



Funeral Preparation Guide

Saint Michael Parish

312 N. Broad Street

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Kalida, OH 45853

419-532-3474

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Introduction

The Catholic Church believes that the death of a family member or friend is a sacred time, an occasion to draw closer to God in prayer. The Funeral Rites of the Church are an opportunity to offer prayers for the deceased, while finding hope and strength in the gift of eternal life God offers us.

We are glad you have chosen Saint Michael Parish for this Funeral Mass. To make the funeral Mass as meaningful as possible, the funeral Mass planning should be completed at least 24 hours prior to the Funeral Mass. Typically, a member of the parish bereavement team will meet with the family to assist in planning the funeral Mass. Please call the parish office (419-532-3474) with any questions. The Pastor (Father Philip Smith) can be reached most easily by email: psmith@toledodiocese.org

The death of a close family member can cause many strong emotions and be a time filled with much stress. We want to support you during this difficult time. Know of the prayers of our parish clergy and their desire to provide spiritual support for you during these challenging days.

Prayers for Mourners

**Lord God,
you are attentive to the voice of our pleading.
Let us find in your Son
comfort in our sadness,
certainty in our doubt,
and courage to live through this hour.
Make our faith strong
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

**Lord,
(Name) is gone now from this earthly dwelling,
and has left behind those who mourn his/her absence.
Grant that as we grieve for our brother/sister
we may hold his/her memory dear
and live in hope of the eternal kingdom
where you will bring us together again.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Programs and Greeters

The parish can provide programs for the funeral Mass with hymn numbers, readings, names of those serving in liturgical roles. Pictures of the deceased should be emailed to Leslie Stechschulte (stmichaelskalida@gmail.com) at least 24 hours prior to the funeral Mass for inclusion in the program. A picture can also be emailed to Leslie for display on our electronic parish signboard on North Broad Street the day of the funeral. If requested, the parish can provide greeters to assist with distribution of programs at the funeral Mass.

Church Basement Usage

The church basement is typically available for funeral luncheons if not previously booked for another event. Reservation of the church basement can be coordinated by the funeral director when setting the time for the funeral Mass. Families are responsible for contracting with their own caterer. If requested, parish volunteers can assist with the set-up and serving of the luncheon food purchased by the family from a caterer. A group of parish volunteers also provides desserts for funeral luncheons, if requested. Volunteers can be requested by the family when meeting with the bereavement team member.

Best Practices

As a best practice, eulogies by family members/friends should be offered at the funeral home during visitation hours, at the cemetery, or during a luncheon following the funeral Mass rather than during the funeral Mass. Similarly, the playing of recorded, secular music is best at the funeral home or at the luncheon rather than in church during the funeral Mass when liturgical hymns are most appropriate.

Memorial Gifts

Families honoring the commitment of their deceased loved one to Saint Michael Parish through memorial gifts or donations in lieu of flowers are encouraged to consider directing donations to the Building Improvement Fund. Donations to other specific parish ministries are also welcomed and can be arranged by the parish office.

Fees

Funeral Masses will be celebrated for all parishioners of Saint Michael Parish, Catholics within our parish boundaries, and other persons with ties to our parish. It is customary to make an offering to the Church to help cover the costs of the musician, maintenance staff, and the use of the church building. These donations are usually included in the funeral home fees and paid directly by the funeral home to the parish. An honorarium to the priest is welcomed, but not required. A funeral Mass will be celebrated for those unable to make a donation.

Annual November All Souls Mass

Each year, Saint Michael Parish invites families of parishioners who have died during the past year to a special memorial parish Memorial Mass in early November. Invitations will be sent in early October to the family contact.

