

**PLANNING THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL  
ST. MARY OF THE MILLS CHURCH  
LAUREL, MD**

*"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,  
whoever believes in me will never die".  
(John, 11, 25-26)*

**INTRODUCTION**

A funeral is a time of sadness and mourning. But for Christians it is also a time to rejoice, for our Lord Jesus has won a great victory over death and made it possible for us to pass through to new and eternal life. This is our unwavering hope.

In a Catholic funeral we pray that our deceased brother or sister be admitted into paradise. We also derive strength from family and friends and lend our support to others in what can be a very difficult time. If you are making the final arrangements for yourself, you may be tempted to spare your friends and relatives the pain and expense of long, elaborate funeral ceremonies. But keep in mind that they may need this opportunity to express their loss and their support for each other. If you are making arrangements for the funeral of a relative or friend, your funeral director and your parish priest can help you choose the appropriate elements to make it a meaningful celebration of trust and hope in Jesus Christ.

**PRAYING FOR THE DEAD**

The Church has always encouraged prayer for its deceased members. This practice can be traced back to Old Testament times when the Maccabean brothers prayed for their fallen colleagues with a view to the resurrection of the body. Ever since the second century our greatest prayer, the Mass, has been offered for the repose of the souls of the dead.

Praying for our deceased brothers and sisters reflects our Christian conviction that death is not the end of our existence; it is a point of change, and prayer to our merciful God on behalf of the dead will benefit both us and them.

Our relationships with our friends and relatives do not dissolve with death. We honor them by giving their bodies a dignified Christian burial and we assist them in their journey to heaven by our prayers. Once they enter into the presence of God they pray for us in return with great power.

## **PREPARING FOR DEATH**

As followers of Jesus Christ, we often recall his teaching that our true homeland is in heaven and we are only pilgrims in this world. So we constantly prepare for our future life in heaven by the way we live as Christians now. At the onset of illness, the priest is called and the anointing of the sick is celebrated to receive any health God may wish to restore of mind, heart or body. When death threatens, one may receive holy communion, called "viaticum", which is food for the journey into everlasting life.

## **ELEMENTS OF THE FUNERAL**

The Catholic funeral has a number of elements which enable the Christian community to draw strength from one another and from God. When one of its members dies, the Church is prepared to offer prayers after the death, at a gathering in the presence of the body, a vigil or wake, the procession to the church, the funeral Mass or Liturgy of the Word, and the committal at the cemetery.

## **MEANING OF THE FUNERAL MASS**

For Catholics the celebration of the Mass is both the source and the summit of our faith. Hence, when we celebrate the Mass at the time of death it is seen as the fullest expression of our faith in God's abundant mercy, our hope in the resurrection of the dead and the love that God has for us which is not extinguished even by death.

Many of the minor elements of the Catholic funeral may be adapted or even eliminated to suit the needs of the family. The funeral Mass, however, occupies a place of particular importance and should not be omitted casually. The Eucharist is of central importance in our spiritual lives, it is also of central importance in our celebration of Christian death. At the last supper, on the night before he died for us, our Savior transformed bread and wine into his own body and blood which he offered to his Father as a sacrifice acceptable to him. This is the Eucharistic sacrifice he asked us to celebrate as a continuing memorial of his death and resurrection. It is a pledge of future glory which sustains us all through life and is especially significant as we face the death of someone dear to us. If some special consideration suggests that an alternative type of liturgy is more appropriate, a priest will be happy to discuss the details with the bereaved family. A eulogy, which is not focused on God, is better given at the wake and not at Mass.

## **PARTICIPATION**

Active involvement by everyone increases the power of our prayer, drawing us closer to God and each other. So it is important that music selected for the funeral be found in the books provided in the church for everyone to use.

## **CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

After the Lord Jesus surrendered his Spirit into the hands of his Father, his disciples carefully prepared his body according to the Jewish ritual and placed it in a new tomb. By the three days he spent there, he made holy the graves of all those who believe in him and by his rising again we are restored to eternal life. As his followers, we too place the dead bodies or cremated remains of our brothers and sisters in the earth with the expectation that God will raise them to life again with the glorified Christ. Our Christian burial places are blessed for the purpose of holding the body or cremated remains until the resurrection on the last day. Therefore, such a consecrated tomb is the most fitting place of rest we can give our beloved relatives and friends.

# ***A GUIDE TO PLANNING THE FUNERAL LITURGY***

## **BURIAL OR CREMATION?**

One of the initial decisions to make about a funeral is if there will be cremation or burial. The Church allows cremation as long as no disrespect is intended toward the body. If cremation is chosen, the Church would ask that the body still be present for the funeral Mass. As Catholic Christians, we hold a special reverence for the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit. If it is not possible to have the body present, then the funeral rite calls for the cremated remains to be present at the funeral Mass. If this is not possible, then the Church offers a “Memorial Mass” instead of the Mass of Christian Burial. The Mass of Christian Burial with a body or with the cremated remains is very similar in ritual and prayers.

A special note on the disposition of the cremated remains from the Order of Christian Funerals #417:

*“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 carry the ashes, the manner in which they are carried 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 in the home of a friend or relative of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. Whenever possible, appropriate means for recording with dignity the memory of the deceased should be adopted, such as a plaque or stone which records the name of the deceased.”*

## **THE VIGIL**

Once you have decided on cremation or burial, you then will need to think about if there will be a Vigil. The Vigil is generally held the night before the Mass of Christian Burial.

The Vigil for the deceased, commonly known as the Wake, is the initial rite celebrated by the Christian community at the time following death and before the funeral liturgy and the rite of committal. The Vigil usually takes place in a funeral home.

The celebration of the Vigil is the time for the Christian community to offer both prayer and consolation to the members of the bereaved family; to read and reflect on the Word of God; to call upon our God of Mercy through intercessory prayer; and to provide an opportunity for family and friends to recall the memory of their loved one. Other prayers, such as the Rosary, are also encouraged since they help us to reflect upon the Paschal Mystery and so lead us to a greater sense of hope at this time of grief.

A Vigil can have several different formats:

- A Scripture Vigil uses readings from the Bible and has special prayers that are said for the deceased and their family and friends.
- A Rosary Vigil is the recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary for the deceased. Frequently a Scripture and Rosary Vigil can be combined. The minister for the Vigil can be a priest, deacon, another parish minister, parishioner or even a family member or friend.

## **THE FUNERAL LITURGY**

### *Remarks of Remembrance*

At the beginning of the funeral liturgy, someone from the family or a friend may give brief words about the deceased. These remarks should be written in advance and read, rather than extemporaneous. The focus should be the biographical facts of the deceased, to help the congregation to pray for him or her during the funeral liturgy. Please limit these remarks to no more than three minutes and submit them in advance to the priest celebrant for approval.

### *The Rite At the Entrance to the Church*

Just as the Mass of Christian burial is ready to begin, the priest, the ministers and family members will gather around the casket or the cremated remains at entrance to the church. The priest will then bless the body or the cremated remains with holy water as a sign of baptism. Family members or friends will then cover the casket with the pall (the large white cloth used to remind us of our white baptismal garments.) You will need to decide who should place the pall. No pall is used for the cremated remains.

### *Christian Symbols*

The prayers and symbols used at the Reception of the Body at the Church emphasize the dignity of the Christian.

- The coffin is sprinkled with holy water to recall the pledge of eternal life received in the waters of baptism.
- The lighted Paschal Candle symbolizes the risen Christ's victory over sin.
- Other Christian symbols such as a Cross, may be placed on the coffin at this time.

### *Personal Emblems*

The family may also wish to carry other emblems, which reflect the deceased's interests and personality.

- Such personal emblems may be brought up during the offertory procession and placed on a side table.

### *Flags*

On occasion, relatives may wish to drape the coffin with the national or other appropriate flag. In such circumstances the following procedures apply:

- The coffin may be draped with an appropriate flag as it enters the Church.
- The flag is replaced by the white pall as the body is greeted.

The Opening Song of the Mass begins and during the song, the casket is brought to the front of the church. The family and pall bearers follow behind.

The Opening song is chosen from our parish worship aid, *Breaking Bread*. You may wish to choose the music or we can assist you. A guide for planning the music for the funeral liturgy is attached.

## **THE READINGS**

Once the priest has said the Opening Prayer, the Scripture readings begin. The options you may choose from are included in this packet.

- The first reading is from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament). During the Easter season, additional readings from the Acts of the Apostles or Revelation are an option.
- This is followed by a sung responsorial psalm. One frequently used at funerals is *The Lord is my Shepherd* - the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, though there are a variety of other choices.
- The second reading is from one of the New Testament letters.
- Then the priest or assisting deacon reads a passage from one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John). The priest or deacon will choose this reading.

You may want to ask a family member who is Catholic, to read the First and Second Readings. If there is no one who wishes to read, please let us know, and we will provide a reader for you.

## **THE HOMILY**

Following the Gospel reading, the celebrant will give a homily relating the life and faith of the deceased to the Gospel message and also to the promise of Christian Resurrection.

## **THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

Following the homily, prayers are said for the deceased and for their family members and friends. You may ask a friend or family member to read these prayers. Again, if there is no one who wishes to read, the priest or deacon will lead these intercessions. If there is something or someone that you would especially like to be included in these prayers, please be sure to submit it to the celebrant for approval before the day of the funeral liturgy.

## **THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS**

During this time, the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward. These will be transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus, which we will receive at Communion. Two people are needed to bring up the gifts. This is a good opportunity for children to be involved with the funeral liturgy. There is a song during this time, usually one we can all sing together, though sometimes another religious song may be used. As many as four gift bearers is possible.

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

This is an ancient prayer of the Church. The word Eucharist means thanksgiving and during this prayer we give thanks to God for His goodness. During a regular Sunday Mass, we kneel for the Eucharistic prayer. At a funeral liturgy, the priest will frequently invite everyone to either kneel or be seated since there may be people present who are not Catholic. The Eucharistic prayer concludes with the “Amen”.

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER AND COMMUNION**

Following the Lord’s Prayer is the Sign of Peace and then Communion. All practicing Catholics who are prepared to receive, are encouraged to come forward to receive Holy Communion. If someone is not in a position to receive Communion or if they are not Catholic, they may come forward to receive a blessing from the priest. To indicate this, they should simply cross their arms over their heart as they approach the priest. The song chosen for Communion should be one of the many “Eucharistic” songs from our music books.

Following Communion, a devotion to the Blessed Mother, like the *Ave Maria*, may also be sung.

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

On November 14, 1996, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the following guidelines on the reception of Holy Communion. The guidelines seek to remind all those who may attend Catholic liturgies of the present discipline of the Church with regard to the sharing of Eucharistic Communion.

### **For Catholics**

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.



### **For our fellow Christians**

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn. 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 Section 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 Section 3).

### **For those not receiving Holy Communion**

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

### **For non-Christians**

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

### **THE FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL**

The Mass ends with special prayers for the deceased and an incensing of the body or the cremated remains. At the conclusion of these prayers, the closing song begins and the casket or cremated remains are led out of church. Family and friends follow.

## **PROGRAMS**

A funeral program is not required, but many people like to provide one since it helps those attending the funeral follow along and participate more fully. The program also gives those who are paying their respects something to take with them as a memento. St. Mary of the Mills does not provide this service but will send you an Order of Service which will help you to create your own program. Local printers and copy centers can assist you with folding and copying services.

### **SUGGESTED HONORARIUM FOR THE CHURCH**

<b>Funeral Mass and Vigil Service</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Funeral Mass Only</b>	<b>\$200</b>

### **MUSICIAN FEES**

<b>Cantor/Soloist</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>Accompanist</b>	<b>\$200</b>

*\*If writing a check, they should be made out directly to each musician  
and a separate check made out to St. Mary of the Mills.*

## **OLD TESTAMENT SELECTIONS (First Reading)**

### **#1. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46**

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel, then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord

### **#2. Job 19:1, 23-27**

A reading from the book of Job

Then Job answered and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: that with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my 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.

### **#3. Wisdom 3:1-9 or 3:1-6, 9**

#### **[Long Form]**

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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

**[Short Form]**

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

The Word of the Lord.

**#4. Wisdom 4:7-14**

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.

**#5. Isaiah 25: 6. 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.

## **#6. Lamentations 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.

## **#7. Daniel 12:1-3**

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord: "At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

The Word of the Lord.

**1ST READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT**  
*(For Use During The Easter Season)*

**#1. Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 or 10:34-36, 42-43**

**[Long Form]**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and (in) Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised (on) the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

**[Short Form]**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, he commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

## **#2. 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.

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

The Word of the Lord.

## **#4. Revelation 21:1-5. 6-7**

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.

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING (Second Reading)**

### **#1. Romans 5:1-11**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

### **#2. Romans 5:17-21**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person 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.



### **#3. Romans 6:3-9 or 6:3-4, 8-9**

#### **[Long Form]**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized 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.

#### **[Short Form]**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

#### **#4. Romans 8:14-23**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

#### **#5. Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

## **#6. Romans 14:7-9, 10-12**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So (then) each of us shall give an account of himself (to God).

The Word of the Lord.

## **#7. 1 Corinthians 15:20-24, 25-28 or 15:20-23**

### **[Long Form]**

A reading from the first letter of St. 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 human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. 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, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. 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.

### **[Short Form]**

A reading from the first letter of St. 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 human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

## **#8. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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

The Word of the Lord.

## **#9. 2 Corinthians 4: 14-5:1**

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

The Word of the Lord.

## **#10. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

A reading from the second letter of St. 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. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

### **#11. Philippians 3:20-21**

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

The Word of the Lord.

### **#12. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

The Word of the Lord.

### **#13. 2 Timothy 2:8-13**

A reading from the second letter of St. 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.

**#14. 1 John 3:1-2**

A reading from the first letter of St. John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

**#15. 1 John 3:14-16**

A reading from the first letter of St. 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.

## **GOSPEL READING SELECTIONS**

### **#1. Matthew 5:1-12a**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **#2. Matthew 11:25-30**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, 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 your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **#3. Matthew 25:1-13**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **#4. Matthew 25:31-46**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, 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.



**#5. Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 or 15:33-39**

**[Long Form]**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**[Short Form]**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **#6. Luke 7:11-17**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **#7. Luke 12:35-40**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told 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.

## **#8. Luke 23:33, 39-43**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him 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 Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**#9. Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-6 or 23:44-49**

**[Long Form]**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt." When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**[Short Form]**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt." When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## #10. Luke 24:13-35 or 24:13-16, 28-35

### [Long Form]

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**[Short Form]**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**#11. John 5: 24-29**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **#12. John 6:37-40**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **#13. John 6:51-58**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus told the crowd: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**#14. John 11:17-27 or 11:21-27**

**[Long Form]**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.

**[Short Form]**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **#15. John 11:32-45**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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 seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **#16. John 12:23-28 or 12:23-26**

#### **[Long Form]**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus told his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

The Gospel of the Lord.



**[Short Form]**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**#17. John 14:1-6**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**#18. John 17:24-26**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

### **General Intercessions For Adults**

#### **Option A**

**Priest:** Brothers & 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**

Our response will be "Lord Hear our Prayer."

In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer"

Our brother/sister N. was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer"

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer"

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

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer"

The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer"

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister N. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer"

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

## **Option B**

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

### **Reader**

Our response will be "Lord Hear Our Prayer."

For N. 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 brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer"

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer"

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer"

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

## General Intercessions For a Baptized Child

### Option A

**Priest:** Jesus is the Son of God and the pattern for our own creation. His promise is that one day we shall truly be like him. With our hope founded on that promise, we pray:

#### **Reader**

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

That God will receive our praise and thanksgiving for the life of N. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

That God will bring to completion N.'s baptism into Christ. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

That God will lead N. from death to life. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

That all of us, N.'s family and friends, may be comforted in our grief. We pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

That God will grant release to those who suffer. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

That God will grant peace to all who have died in the faith of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

That one day we may all share in the banquet of the Lord, praising God for victory over death. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

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

## **Option B**

**Priest:** The Lord Jesus is the lover of his people and our only sure hope. Let us ask him to deepen our faith and sustain us in this dark hour.

### **Reader**

Our response will be "Lord here our prayer."

You became a little child for our sake, and learned obedience through suffering. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

You welcome children, promising them your kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

You comforted those who mourn the loss of children and friends. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

You took upon yourself the suffering and death of us all. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

You promised to raise up those who believe in you just as you were raised up in glory by the Father. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

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

## General Intercessions for a Deceased (Unbaptized) Child

### Option A

**Priest:** The Lord Jesus is the lover of his people and our only sure hope. Let us ask him to deepen our faith and sustain us in this dark hour.

#### **Reader**

Our response will be "Lord here our prayer."

Let us pray for N., his/her family and friends, and for all God's people. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

For N., child of God and heir to the kingdom, that he/she be held securely in God's loving embrace now and for all eternity. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

For N.'s family, especially his/her mother and father [his/her brother(s) and sister(s)], that they feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

For N.'s friends, those who played with him/her and those who cared for him/her, that they be consoled in their loss and strengthened in their love for one another. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

For all parents who grieve over the death of their children, that they be comforted in the knowledge that their children dwell with God. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

For children who have died of hunger and disease, that these little ones be seated close to the Lord as his heavenly table. Let us pray to the Lord. "Lord Hear our Prayer."

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

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

## **PLANNING MUSIC FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY**

***This planning sheet is intended to help you in planning the music for your loved one's funeral liturgy.***

***Please note that many songs are listed in more than one category, as they may be appropriate in several places during the mass. Please choose only one selection from each category.***

***If you have any questions or need some help with the selections, please contact  
Gina Marie Iampieri,  
(301) 725-3080, ext. 212  
GMIampieri@stmaryofthemills.org***

### **ENTRANCE HYMN/SONG**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God  
Amazing Grace  
For All The Saints  
Here I Am Lord  
Hosea  
I Heard the Voice of Jesus  
I Know That My Redeemer Lives  
Lift High the Cross  
Lord of All Hopefulness  
O God Our Help in Ages Past  
The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*The responsorial psalm is usually sung, and is led by the cantor.*

Ps. 23: The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

Ps. 25: To you O Lord, I lift my soul,  
to you I lift my soul.

Ps. 27: The Lord is my light and my  
salvation.

Ps. 32: Taste and see the goodness of  
the Lord.

Ps. 63: My soul is thirsting for you,  
O Lord, my God.

Ps. 103: The Lord is kind and  
merciful.

### **PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS**

Be Not Afraid  
Eye Has Not Seen  
Here I Am Lord  
Hold Me In Life  
Hosea  
How Can I Keep From Singing  
How Great Thou Art  
How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place  
I Have Loved You  
Jerusalem My Happy Home  
On Eagle's Wings  
O God You Search Me  
Panis Angelicus  
Prayer of St. Francis  
Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
Softly and Tenderly  
The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
The Lord Is My Hope

### **COMMUNION**

Center of My Life  
Gift of Finest Wheat  
How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place  
I Am the Bread of Life  
I Have Loved You  
I Received the Living God  
Keep In Mind  
Lord You Have Come  
On Eagle's Wings

The Supper of the Lord  
We Remember

**MARIAN DEVOTION (OPTIONAL)**

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

**RECESSIONAL HYMN/SONG**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus  
Amazing Grace  
Crown Him With Many Crowns  
Faith of Our Fathers  
For All The Saints  
Holy God We Praise Thy Name  
I Know That My Redeemer Lives  
In the Day of the Lord  
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee  
Lead Me Lord

Lift High the Cross  
Lord of All Hopefulness  
Love Divine All Loves Excelling  
O God Our Help In Ages Past  
Out of Darkness  
Soon and Very Soon  
The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
The Strife Is O'er  
There's A Wideness in God's Mercy  
We Will Rise Again

**St. Mary of the Mills will provide musicians that are trained and experienced in Catholic liturgy to minister at funeral masses. No outside musicians will be permitted.**

**Only sacred music will be permitted during the funeral liturgy.**

**Please note that during the season of Lent we refrain from using music that uses the word, "Alleluia." Because of this, some musical choices may not be permitted during the Lenten season.**



# FUNERAL LITURGY PLANNING CHECKLIST

Please return completed form to  
*Gina Marie Iampieri, Director of Music & Liturgy*  
*Phone (301) 725-3080, ext. 212*  
*Fax (301) 725-2409*  
[GMiampieri@stmaryofthemills.org](mailto:GMiampieri@stmaryofthemills.org)

Funeral Liturgy for:
Date:
Time:

Will there be a Vigil? What type?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who will be the pallbearers?

*Often family members or friends are honored to be asked. Be sure to discuss your selection with the funeral director.*

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

Who will place the pall on the casket?

*(This usually takes two to four people).*

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

Which readings have you selected?

First Reading (OT) \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm  
*(usually led by cantor)* \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading (NT) \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel Reading  
*(Will be chosen by the priest or deacon)* \_\_\_\_\_

Who will do the readings?

*(Please let us know if you wish for us to provide readers.)*

First Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm \_\_\_\_\_  
*(only if recited)*

Second Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Prayers of the Faithful \_\_\_\_\_

Are there special intentions you would like included in the Prayers of the Faithful?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who will bring up the gifts?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3) *(optional)*
- 4) *(optional)*

Will anyone be offering Remarks of Remembrance?

**\*Please see page 5 for guidelines.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Will there be a service at the cemetery?

\_\_\_\_\_

Will there be a reception to follow?

\_\_\_\_\_

## MUSIC SELECTIONS

Which songs would you like to include?

Entrance Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

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

Preparation of Gifts \_\_\_\_\_

Communion \_\_\_\_\_

Marian Devotion \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Optional)*

*The Song of Farewell is usually sung as part of the Final Commendation.*

Recessional Hymn \_\_\_\_\_