

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

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Main Parish Office: 724-287-1759

ALL SAINTS PARISH

Parish Offices - St. Paul Church & St. Conrad Church

724-287-1759

www.AllSaintsButler.org

St. Andrew Church
1660 N. Main Street Ext.
Butler, PA 16001

St. Conrad Church
125 Buttercup Road
Butler, PA 16001

St. Peter Church
127 Franklin Street
Butler, PA 16001

St. Michael the Archangel Church
432 Center Avenue
Butler, PA 16001

St. Paul Church
128 N. McKean Street
Butler, PA 16001

ALL SAINTS PARISH

ST. ANDREW | ST. CONRAD | ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL | ST. PAUL | ST. PETER



FUNERAL PREPARATION GUIDE

RESOURCES FOR HEALING & HOPE

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted” (Matthew 5:4).

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you’ve lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you’ve probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you’ve never faced before.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life’s most difficult experiences.

You don’t have to go through the grieving process alone.

“Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you’re shivering.”

GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. GriefShare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You’ll gain access to valuable GriefShare resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward with hope.



Meetings are held at
St. Peter Church Hall
127 Franklin Street
Butler, PA 16001

For more information, visit www.GriefShare.org, or
contact any of our Pastoral Care Ministers.

WHY FUNERAL RITES?

The Church recommends to Christians the traditional rites accompanying death. While they are a thankful “celebration of life” of the one who has died, they are more importantly a celebration of the hope given to us in Jesus Christ and an invitation to share our lives more completely with him. At the same time they also serve to provide a meaningful acknowledgment of the grief and sadness that often accompany death.

Above all, the funeral rites of the Church express hope — hope that the Lord Jesus, by his own bodily death and resurrection, has defeated our death and will give to the faithful departed a share in eternal life. All the sacraments, from their beginning in Baptism to their climax in the Eucharist, draw Christians to share more fully in Jesus ’death and resurrection.

The funeral rites of the Church, anchored by the Funeral Mass, proclaim Jesus ’death and resurrection. They reinforce our hope of sharing in these mysteries. They also provide an opportunity to pray for those who have died. They console us in our grief by reminding us of our solidarity with one another and with those who have gone before us in faith. For those who face untimely or difficult bereavement, for which there are no adequate explanations in this world, the rites offer the mercy and providence of God until all things are accounted for on the Last Day.

CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST FOR THE DECEASED

(having a mass said in memory of the dearly departed)

When the funeral services have concluded, the Church’s care for the faithful departed does not come to an end. It is not only a tradition but a necessity that we who remain in this world pray for those who have gone before us “marked with the sign of faith.”

The doctrine of the Communion of Saints teaches that we are united to the saints in heaven and the souls of those who are preparing for entrance into heaven through a time of cleansing in purgatory. We benefit from the prayers and intercession of the saints as we progress on the journey of faith, and so we are to assist those who are still preparing for heavenly contentment through our own prayers.

Each day the dead should be remembered prayerfully. This continued relationship of prayer is a comfort and a consolation. The celebration of the Mass for your departed loved one is an important expression of your continued affection for him or her, as the sacrifice of Christ in the Eucharist is the *first* and *best* prayer that can be offered to assist anyone, living or deceased.

You are encouraged to contact the parish office and speak with a secretary about the scheduling of Masses for your deceased loved one. Masses are scheduled on both weekdays and weekends.

INTRODUCTION

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted (Matthew 5:4).

The clergy, parishioners and staff of All Saints Parish offer our sincere condolences to you and your family during this very difficult time. Whether this passing into eternal life comes after a long life or an all-too-brief sojourn on this earth, the death of a loved one is always difficult.

Please know that our prayers are with you and that we are here to assist you. To help you with the process of planning the funeral Mass or blessing service, we have prepared this guide.

First Step – Typically, the family of the deceased contacts a funeral home first to coordinate the funeral arrangements. Then, the funeral director contacts the parish office to begin planning for the Mass of Christian Burial or blessing service. If you are not working with a funeral home, please contact the parish office at 724-287-1759.

Pastoral Care – Members of the Pastoral Care Team will meet with family members to help them plan for the funeral Mass.

Planning for the Mass - In this guide you will find suggested readings and a listing of songs from which you can choose. In this way, you can plan a liturgy that honors your loved one and also speaks to your own feelings, as well as those who knew the deceased.

