



*Mass of
Christian Burial*

Saint Ferdinand Parish, Cranberry Township, Pa.

Saint Gregory Parish, Zelienople, Pa.

Holy Redeemer Parish, Ellwood City, Pa.

***The Saint Ferdinand Parish, Saint Gregory Parish,
and Holy Redeemer Parish communities
extend our sympathy to you in this time of grief.***

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It's through the Funeral Liturgy that the Church can best reach out to those who've lost a loved one. We provide this guide book with the invitation for you to participate in the planning of this Funeral Liturgy by choosing Bible passages and suggesting the music that might be used.

We encourage you to ask 1-2 members of the family or friends to serve as Reader/s, proclaiming the Scripture readings at the Funeral.

Please make your selections from the numbered readings (*Old Testament and New Testament - both from the Letters and the Gospels*). You may suggest a Gospel reading. Also, you may choose from the songs listed following the Reading options. Please complete the attached selection sheet and give it to the Funeral Director OR call the office of the parish as soon as you're able. This booklet is yours to keep.

We certainly understand that this is a difficult time. If you would like our assistance in planning the Funeral Liturgy, we will be happy to assist you and your family.



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Old Testament Readings

(Select one Old Testament Reading.)

Reading OT #1

Job 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

Job answered and said: "Oh, 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.

Old Testament Readings
(Select one Old Testament Reading.)

Reading OT #2

Wisdom 3: 1- 9

[Short form Wis. 3: 1-6, 9]

[For short form, omit the passage in brackets.]

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 from us was thought an affliction, and their going 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. *[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 us, His holy ones, and His care is with His elect.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Readings
(Select one Old Testament Reading.)

Reading OT # 3

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.

Old Testament Readings
(Select one Old Testament Reading.)

Reading OT #4

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.

Old Testament Readings
(Select one Old Testament Reading.)

Reading OT #5

Proverbs 31:10-23: 30, 31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night and distributes food to her household. She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings—at night, her lamp is undimmed.

She puts her hands to the distaff and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing. Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land.

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

The Word of the Lord.

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The New Testament Letters

(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT #6

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 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.

New Testament Readings
(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT #7

Romans 6: 3-5, 8-9

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Are you unaware that we who are baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into His 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.

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.

New Testament Readings
(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT #8

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 anticipation 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.

New Testament Readings
(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT #9

Romans 8:31-35, 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings
(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT #10

Romans 14: 7-9, 10B—12

A reading from the letter of 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.

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.

Reading NT #11

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Readings

(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT #12

1 Corinthians 15: 20-23

A reading from the first letter of 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.

Reading NT #13

1 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.

New Testament Readings

(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT #14

2 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.

New Testament Readings
(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT #15

2 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 we did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

Reading NT #16

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.

New Testament Readings
(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT #17

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

A reading from the 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.

New Testament Readings
(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT #18

1 John 3: 1-2

A reading from the first letter of Saint 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.

Reading NT #19

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.

New Testament Readings
(Select one Reading from the New Testament Letters.)

Reading NT # 20

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.

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The Gospel Readings

(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G #21

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.

Gospel Readings

(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G #22

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.

Gospel Readings

(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G # 23

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 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, 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.

Gospel Readings
(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G # 24

Matthew 25:31-46
Shorter form *Matthew 25: 31-40*

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. 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 of mine, you did for me.'

["Then He will say to those on His left, 'Away from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."]

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G # 25

Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6
Short Form—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."

[When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome brought 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 are seeking 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.

Gospel Readings

(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G #26

Luke 7: 11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and His disciples and large crowd followed 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.

Gospel Readings
(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G #27

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 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.

Gospel Readings

(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G # 28

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.

Gospel Readings
(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G # 29

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 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 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.

Gospel Readings

(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G # 30

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.

Gospel Readings
(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G # 31

John 11:17-21

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.

Gospel Readings
(You may recommend one Gospel reading.)

Gospel Reading G #32

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Reading G # 33

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.

Music Ministry and Christian Funerals

SELECTIONS OF MUSIC: When used in the context of the Liturgy, music becomes the sung prayer of the assembled community. Music at Masses of Christian Burial, therefore, must be of a sacred nature. It must be able to be sung by the congregation, and it should bring the assembly to a better understanding of God's loving presence.

Vocal/Instrumental solos may be incorporated into the celebration of a Funeral Mass, but it should not overshadow or replace the singing of the congregation.

MUSIC MINISTERS: The respective Directors of Music Provide the music at all Liturgies of Christian Burial at our three churches of Saint Ferdinand Parish, Saint Gregory Parish, and Holy Redeemer Parish. A parish cantor is also assigned to sing at all Funeral Liturgies.

We welcome the presence of those who wish to contribute to the music ministry at a Funeral Mass in collaboration with *(but not in place of)* our parish music ministers. If the family requests a specific parish cantor, or an outside vocalist or instrumentalist, they should contact the Director of Music as soon as possible. Such participation is always at the discretion of the Director of Music.

Communicating your wishes as soon as possible allows us to meet as many of your song and music wishes as possible. **Soloists will NOT be permitted to sing or play — and special requests regarding music cannot be honored — unless arrangements have been made directly with the respective parish Music Director prior to the day of the Funeral Liturgy.** Such requests must be made directly to the Music Director by the person making funeral arrangements—or be communicated by the Funeral Home.

SELECTING MUSIC: Following is a list of Songs and Music used for the Liturgy of Christian Burial. Please feel free to contact the Music Director with any questions or to ask for help in selecting appropriate music. **The best way to plan music for any Liturgy is to select the scripture readings first, and then make musical selections based on the themes and ideas expressed in those texts.** Feel free to select music from this list that is meaningful to you and your loved ones.

Requests for music not listed on these pages **MUST** be approved by the Director of Music **PRIOR** to the celebration of the Funeral Mass.

Our staff is indeed available to assist you or to plan the Liturgy for you. Also, please do not feel it necessary to choose a song for each of the options.

Finally, the following is NOT an exhaustive list of available songs permitted for the Liturgy of Christian Burial. It does represent the most often requested music. Please contact the Music Director if you would like a song that is not contained in the following lists.

Funeral Songs

The Directors of Music for each of our three parishes will do their best to accommodate your selections.

**You may make selections from these suggested songs.
Please write your songs on the funeral planning sheet.**

Entrance Songs

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
We Walk by Faith
Christ, Be our Light
For All the Saints
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Psalms

Psalm 16: Shelter Me, O God
Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God
Psalm 27: The Lord Is My Light
Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful
Psalm 116: The Name of God
Psalm 131: In You, O Lord, I Have Found My Peace

Songs for the Presentation of the Bread and Wine

Amazing Grace
Blest are They
Be Not Afraid
Eye has Not Seen
How Can I Keep from Singing?
We Shall Rise Again
We Walk by Faith

Songs for Holy Communion

I am the Bread of Life	Eye has Not Seen
One Bread, One Body	Now We Remain
Eat the Bread, Drink this Cup	Healer of Our Every Ill
Gift of Finest Wheat	Unless a Grain of Wheat
At that First Eucharist	We Remember
Song of the Body of Christ	You are Mine

Meditation Songs

Ave Maria

Prayer of Saint Francis

At Holy Redeemer Parish—Dell' Aurora

Closing Songs

Sing with All the Saints in Glory	How Great Thou Art
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	Soon and Very Soon
Now Thank We All Our God	Take Me Home

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Guidelines for Eulogies

If someone would like to offer a Eulogy for the deceased person, we ask that you please follow these guidelines:

- Select **one** person to give the Eulogy.
- Please keep the talk brief, 4-5 minutes at most.
- Please only use language and stories that are appropriate for a church service.
- **** Please note that the priest **may** wish to review the eulogy before the day of the funeral.

If more than one person wants to share memories, we ask that you encourage family and friends to share stories at the funeral home OR at the funeral luncheon following the Mass.

Prayers to Comfort You

We hope that the following prayers bring you comfort during your time of grief.

God of faithfulness, in your wisdom you have called your servant N. from this world. Release them from the bonds of sin. Welcome them into your presence so that they may enjoy eternal light and peace and be raised up in glory with your saints. Amen.



God of loving kindness, listen favorably to our prayers. Strengthen our belief that your Son, Jesus Christ, has been raised from the dead, and give us hope that your servant N. will also rise again. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Into your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brother/sister N. In this life you embraced them with your tender love. Deliver them now from every evil, and lead them to enter eternal rest. The old order has passed away. Welcome them into paradise where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain, but only the fullness of peace and joy with your Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.



Loving God, to whom mercy and forgiveness belong, hear our prayers on behalf of your servant N., whom you have called from this world. Because they put their hope and trust in you, command that they be carried safely home to heaven and come to enjoy your eternal reward. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



God of mercy, look kindly on your servant N. who has set down the burden of his/her years. As he/she served you faithfully throughout his/her life may you give him/her the fullness of your peace and joy. We give thanks for the long life of N., now caught up in your eternal love. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus who is our risen Lord now and forever. Amen.



After a long illness

God of deliverance, you called our brother/sister N. to serve you in weakness and pain, and gave them the grace of sharing the Cross of Jesus your Son. Reward their patience and forbearance, and grant them fullness of Jesus' victory over death. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



For a young person

Lord, your wisdom governs the length of our days. We mourn the loss of N., whose life has passed so quickly. We entrust them into your heavenly dwelling. Grant them the happiness of everlasting youth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For one who died by suicide

Almighty God and Father of all, you strengthen us by the mystery of the Cross and with the hope of your Son's Resurrection. Have mercy on our brother/sister N. Forgive their sins, and grant them peace. May we who mourn this sudden death be comforted and consoled by your power and protection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



For one who died accidentally or violently

Lord, our God, you are always faithful and quick to show mercy. Our brother/sister N. was suddenly [and violently] taken from us. Come swiftly to their aid, have mercy on them, and comfort their family and friends by the power and protection of the Cross. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Lord, N. is gone now from this earthly dwelling, and has left behind those who mourn their absence. Grant that as we grieve for them we may hold their memory dear and live in hope of the eternal kingdom where you will bring us together again. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, you willingly gave yourself up to death, so that all might be saved and pass from death to life. We humbly ask you to comfort your servants in this grief and to receive N. into the arms of your mercy.

You alone are the Holy One, you are mercy itself. By dying you unlocked the gates of life for all who believe in you. Forgive N. their sins, and grant them a place of happiness, light and peace in the kingdom of your glory forever and ever. Amen.



Lord our God, the death of our brother/sister N. recalls our human condition and the brevity of our lives on earth. But for those who believe in your love, death is not the end nor does it destroy the bonds that you forge in our lives. We share the faith of your Son's disciples and the hope of the children of God. Bring the light of the Lord's Resurrection to this time of sadness as we pray for N. and for all those who love them. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Lord bless you and your loved one.