, some families may ask people to make a donation to a favorite charity or the parish. This request is included as part of a person's obituary notice. Unless the memorial gift is designated for a particular area, memorials given to the parish in memory of the deceased will be used for capital improvements or used to help finance the important parish ministries and projects.

3. Remembering the Parish in your Will

One way to honor God and your parish community is to include the parish in your Will. Bequests to the parish from people's estates are greatly appreciated and they are a way for people to show their commitment to our church in ways that may not have been possible while they were alive. Remembering the parish in your Will is another way of being a good and faithful steward of the blessings that God has entrusted to you.



A Word about Flowers



1. The flowers that are brought to the church for the Funeral will be arranged in such a way that their placement does not interfere with the free movement of the ministers and assembly during the ritual. Most often, the funeral home will take care of the arrangement of flowers.
2. After the funeral is over, some families like to take bouquets to the local nursing homes. Also, if there is a luncheon after the services, the flowers may be used to decorate the tables. Finally, the family may simply wish to leave the bouquets in the church.
3. Flowers for the Casket (Casket Spray): Please note that if flowers are purchased for the top of the casket, ordinarily they are removed during the ceremony so that the funeral pall and Christian symbols may be atop the casket. In lieu of a casket spray of flowers families may wish to select a hanging arrangement to be placed on a stand near the casket.
4. In lieu of sending flowers, some families ask that instead of sending flowers individuals make donations to their favorite charity or the parish in memory of the deceased. Ordinarily this request is included in the deceased's obituary notice. Donations to the parish in this form are greatly appreciated.



Summary of Scripture Suggestions

Below are suggestions for Scripture Readings.
Please refer to the Planning Sheet at the end of this booklet.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

OT-A

A reading from the Book of 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 people 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.
As gold in the furnace, God proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings God took them.

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 God shall be their king forever.

Those who trust shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with God in love:
Because grace and mercy are with the holy ones,
and God's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OT-B

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

3:1-8,11

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

A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.

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

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

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

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

God has made everything appropriate to its time.

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs 31:10-12, 17-18, 25-31

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good and not evil, all the days of her life.
She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms.
She enjoys the success of her dealings;
 at night her lamp is undimmed.

She reaches out her hand to the poor,
 and extends her arms to the needy.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
 and she laughs at the days to come.

She opens her mouth in wisdom,
 and on her tongue is kindly counsel.
She watches the conduct of her household
 and eats not her food in idleness.

Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her:
 "Many are the women of proven worth,
 but you have excelled them all."

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
 the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors,
 and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

OT-D

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

12, 1-3

Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favor I have answered you, in a day of salvation I have helped you." But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me."

"Can a woman forget her little baby that she should have no compassion on the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have written your name on the palm of my hand."

The Word of the Lord.

OT-E

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

34:11-16

For thus says God: I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark.

I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the foreign lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel (in the land's ravines and all its inhabited places).

In good pastures will I pasture them, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground. There they shall lie down on good grazing ground, and in rich pastures shall they be pastured on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says God. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal (but the sleek and the strong I will destroy), shepherding them rightly.

The Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

NT-A

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

6:3-9

Are you not aware 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.

NT-B

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

8:14-23

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 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.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

9

If God is for us, who can be against us? Is it possible that God, who did not spare Jesus the Son, but handed him over for the sake of us all, will not grant us all things besides?

Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones? God who justifies? Who shall condemn them? Christ Jesus who died—or rather was raised up—who is at the right hand of God and who intercedes for us?

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Trial? Or distress? Or persecution? Or hunger? Or nakedness? Or danger? Or the sword?

No! In all this we are more than conquerors because of him who has loved us.

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

The Word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

14:7-9, 10-12

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for God, and if we die, we die for God; so then, whether we live or die, we belong to God.

For that 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 ourselves before God.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-E

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

14:7-9, 10-12

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for God, and if we die, we die for God; so then, whether we live or die, we belong to God.

For that 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 ourselves before God.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-F

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

15, 51-57

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which is mortal clothes I

"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.

NT-G

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

4:14-5:1

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT-H

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

5:1, 6-10

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 God, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to God.

Therefore, we aspire to please God, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that we may receive recompense, according to our life in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-I

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 3:14-21

I kneel before the God from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name; and I pray that God will bestow on you gifts in keeping with the riches of all glory.

May God strengthen you inwardly through the working of the Spirit. May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, and may charity be the root and foundation of your life. Thus you will be able to grasp fully, with all the holy ones, the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love, and experience this love which surpasses all knowledge, so that you may attain to the fullness of God.

To God whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine—to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end, Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-J

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians 3,20-21

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.

NT-K

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

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 God. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-L

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy 4:6-8

I for my part am already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

From now on a merited crown awaits me; on that Day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me—and not only to me, but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing.