Please feel free to ask questions as you choose the readings and music.

We encourage the family and friends of the deceased to participate in the Mass by serving as readers to proclaim the Old and New Testament readings.

Loved ones may also participate by serving as gift bearers to bring the gifts of bread and wine to the altar before the Eucharistic Prayer.

If you prefer, the presiding Priest and the Music Director will choose the readings and music. The parish can also provide a reader, if needed

(continued on next page)

INTRODUCTION *(continued)*

Blessing Service – For those who do not wish to have a Mass, a blessing service may be held (usually at the funeral home or cemetery). It includes prayers, Scripture readings and a homily. Please contact the Parish Office for more information regarding Blessing Services.

Eulogy – If a family member or friend wishes to give a eulogy, the preferred place and time is at the funeral home or at the funeral luncheon.

Funeral Luncheon – The Funeral Luncheon Ministry, if available, can coordinate a meal following the Funeral. Additional fees apply. Please contact the Parish Office for more information and/or to schedule a luncheon.



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LITURGICAL DONATIONS

*****Note:*** Liturgical fees are typically paid directly to your Funeral Home, who takes care of delivering your donation to the Parish.

In the event that you are not using a Funeral Home, the following suggested donations should be paid on or before your service. Payment may be dropped off at the St. Paul office, or given to the Pastoral Care Minister during planning.

All Saints Parish: \$175.00 (If Funeral Mass is held at one of our churches)
Cantor for Mass: \$75.00
Organist for Mass: \$100.00
*(if one person is the organist **and** cantor: \$175.00)*

Priest or Deacon: It is expected, but not mandated, that the family gives a donation to the Priest or Deacon who officiates the Blessing Service or Funeral Mass ranging from:
Blessing Service at Funeral Home (not a Mass): \$75.00-\$100.00
Funeral Mass: \$100.00-175.00

These donations are similar to the offertory donations that parishioners put in the collection basket every Sunday. The donations go into the Parish’s general fund to help cover the costs associated with daily operations.

Funeral Luncheons

The Funeral Luncheon Ministry, if available, can coordinate a meal following the Funeral. Additional fees apply. Please contact the Parish Office for more information and/or to schedule a luncheon.

SUGGESTED MUSIC FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

“Music is integral to the Funeral rites. It allows the community to express convictions and feelings that word alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift the mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love.

- The Order of Christian Funerals

Audio files for all suggested songs are available at www.AllSaintsMusicMinistry.com
The use of any music not listed below must be approved by the Music Director.

General Funeral Hymns:

Alleluia, Sing To Jesus
Abide With Me
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Behold The Lamb
Blest Are They
Center Of My Life
Draw Near
Eye Has Not Seen
Gift of Finest Wheat
Here I Am, Lord
Hosea (Come back to me...)
How Can I Keep From Singing
How Great Thou Art
I Am The Bread of Life
I Have Loved You
I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
In The Garden
Just A Closer Walk With Thee
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Lord of All Hopefulness
Taste and See
The Irish Blessing (May The Roads Rise Up...)
The Lord is My Shepherd
The Old Rugged Cross
On Eagle's Wings
One Bread, One Body
One Love, Released
Only This I Want
Open Our Eyes
Peace is Flowing Like A River
Prayer of St. Francis
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Quietly, Peacefully Let Me Rest In You
Jesus, Come To Us

Jesus, The Bread of Life
Just A Closer Walk With Thee
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Shepherd of Souls
Sing With All The Saints
Softly and Tenderly
Taste and See
We Have Been Told
We Remember
You Are Mine

Hymns To The Blessed Mother

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Immaculate Mary
Ave Maria (Schubert)
Ave Maria (Norbet)
Ave Maria (Bach/Gounod)

Patriotic Hymns:

Eternal Father, Strong To Save (Navy Hymn)
Battle Hymn of the Republic
America The Beautiful

Responsorial Psalms:

(sung between the First and Second Readings)

Psalm 19: *Lord, You have the words of everlasting life*
Psalm 23: *Shepherd Me, O God*
Psalm 23: *The Lord Is My Shepherd*
Psalm 27: *The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation*
Psalm 34: *Taste and See the goodness of the Lord*
Psalm 103: *The Lord is kind and merciful*
Psalm 122: *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

Song of Farewell

Song of Farewell (Sands) - *“May the choir of angels
come to greet you...”*
Song of Farewell (Hughes) - *May the angels lead you
into paradise”*

ALL SAINTS PARISH

The Order of Christian Funerals - Liturgy Planning Guide

(To help you complete this page, Suggested Readings, Psalms and Hymns are located on the following pages of this guide)

DECEASED’S NAME *(please print)*: _____

FUNERAL LITURGY INFORMATION:

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

- ☐ St. Andrew Church
☐ St. Conrad Church
☐ St. Michael The Archangel Church
☐ St. Paul Church
☐ St. Peter Church

GATHERING HYMN: _____

- Liturgy Of The Word -

FIRST READING (OLD TESTAMENT): _____

READ BY: _____

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: _____

SECOND READING (NEW TESTAMENT): _____

READ BY: _____

ALLELUIA: *(Chosen by Music Director)*

PETITIONS - READ BY: _____

PRESENTATION HYMN: _____

GIFT BEARERS: _____

(The bread and wine are presented to the priest for the celebration of the Eucharist. Family members or friends may be selected to make the presentation.)

- Liturgy of the Eucharist -

COMMUNION HYMN: _____

SONG OF FAREWELL: _____

RECESSIONAL HYMN: _____

Scripture Readings for the Funeral Liturgy

The selection of passages from the Bible is an important part of planning a funeral ceremony, as we want to turn to God's word for wisdom and comfort in this time of loss. The Word of God is at the heart of our Christian celebration of faith in this funeral rite in anticipation of the resurrection of the body.

To make this easier for the family, the Catholic Church has pre-selected a number of Biblical passages which are appropriate for the occasion of a funeral. Please look over these passages as part of your funeral preparations, and find those words which speak to your heart.

Instructions:

- 1. The first reading is taken from the *Old Testament*.
- 2. The second reading is taken from the *New Testament*.
- 3. The gospel reading is also taken from the *New Testament*, and it may be chosen either by the priest or by the family.
- 4. The family is invited to designate two persons to read the first two readings, one reading each.
- 5. The priest or an assisting deacon will proclaim the gospel.
- 6. When listing the reading of your choice on your worksheet, please write down the Chapter/verse that is in bold above the listed reading. (Example: **1 Corinthians 15:20-23**)

First Reading - (Old Testament)

Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel, took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, in as much 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.

Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if 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.

Suggested Readings -Second Reading (New Testament)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of Saint John.

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord

1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first letter of Saint John.

Beloved: We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The Word of the Lord

SUGGESTED READINGS - SECOND READING (NEW TESTAMENT)

2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

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

The Word of the Lord

Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord

SUGGESTED READINGS - FIRST READING (OLD TESTAMENT) *continued*

Job 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite 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.

Proverbs 31:10-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

A virtuous woman, who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her family trusts in her, and they will have no lack in gain. She does them good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant girls.

She considers a field and buys it, with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.

She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hand to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household is clothed in crimson. She makes herself coverings, her clothing is fine linen and purple.

Her family is known in the city gates, taking seats among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchants with sashes. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her family rises up and call her happy, her friends too, and they praise her: “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” Charm is deceitful, and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

SUGGESTED READINGS - FIRST READING (OLD TESTAMENT) *continued*

Wisdom 4:7-15
A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

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.

Lamentation 3:17-26
A reading from the book of Lamentations.

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

The Word of the Lord.

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

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.

SUGGESTED READINGS - SECOND READING (NEW TESTAMENT)

Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12
A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord

1 Corinthians 15:20-23
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the 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

1 Corinthians 15:51-57
A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

SUGGESTED READINGS - SECOND READING (NEW TESTAMENT)

Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord

Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons 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

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, 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.

SUGGESTED READINGS - FIRST READING (OLD TESTAMENT) *continued*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-12

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

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

A time to 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 sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life.

The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said: "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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

Second Reading - (New Testament)

Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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 children of Israel 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.

Revelation 14:13

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

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

Revelation 20:11-21:1

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

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 the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord

SUGGESTED READINGS - SECOND READING (NEW TESTAMENT)

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

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

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.

Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who 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.

Romans 5:5:17-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

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 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 the one man 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