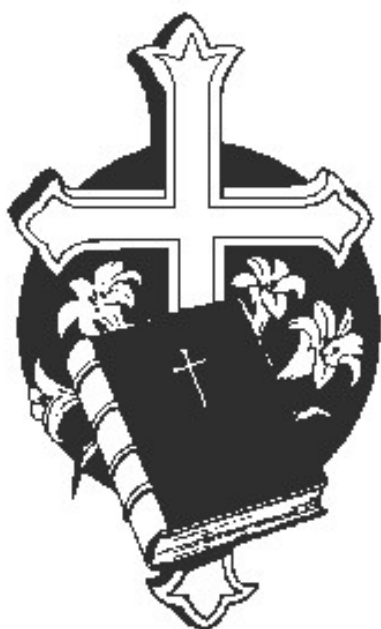




*Lord,
for your
faithful
people,
life is
changed
not ended.*

St. Rose of Lima Church
16 McLean Street
Freehold, NJ

FUNERAL LITURGY PLANNING BOOK

We Christians find bright rays of hope even in the midst of our darkest times. We believe that death is not only an end, but also a beginning. Our loved one has passed from this present, temporary life to a perfect, permanent one. He or she who knew God in faith on earth now sees the Lord face-to-face in heaven. While death separates us, we will one day be reunited with all those we love in a “dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling in the heavens, not made by hands but to last forever” (2Corinthians 5:1).

When a Catholic dies, the Church celebrates a particular set of liturgical rites to help us through the immediate days of our grieving, to express our belief in eternal life, and to help us pray for the one who has died. These rites are organized into what is called the *Order of Christian Funerals*, which contains all the liturgical prayers and scripture readings for use following the death of a member of the Church. The *Order* provides prayers for loved ones as they gather for the funeral Mass. This booklet will help you bring order to these days of hard transition and deep sorrow by helping you take part in planning the Funeral Mass for your loved one.

St. Rose of Lima Church

Dear Friends,

We, at St. Rose of Lima Parish, extend our deepest sympathy to you and your family in this time of grief and loss. Please be assured that you and your family will be remembered in our prayers.

When family members and friends are faced with the death of a loved one there are often questions, and perhaps some confusion, about what needs to be done to prepare for the Rite of Christian Burial. It is hoped that this booklet will help to answer some of those questions about preparing for and taking part in the Funeral Liturgy.

The Church recommends that the family be involved in planning the funeral rites, placing the pall on the casket, choosing Readings, bringing up the gifts for the Offertory, and selecting hymns. It has been our experience that family and friends who participate in the planning, and then the active participation of the ceremony, the greater will be God's gift of consolation.

A Parish Bereavement Minister will contact you to assist you in the planning of the Funeral Liturgy. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Parish Office at (732) 462-0859.

It is our hope that you receive God's grace and strength to persevere during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
St. Rose of Lima Church and
Bereavement Ministry

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession
Greeting
Sprinkling with Holy Water
Placing of the Pall
Placing a Symbol (optional)
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings
Old Testament
Responsorial Psalm
New Testament
Gospel
Prayer of the Faithful

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Gifts brought to the Altar
Preparation of the Gifts
Prayer over the Gifts
Eucharistic Prayer
Communion
Book of New Life

FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation to Prayer
Silence
Signs of Farewell
Song of Farewell
Prayer of Commendation

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

OPTIONS AT A MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

The following are options in which the family or friends of the deceased may participate during the funeral liturgy. These people need not be Catholic.

- 1) During the Gathering Rite of a funeral, a long white cloth called a “pall” is placed over the casket. The cloth is to remind us of our Baptism when we were “clothed with Christ.” The ancient Hebrews also saw linen as a symbol of immortality. This is why Jesus’ body was “wrapped with linen and laid in the tomb.” Family members or friends can place this “pall” on the casket at the baptismal font in the center aisle of the church.
- 2) Immediately after the Gathering Rite, a member of the family may place one symbol on top of the casket. This symbol may be the crucifix that was inside the casket or one that can be brought from home if it has special significance. If the deceased had a special love of the Bible, their personal Bible can be placed on the casket in place of the crucifix.
- 3) Two separate Scripture passages, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, are read during the Mass, and a family member or friend can be the reader. These are read at the ambo, which is near the altar. The selections are found in this booklet.
- 4) The third reading is the Gospel and is also from the New Testament. The Priest or Deacon presiding at the service will choose and read this.
- 5) The Prayer of the Faithful is a prayer of petition and thanksgiving. The congregation responds, “Lord, hear our prayer.” A family member or friend can read the petitions. The selections are found in this booklet.