Outline of a Catholic Funeral Mass

Introductory Rites

- Placing of the Body in the Church
- Sprinkling Rite and Placing of the Pall
(Pall placed by immediate family members)
- Hymn and Entrance of Family

Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading – Old Testament *(Typically, read by family member/friend)*
- Psalm Response *(Typically, read by family member/friend)*
- Second Reading – New Testament *(Typically, read by family member/friend)*
- Gospel
- Homily
- Intercessions *(Typically, read by family member/friend)*

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Hymn during the Preparation of the Altar *(bread/wine brought forward by family)*
- Preparation of the Altar
- Eucharistic Prayer

Communion Rite

- Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Communion Hymn

Concluding Rite

- Final Commendation/Commendation Song
- Hymn

Procession to Cemetery

Family/Friend Participation in Liturgy

The family is invited to carry out several roles in the Funeral Mass.

Placing of the Pall

Typically, immediate family - 2 to 8 people.

The large white funeral pall reminds us of the garment given at baptism symbolizing our life in Christ. At the reception of the body, the pall is draped over the casket following the blessing with holy water.

Names of those assisting with placing of the pall at the beginning of the Funeral Mass:

Readers

These individuals will proclaim God's Word during the Funeral Mass. If there are no family members or friends to do so, the parish will provide someone to read.

Name of Reader for the First Reading:

Name of the Reader for the Responsorial Psalm:

Name of Reader for the Second Reading:

Name of the Reader for the General Intercessions (page 60):

Gift Bearers

Name(s) family members or friends to carry up the bread and wine during the Offertory:

(1-4 people)

Altar Servers and Communion Distributors

The parish provides Altar Servers and Communion Distributors unless there are family members or friends of the deceased who are trained and willing to serve in these roles.

Name(s) of any Altar Servers (1-3 people):

Name(s) of any Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (1-2 people):

Thoughts and Memories

These two pages should be filled out by the family and/or friends of the deceased. This information will help the priest/deacon make the funeral homily more personable.

Name of Deceased:

Memories from (family members and friends completing this form):

What kind of person was the deceased? What are your favorite memories of him/her?

Did the deceased speak of childhood memories or have favorite family memories from the past?

Did the deceased have any special hobbies or interests?

Any volunteer work the deceased was involved in?

How did faith and the Church have a role in the life of the deceased?

Did the deceased have any special friends, sayings, readings, songs, favorite quotes, etc.?

How do you think your loved one would want to be remembered and how will your family remember him/her?

Anything else?



MUSIC SELECTIONS FOR FUNERAL LITURGIES

The music of a funeral Mass is prayerful and sacred. Hymns for the funeral Mass are chosen by the funeral musician provided by the parish. If the family has any preferred liturgical hymns for use during the Funeral Mass, please share them during the funeral planning meeting and our musicians will do their best to accommodate them.

While secular or recorded songs are not appropriate for use in Church during Mass, such songs can easily be played at the funeral home or at the funeral luncheon.

ENTRANCE/RECESSIONAL HYMNS

Be Not Afraid
Blest Be the Lord
City of God
Come Christians, Join to Sing (Not sung during Lent)
For You are My God
Faith of Our Fathers
Glory & Praise to Our God
How Great Thou Art
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
O Bless the Lord
On Eagles' Wings
Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens
Sing A New Song
Sing to the Mountains
The Strife is O'er (Not sung during Lent)

OFFERTORY HYMNS

Blest Are They
Eye Has Not Seen
Fill My Cup
Here I Am Lord
Hosea
I Have Loved You
Like A Shepherd
Seed Scattered and Sown
Servant Song
We Remember
You Are Mine
You Are Near

COMMUNION HYMNS

Behold the Lamb
Gift of Finest Wheat
I Am the Living Bread
I Am the Bread of Life
One Bread, One Body
Seed, Scattered and Sown
Taste and See
The Supper of the Lord
This Bread that We Share
To Be Your Bread

COMMUNION MEDITATION HYMNS

Amazing Grace
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

BIBLICAL READINGS FOR FUNERAL LITURGIES

The Catholic Church offers a wide selection of Biblical Readings for use during a Funeral Mass. If the family has no preference on readings, the standard readings used at our parish are:

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10
John 14:1-6

If the family would like, they can choose readings from the options on the following pages. One reading from each category is needed:

O = Old Testament (First Reading)
Pages 10-18

P = Responsorial Psalm
Pages 19-21

N = New Testament (Second Reading)
Pages 22-39

G = Gospel
Pages 40-59

O-1

Job 19: 1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

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

O-2

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.