But the Lord Jesus stood by my side and gave me strength, so that through me the preaching task might be completed and all the nations might hear the gospel. That is how I was saved from the lion's jaws. The Lord Jesus will continue to rescue me from all attempts to do me harm and will bring me safe to the heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-M

A reading from the First Letter of John 3, 1-2

See what love God has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God! Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized the Son.

Dearly beloved, we are God's children now. What we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like God, for we shall see God as God really is.

The Word of the Lord.

NT-N

A reading from the Book of Revelation 14:13

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord.

NT-O

A reading from the Book of Revelation

21:1-5, 6-7

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

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

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. I will dwell with them and they will be my people and I will always be with them. God 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 victors will inherit these gifts, and I shall be their God, and they shall be my people."

The Word of the Lord.

NT-P

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians II Cor 4:7-5

Brothers and sisters, we have this treasure in clay vessels, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.

So death is at work in us, but life in you. But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.

Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL READINGS

(These readings will be read by the Priest or Deacon)

G-A

Matthew 5:1-12

When he saw the crowds, Jesus 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.

G- B

Matthew 11:25-3

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus:

"I give praise to you, God, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the 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.

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, ill and you cared for 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 thirst 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 and sisters 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, what 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.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.

"Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants.

"Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord.

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Two of the disciples of Jesus on that same day were making their way to a village named Emmaus seven miles distant from Jerusalem, discussing as they went all that had happened. In the course of their lively exchange, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them. However, they were restrained from recognizing Him.

By now they were near the village to which they were going, and he acted as if he were going farther. But they pressed him: "Stay with us. It is nearly evening—the day is practically over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he had seated himself with them to eat, he took bread, pronounced the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him; whereupon he vanished from their sight.

They said to one another, "Were not our hearts bursting inside us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled. They were greeted with, "The Lord has been raised! It is true! He has appeared to Simon!" Then they recounted what had happened on the road and how they had come to know him in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had for her whole living."

The Gospel of the Lord.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles themselves like this child, are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.:

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people; but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth: but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do we light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before all, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Jesus said:

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand—who is no shepherd nor owner of the sheep—catches sight of the wolf coming and runs away, leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf. That is because he works for pay; he has no concern for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me in the same way that God knows me and I know God; for these sheep I will give my life. "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must lead them, too, and they shall hear my voice.

"There shall be one flock then, one shepherd. God loves me for this: that I lay down my life to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down freely. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. This command I received from my God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-K

John 10:27-30.

Jesus said:

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father is greater than all, in what he has given me, and there is no snatching out of God's hand. The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-L

John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be. You know the way that leads where I go."

"Lord," said Thomas, "we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-M

John 11:32-45

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and had seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Jesus said:

“Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on the rock.

“But everyone who hears these words of mind and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet 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 Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Funeral Planning Sheet

Below is a form that you can use to help plan the funeral for the deceased. Depending on your faith tradition the funeral rites will vary and are flexible for each family.

THE VIGIL

LOCATION: CHURCH ☐

FUNERAL HOME ☐

First Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Gospel: _____ Read by Priest or Deacon

OPTIONAL:

[] Rosary: _____

[] Sharing of Memories (Eulogy): *Our Catholic funeral rites provide an opportunity for someone to speak in memory of the deceased. Ordinarily, this is not a life sketch or a repeat of what appears in the obituary. Rather, it is a time to share memories that were indicative of the person who died. Usually, it is done by one person (no more than 3) and should be about 3-5 minutes in length. It is best if this takes place at the Vigil, but it can take place at another time.*

Speaker(s): _____

*FUNERAL MASS

First Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Psalm: _____ Ps 23 Reader: _____ usually sung

[OPTIONAL]

Second Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Gospel: _____ Read by Priest or Deacon

IF THERE IS A MASS:

*Presentation of the Bread & Wine (2+ people): _____

*Eucharistic Ministers: _____

[] Sharing of Memories: Names of the Speaker(s): _____

[] Livestreaming: _____

FUNERAL SERVICE WITHOUT MASS

First Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Psalm: Ps 23 Reader: usually sung

[OPTIONAL]

Second Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Gospel: _____ Read by Priest or Deacon

[] Sharing of Memories: Names of the Speaker(s): _____

[] Livestreaming: _____

Other: _____

[] **Music:** Please list any musical selections you would like to sing during the funeral liturgy. Please recognize that the musicians may be limited in the songs they are able to play. Also, please be aware that while popular music can be beautiful and uplifting, congregational music inspired by the scriptures and the promise of Jesus' Gospel is preferred and recommended for a funeral service.

[] Count for Funeral Lunch: _____

Music

What are the musical selections or songs that you would like to have sung? We will try and accommodate your musical selections as much as possible.

OPENING SONGS

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

COMMUNION SONGS

CLOSING SONGS