- 6) At Mass, we offer back to God the gifts He has given us symbolized as Bread and Wine. During the Eucharistic Prayer, they are consecrated into the Body and Blood of Jesus. Two family members or friends are asked to proceed to the small table in the center aisle and bring these gifts forward to present to the Priest. Older children may do this.
- 7) If you have a family member who is an Extraordinary Minister in our Church or in another Catholic Church, we would welcome their participation. We ask that they make themselves known in advance by letting the Bereavement Minister know.
- 8) Music is integral to the Funeral Rites. The hymnal in use at Saint Rose Church offers a large variety of selections. If you have no preferences, the Bereavement Minister or Music Minister will select appropriate music. Any special requests for music, instrumentalists, etc., should be made to our Bereavement Minister or Music Minister. If the deceased had a favorite religious song or piece of music that you would like to have included in the service, you may request it. It is **not** appropriate to play “popular songs” at a church service. If the religious song you request is a bit unusual, you may have to provide us with the sheet music in order for it to be included. Pre-recorded music is not permitted.
- 9) If the family would like to have the funeral procession drive by the family home, it should be done before the Funeral Liturgy begins, not after the Mass on the way to the cemetery. Please let the Funeral Director know of your intent.

SACRED SCRIPTURES

The reading of the Word of God is an essential element of the celebration of the Funeral Liturgy. The Readings proclaim the Paschal Mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourage the witness of Christian life. Above all, the Readings tell of God's design for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called his own.

The following are the usual Readings from Sacred Scripture used at Funeral Masses. Other Readings from the Scriptures may also be used should you have other preferences. Please speak to the Bereavement Minister if you would like to request a special Reading. Non-biblical texts may **not** replace Scriptural Readings at Mass.

Please note: At the Funeral Liturgy all Readers will read from the Book of Scriptures (Lectionary) found on the ambo. You will **not** need to bring along photocopies; they are merely for practice purposes.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS:

He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees (12:43-46)

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

I know that my Vindicator lives.

A reading from the Book of Job

(19:1, 23-27a)

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:
Oh, would that my words were written down!
 Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead
 they were cut in the rock forever!
But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,
 and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;
Whom I myself shall see:
 my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him,
And from my flesh I shall see God;
 my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
page 1085)

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
(Long form)

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

(3:1-9)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
 and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
 and their passing away was thought an affliction
 and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
 yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
 because God tried them
 and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
 and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
 and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
 and the Lord shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
 and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
 and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

(OR)

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
page 1086)

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

(Short form)

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

(3:1-6, 9)

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

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
page 1086-7)

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

(4: 7-15)

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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
page 1087)

He will destroy death forever.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (25:6a, 7-9)

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

On that day it will be said:
“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the Lord for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The word of the Lord.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
page 1088)

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
page 1088-9)

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

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

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and heard this word of the Lord:
At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.

The word of the Lord.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
page 1089)

The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs
(31:10-13, 19-20-30-31)

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.
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.
Charm is deceptive and beauty 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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 502-503)

There is a time for everything under the heavens.

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

(3:1-11)

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for everything 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 that God has appointed
for the sons of men to be busied about.
He has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timeless into their hearts,
without man's ever discovering,
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The word of the Lord.

(not in Lectionary for Ritual Masses
use paper copy)

DURING EASTER TIME: NEW TESTAMENT

(Note: During the Easter season one of the following readings may be used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament)

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

(14:13)

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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1091)

The dead were judged according to their deeds.

A reading from the Book of Revelation (20:11-21:1)

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.
The earth and the sky fled from his presence
and there was no place for them.
I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne,
and scrolls were opened.
Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.
The dead were judged according to their deeds,
by what was written in the scrolls.
The sea gave up its dead;
then Death and Hades gave up their dead.
All the dead were judged according to their deeds.
Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.
(This pool of fire is the second death.)
Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life
was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

The word of the Lord.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1092)

There shall be no more death.

A reading from the Book of Revelation (21:1-5a, 6b-7)

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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1093)

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

*Since we are now justified by his Blood,
we will be saved through him from the wrath.*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)

Brothers and sisters:

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

The word of the Lord.

Where sinned increased, grace overflowed all the more.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (5:17-21)

Brothers and sisters:

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

We too might live in newness of life.

(Long form)

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

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

(OR)

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
page 1103)

We too might live in newness of life.

(Short form)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (6:3-4, 8-9)

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1104)

***We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption,
the redemption of our bodies.***

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (8:14-23)

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,

but you received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, *Abba*, “Father!”

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit

that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing
compared with the glory to be revealed to 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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1104-5)

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (8:31b-35, 37-39)

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,
will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,
who also is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor present things, nor future things,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1105)

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
(14:7-9, 10c-12)

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.
Why then do you judge your brother?
Or you, why do you look down on your brother?
For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;
 for it is written:

*As I live, says the Lord, every knee
shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.*

So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.
(Long form)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians
(15:20-28)

Brothers and sisters:
Christ has been raised from the dead,
 the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
 the resurrection of the dead came also through a man.
For just as in Adam all die,
 so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
 but each one in proper order:
 Christ the first fruits;
 then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
 then comes the end,
 when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father.
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
 for *he subjected everything under his feet*.
But when it says that everything has been subjected,
 it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.
When everything is subjected to him,
 then the Son himself will also be subjected
 to the one who subjected everything to him,
 so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

(OR)

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

(Short form)

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

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through a man.

For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the first fruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1107)

Death is swallowed up in victory.

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

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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1108)

What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians
(4:14—5:1)

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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1108-9)

We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

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

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands,
eternal in heaven.

We are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1109)

He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians
(3:20-21)

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.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians
(4:13-18)

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.
For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with a 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.

If we have died with him we shall also live with him.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy
(2:8-13)

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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1111)

Perform the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy
(2 Timothy 4:1-2, 6-8)

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who will judge the living and the dead,
and by his appearing and his kingly power:
proclaim the word;
be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient;
convince, reprimand, encourage
through all patience and teaching.

For I am already being poured out like a libation,
and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have competed well;
I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,
which the Lord, the first judge,
will award me on that day,
and not only to me,
but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The word of the Lord.

(not in Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Use paper copy)

We shall see him as he is.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John (3:1-2)

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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1111)

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

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John (3:14-16)

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.

(Lectionary for Ritual Masses
Pages 1112)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST: As a community of believers, we gather in confidence that God, the Almighty Father, who has given us the promise of eternal life, hears our prayers and knows the yearning of our hearts. We therefore present these petitions in hope.

LECTOR: For _____, who has entered his/her new life in Christ. He/she was adopted as God's son/daughter in Baptism and was nourished at His table. May he/she take his/her place at the table of God's children in heaven, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of our brother/sister _____ who yearn for comfort and mercy. May they find peace in the promise of that day when all will be made new again in Christ, the Risen Lord, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all people who have gone to dwell in the house of the Lord. May we be united again in faith in the Kingdom of God, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who ministered to our brother/sister _____ and whose kindness and concern brought him/her comfort. May they be rewarded for their acts of love toward those in need, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us who gather together today to bring our brother/sister _____ to his/her final resting place. May we not be discouraged, but find our spirit renewed day by day, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Lord, hear the prayers of these people gathered in your name who trust in your promise of life eternal. In Your mercy grant them comfort through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

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.

LECTOR: For _____, who in Baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of Saints, we pray to the Lord.

Response: 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.

Response: 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.

Response: 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.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of our brother/sister, _____ 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.

Response: 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.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: God, our shelter and our strength, You listen in love to the cry of your people. Hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

PRIEST: Jesus our Savior has gone before us and prepared a place for us in our Father's house. We now place our trust in Him and say:

LECTOR: Christ Jesus, You are the way, the truth and the life: welcome our brother/sister, _____, to the place You have prepared for him/her in the Father's house.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ Jesus, You are the glory of the believers and the life of the just: admit _____ into the company of those who have gone before him/her and are numbered among your saints in glory. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ Jesus, You draw all things to Yourself: Forgive the sins of our brother/sister, and grant that he/she may live in your peace for ever. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ Jesus, You nourished our brother/sister, with your body and blood during his/her pilgrimage on earth. May he/she delight in the rich fare You provide at the banquet table in heaven. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ Jesus, You are kind and compassionate: free those who mourn from their distress and lift the burden of their sorrow. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ Jesus, You promised a new heaven and a new earth: set our hearts on the things of heaven and keep us faithful in your service. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ Jesus, _____, who has entered his/her new life in Christ. He/she was adopted as God's son/daughter in Baptism and was nourished at his table. May he/she take his/her place at the table of God's children in heaven.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Lord, _____ is gone 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.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cancer)

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.

LECTOR: For those who are presently struggling with the devastation of cancer, that God, in His mercy, will show us new ways to love and care for each other, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the family and friends of _____, who reached out in compassionate support, may they have the rewards of their goodness, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For doctors, nurses, aides, and all who care for the sick and dying, may God continue to give them compassion and strength to be God's hands, hearts, and presence, we pray to the Lord.

Response: 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.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who mourn the loss of a loved one, that they are consoled in the knowledge that we will meet again on the last day, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

PRIEST: Lord, hear the prayers of these people gathered in your name who trust in your promise of life eternal. In Your mercy grant them comfort through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

PRAAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(CHILD

PRIEST: Let us pray for _____, his/her family and friends, and for all God's people.

LECTOR: Our response will be...Lord, have mercy.

That _____, child of God and heir to the kingdom, will be held securely in God's loving embrace now and for all eternity. To You we pray...

Response: Lord, have mercy.

That _____ and _____ and all family members feel the healing power of Christ in the midst of their pain and grief. To You we pray... **Response:** Lord, have mercy.