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

O-3

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

O-4

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

O-5

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 the 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

O-6

Daniel 12: 1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

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

O-7

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

O-8

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-14

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 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. I recognized that whatever God does will endure forever; there is no adding to it, or taking from it. Thus has God done that he may be revered.

The Word of the Lord

O-9

Isaiah 55 6-12

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts. For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats. So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. Yes, in joy you shall depart, in peace you shall be brought back. Mountains and hills shall break out in song before you, and all the trees of the countryside shall clap their hands.

The Word of the Lord

P-1

Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

The Choir sings the response

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

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
in verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul. **R/.**

Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage. **R/.**

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. **R/.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come. **R/.**

P-2

Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21

The Choir sings the response

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

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your kindness are from of old.

In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD. **R/.**

Relieve the troubles of my heart;
And bring me out of my distress.

Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins. **R/.**

Preserve my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
Because I wait for you, O LORD. **R/.**

P-3

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14

The Choir sings the response

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid? **R/.**

One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life.

That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple. **R/.**

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.

Your presence, O LORD, I seek.
Hide not your face from me. **R/.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. **R/.**

N-1

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words: "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

N-2

Romans 5: 5-11

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. 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

N-3

Romans 5: 17-21

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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

N-4

Romans 6: 3-9

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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

N-5

Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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

N-6

Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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

N-7

Romans 14: 7-9, 10b-12

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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. 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

N-8

I Corinthians 15:20-23

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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

N-9

I Corinthians 15: 51-57

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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

N-10

II Corinthians 4: 14-5:1

A reading from the Second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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

N-11

II Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

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

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

N-12

Philippians 3: 20-21

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

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

N-13

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

N-14

II Timothy 2: 8-13

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

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

N-15

I John 3: 1-2

A Reading from the First Letter of John

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

N-16

I John 3: 14-16

A reading from the First Letter of John

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. 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 and sisters.

The Word of the Lord

N-17

Revelation 14: 13

A reading from the book of Revelation

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let" them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord

N-19

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

A reading from the book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. 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

G-1

Matthew 5: 1-12a

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

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

The Gospel of the Lord

G-2

Matthew 11: 25-30

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: 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 yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.

The Gospel of the Lord

G-3

Matthew 25: 1-13

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 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 bride groom 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

G-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 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord

G-5

Mark 15: 33-39

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

G-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

G-7

Luke 12:35-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord

G-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 Jesus and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the 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

G-9

Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53

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.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

The Gospel of the Lord

G-10

Luke 24: 13-16, 28-35

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Now that very day the first day of the week two of the disciples 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

G-11

John 5: 24-29

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to the Jews: "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 his Son the possession of life in himself and he gave him 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 will 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

G-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

G-13

John 6:51-58

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus said to 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

G-14

John 11: 17-27

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, 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

G-15 [short form]

John 12: 23-6

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

G-15 [long form]

John 12: 23-28

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 Gospel of the Lord

G-16

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

G-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

G-18

John 17: 24-26

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: Father, my disciples 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

G-19

John 19: 17-18, 25-30

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus carrying the cross himself went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head he handed over the spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord

Universal Prayer

For all who have gathered here to worship in faith. May we be made one in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

That we may have a deep respect for human life. May the Lord help us use well the gift of life we have received. We pray to the Lord.

For the poor and all those who are suffering. May they come to know the goodness and power of God. We pray to the Lord.

For those who will die today, alone, unnoticed and unmourned. May they experience the Lord's Light and Love. We pray to the Lord.

**For the consolation of the family and friends of _____.
May they experience the Love and Support of the Lord and others. We pray to the Lord.**

For _____ and all who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again. May they see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.