



## ***ASSUMPTION PARISH FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE: READING OPTIONS***

*Please select ONE option from each category (First Reading, Second Reading, Gospel, Prayer of the Faithful).*

*Once you have made your scripture selections, you can print individual pages to share with the readers and the priest.*

## FIRST READING

First Reading Option 1: (1011.3)

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 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.

First Reading Option 2: (1011.5)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (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.

First Reading Option 3: (1011.6)

A reading from the Book of Lamentations (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.

First Reading Option 4: (1011.7)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel (12:1-3)

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned  
and 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.

## SECOND READING

Second Reading Option 1: (1014.3)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (6:3-9)

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.

Second Reading Option 2: (1014.10)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (5:1, 6-10)

Brothers and sisters:

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.

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 may receive recompense,  
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

Second Reading Option 3: (1014.12)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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 the Lord.  
Therefore, console one another with these words.  
  
The word of the Lord.

# GOSPEL

Gospel Option 1: (1016.1)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12a)

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.

Gospel Option 2: (1016.4)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (25:31-46)

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 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,  
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.

Gospel Option 3: (1016.8)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (23:33, 39-43)

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 man, 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.

Gospel Option 4: (1016.17)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (14:1-6)

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.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

### Petitions Option 1:

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 that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:

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... Lord, hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends (especially \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_). And \_\_\_\_\_), that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord... Lord, hear our prayer.

For \_\_\_\_\_'s family and friends, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord. We pray to the Lord... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord... Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

Petitions Option 2:

Priest: And now let us stand and present our petitions to the Lord.

Reader:

May the soul of your servant, \_\_\_\_\_, be received by the hands of the Holy Angels and carried to our true home in Paradise. We pray to the Lord.

May the souls of our all our loved ones who have passed from this life; (especially, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_,) obtain the pardon and forgiveness for which they long and the eternal rest for which they desire. We pray to the Lord.

May the family and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ receive comfort and consolation; may the pain of loss be dispelled and the hope of the resurrection strengthened. We pray to the Lord.

May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, be freed of their earthly affections and attachments to sin, and may Christ purify them so they may be judged worthy of the day of resurrection. We pray to the Lord.

Priest: Almighty and everlasting God, who is the giver of eternal life, bestow your mercy by the merits of Christ's most sacred Passion and through the intercession of Blessed Mary and all the saints, so that we too may come to behold your Holy Face and possess happiness without end when you awaken your chosen ones to the resurrection on the Last Day. Through Christ our Lord.

### Petitions Option 3:

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

Reader:

That God may deliver the soul of his servant \_\_\_\_\_ into the place of heavenly reward. We pray to the Lord....

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

That those who care for others, especially the sick and dying, may be filled with compassion and peace. We pray to the Lord....

That those who have died may be received into a place of rest and peace for all eternity. We pray to the Lord.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain. Bless \_\_\_\_\_'s family and friends who gather around him/her today. Give them hope in your resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord.