

MBVM Funeral Mass Reading Guide

First Reading Options

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 – *The Souls of the Just

One of the Church's most beloved funeral readings. It reminds us that although death brings sorrow to those left behind, the faithful are safely in God's hands. Their lives are not ended but transformed, and they now share in the peace and immortality God has promised.

Isaiah 43:1-3 – *I Have Called You by Name

God speaks words of deep personal comfort: "Fear not... I have called you by name; you are mine." This reading is especially meaningful for those who endured hardships, assuring us that God remains with us through every trial and never abandons his people.

Isaiah 40:1-11 – *Comfort, Give Comfort to My People*

A beautiful reading of consolation and hope. God comes as a loving shepherd who gathers his people into his arms, gently leading them home. It reminds mourners that God brings comfort even in times of grief.

Sirach 44:1-15 – *In Praise of the Faithful*

This reading honors those whose lives have left a lasting legacy of faith, generosity, and goodness. Though they have died, their example continues to inspire future generations, and their memory remains a blessing.

Isaiah 25:6-9 – *He Will Destroy Death Forever*

A powerful proclamation of Christian hope. God promises to destroy death itself, wipe away every tear, and gather his people into the joy of eternal life. This reading beautifully expresses our hope in the Resurrection.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 – *A Time for Every Season

This familiar passage reflects on the many seasons of life—times of joy and sorrow, beginnings and endings. It reminds us that every stage of life unfolds within God's loving plan and invites us to trust him even in death.

Wisdom 4:7-15 – *The Righteous Are at Rest*

Especially appropriate when someone dies at a younger age. This reading teaches that holiness is measured not by the length of life but by faithfulness to God. Those who pleased the Lord are brought safely into his presence.

Proverbs 31 – *A Worthy Woman*

A loving tribute to a woman whose strength, wisdom, faith, and generosity enriched her

family and community. Often chosen for a wife, mother, grandmother, or any woman remembered for her loving and faithful life.

Sirach – *Faithful Family Life*

This reading celebrates the blessings of faithful family life. It gives thanks for devoted spouses, loving parents, treasured friendships, and the lasting influence a good and faithful person leaves behind.

Second Reading Options

Philippians 4:4-9 – *Fill Your Minds with What Is Good

St. Paul encourages us to live with joy, generosity, and peace. Even in grief, we are invited to remember all that is true, noble, and good, trusting that the God of peace remains with us.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 – *I Have Fought the Good Fight

One of the most popular funeral readings. St. Paul reflects on a life faithfully lived and looks forward with confidence to the "crown of righteousness" prepared by the Lord. A fitting choice for someone who remained faithful throughout life.

Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 – *United with Christ in Baptism*

This reading reminds us that through Baptism we share in Christ's death and Resurrection. Because Christ has conquered death, those who belong to him are promised new and everlasting life.

Romans 8:31-39 – *Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of Christ

Another favorite funeral reading. St. Paul proclaims with confidence that no hardship—not even death itself—can separate us from God's love revealed in Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 – *Death Is Swallowed Up in Victory*

This joyful reading celebrates Christ's victory over sin and death. Because Jesus has risen, death no longer has the final word, and eternal life is promised to all who believe.

2 Corinthians 4:16—5:1 – *Our Eternal Home*

Though our earthly bodies grow weak, our inner lives are continually renewed by God. St. Paul reminds us that our true and lasting home is the eternal dwelling God has prepared for us in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 – *We Walk by Faith*

This reading encourages us to live with courage and hope, knowing that this earthly life is only a pilgrimage. Our true home is with the Lord, whom we seek to follow faithfully each day.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – *Do Not Grieve Without Hope*

Written to comfort Christians mourning the death of loved ones, St. Paul assures us that those who have died in Christ will rise with him. It is one of the clearest biblical expressions of Christian hope in the Resurrection.

1 John 3:1-2 – *Children of God*

A brief but beautiful reading reminding us that we are God's beloved children. Though we do not yet see the fullness of heaven, we trust that one day we shall see God face to face and become like him.

1 Corinthians 2:6-9 – *What God Has Prepared*

This reading looks beyond the limits of human imagination. God's promise of heaven is greater than anything we can see, hear, or fully understand, for he has prepared unimaginable joy for those who love him.