That _____'s friends, those who played with him/her and those that cared for him/her, will be consoled in their loss and strengthened in their love for one another. To You we pray... **Response:** Lord, have mercy.

That all who suffer and the people who have cared for them will experience the presence and love of Jesus in their lives. To You we pray...

Response: Lord, have mercy.

That all children who have died, especially _____, will be seated close to the Lord at His heavenly table. To You we pray... **Response:** Lord, have mercy.

That all parents who grieve over the death of their children will be comforted in the knowledge that their children dwell with the Lord. To You we pray...

Response: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Lord God, You entrusted _____ to our care and now you embrace him/her in your love. Take _____ 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.

MUSIC SELECTIONS

Entrance:

I, the Lord	
Here I Am Lord	#844
On Eagles Wings	#749
We Shall Rise Again	#948
Lord of All Hopefulness	#714
Day is Done	#938
Amazing Grace	#701
Be Not Afraid	#754
You Are Near	#751
Hosea	#514
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	#781
I Know My Redeemer Lives	#561
Jerusalem, My Happy Home	#714
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	#755
Shall We Gather at the River	#950
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	#786

Psalm:

I Have Loved You	
On The Day I Called	
On Eagle Wings	#749
The Lord Is My Light	#44
Taste and See	#51
The Lord Is My Shepherd	#40
To You, O Lord	#43
Shepherd Me, O God	#39
Shepherd of My Heart	#787
The Lord is Kind and Merciful	#77

Offertory:

I Have Loved You
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Come To Me #789
Be Not Afraid #754
Here I Am Lord #844
City of God #857
How Great Thou Art #630
Shepherd of My Heart #787
Amazing Grace #701
Eye Has Not Seen #785
His Eye is on the Sparrow #765
Lord of All Hopefulness #714
There is a Longing #720
You Are Near #751
We Shall Rise Again #948
Rejoice, Be Glad #814
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
 (Prayer of St. Francis) #893
My Soul Proclaims (Mary's Song) #109
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling #1058
The King of Love My Shepherd Is #786
I Call You to My Father's House #1080
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say #781
Precious Lord, Take My Hand #784
What Wondrous Love is This #704
My Shepherd, You Supply My Need #795
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light #650
Ave Maria (Schubert / Vocal Solo)

Communion:

Gather Us Together
Bread of Life
We Will Rise Again
All I Ask of You
Center of My Life
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
You Are Near #751
On Eagle Wings #749
Here I Am Lord #844
I Received the Living God #1015
Taste and See #1006
Gift of Finest Wheat #1032
I Am the Bread of Life #1008
Eye Has Not Seen #785
Panis Angelicus (Franck / Vocal Solo)

Selections for the Funeral Liturgy:

Sacred Scriptures

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

Music

Entrance Song

Responsorial Psalm

Offertory Song

Communion

Communion Meditation (optional)

Prayer of the Faithful

Read by: _____

Book of New Life

Vigil for the Deceased at the Funeral Home

Often, a Vigil Prayer Service is held on the day before burial at the Funeral Home. We keep watch with you in prayer to God of all mercy. We read the Word of God as a source of faith and hope as light and life in the face of darkness and death. We look for consolation in the abiding presence of Christ and his Holy Spirit; we call upon the God of mercy to receive your loved one into the Kingdom of Light and Peace.

During the Vigil Prayer Service is a very good opportunity for family members and friends to speak or offer a Eulogy.

Prayer in Time of Bereavement

*Dearest Jesus,
who wept at the death of your friend and
taught that they who mourn shall be comforted,
grant us the comfort of your presence in our loss.*

*Send your Holy Spirit to direct us
lest we make hasty or foolish decisions.*

*Send your Spirit to give us courage
lest through fear we recoil from living.*

*Send your Spirit to bring us your peace
lest bitterness, false guilt or regret
take root in our hearts.*

Amen.

*O sweet Mother Mary,
who knew the sadness of mourning
those your heart loved most,
Jesus, your son, and
Joseph, your devoted spouse,
pray for us in our time of loss.*

Amen.

A Word of Consolation

If a tiny baby could think, it would be afraid of birth. To leave the only world it has known would seem a kind of death. But immediately after birth the child would find itself in loving arms, showered with affection and cared for at every moment. Surely the baby would say, “I was foolish to doubt God’s plan for me. This is a beautiful life.”

For the Christian, passing through death is really a birth into a new and better world. Those who are left behind should not grieve as if there were no hope. Life is changed, not taken away. Our dear ones live on in a world beautiful beyond anything we can imagine. With Jesus and Mary they await the day when they will welcome us with joy.

“Do not grieve too much,” they say to us, “we are living and are still with you.”

For those who have been faithful, O Lord, life is not ended, but merely changed; and when this earthly abode dissolves, an eternal dwelling place awaits them in heaven.

Preface, Mass for Christian Burial
From the Roman Sacramentary