



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Funeral Planning Booklet



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Ministry of Consolation Funeral Planning Booklet

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INTRODUCTION

The death and burial of Christians have always had a deeply religious and spiritual meaning. Inspired by the description of the burial and resurrection of Jesus in the Gospels, the early Church buried its dead with proper care, reverence, and prayer.

With faith in the Risen Savior, the Christian Community honored the body of the dead and took part in the prayers and Mass offered for a deceased member.

The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Roman Catholic funeral.

FUNERAL RITES OF THE CHURCH

VIGIL SERVICE

At the Vigil service, usually conducted either in the funeral home or in the parish church on the eve of the Funeral Mass, the faithful keep watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and find strength in Christ's presence.

The Vigil is a scripture or Evening Prayer Service. For those wishing to pray the rosary, it may be said by the family and friends before or after the Vigil, but not as a replacement of the Vigil. This service is often the first gathering of the faithful friends with the family and those who cannot attend the Funeral Mass because of work or other reasons.

FUNERAL MASS

The tradition of the Church has always been the celebration of the Mass with the body present. This is still the norm and is strongly encouraged. Christians respect and honor the body of the dead, which in Baptism became the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

The Funeral Mass includes: the reception of the body, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Final Commendation and Farewell.

A Funeral Liturgy outside of the Mass can be held in the church or at the funeral home and officiated by the priest or deacon. This liturgy includes: the reception of the body, the Liturgy of the Word, and the Final Commendation and Farewell.

FUNERAL RITES OF THE CHURCH

RITE OF COMMITTAL

For the final disposition of the body, it is the ancient Christian custom to bury or entomb the bodies of the dead in a cemetery, which means “resting place.”

The Rite of Committal is the conclusion of the funeral rites and may be celebrated beside the open grave or place of interment. Along with all those who have gone before, marked with the sign of faith, the faithful express hope that the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection and passes into the welcoming company of those who see God face to face.

CREMATION

The Church strongly prefers the body of the deceased be present for its funeral rites since the presence of the body clearly brings to mind the life and death of the person. It is recommended that cremation of the body take place following the Funeral Mass. If cremation takes place immediately after death, the cremated remains are permitted to be brought into the church for the celebration of the Funeral Liturgy, including the Eucharist.

FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE BODY OR CREMATED REMAINS

Following the Funeral Mass, the remains of the deceased are to be reverently buried or entombed in a columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased is not the reverent disposition the Church requires.

SYMBOLS

EASTER CANDLE

The Easter or Pascal candle reminds us of Christ's undying presence among us, of his victory over sin and death and our share in that victory by our initiation into the community of faith.

As part of the Funeral Liturgy, an Easter candle is lit and placed near the casket or urn, where it remains until the end of the entrance procession.

HOLY WATER

Blessed or holy water reminds us of the saving waters of baptism. In the rite of reception of the body at the church's entrance, its use calls to mind the deceased's baptism and initiation into the community of faith.

THE PALL

The Pall, a large white cloth draped over the coffin when it is received in the church, is a reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased and is a sign of the Christian dignity of the person. The use of the pall also signifies that all are equal in the eyes of God.

FUNERAL PLANNING

The Funeral Mass may not be celebrated in funeral homes or cemetery chapels.

Funerals may be celebrated any day except solemnities of obligation, Holy Thursday, during the Pascal Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent and the Easter Season. In the Diocese of Orlando, it is the pastoral practice to refrain from celebrating funerals on all Sundays.

The local parish, in consultation with the Funeral Director and the family, determines the appropriate time for the funeral rites. The funeral may be scheduled in the morning, afternoon or evening. The funeral rites are to be scheduled at a time which permits as many of the community as possible to be present.

Whenever possible, family members of the deceased are encouraged to assist in the preparation of the liturgy. This includes the selection of sacred scriptures and music. It is also encouraged to participate in the liturgy by placing the pall, cross, and/ or family bible on the casket and be presenters of the gifts and to fulfill the role of readers.

One of St. Vincent de Paul's Ministers of Consolation will help family members plan the funeral liturgy. This meeting takes place at an appropriate time after death but before the vigil service, either at home or at church.

However, the period before death may be an appropriate time to plan the funeral rites with the family and even with the family member who is dying.

FUNERAL PLANNING

Flowers, as symbols of resurrection and hope, are to be used in moderation. However, they should never be placed on or around the casket during the Funeral Mass. A flag should never cover the casket in church.

Personal memorabilia are never placed on the altar nor carried with the gifts of bread and wine when Mass is celebrated. They can however be placed in the Narthex on a table.

BURIAL OF NON-CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS

At Pastoral discretion, a Catholic burial, including the Funeral Mass, is permitted for a baptized non-Catholic who might reasonably be presumed to desire or prefer Catholic Burial services.

Such a decision would be appropriate if the non-Catholic party worshipped regularly at the Catholic church or identified with the Catholic Church more than any other church.

It would not be appropriate if the deceased were an active member of a non-Catholic Christian Church, except in the case where the minister of the deceased was unavailable.

ALL SOULS' DAY LITURGY *November 2*

All Souls' Day is the day the church honors those who have died. Each parish especially recognizes their parishioners who have died in the previous year.

At St. Vincent de Paul Church, the families of our deceased parishioners are invited to participate in the All Souls' Day Liturgy.

As their loved one's name is called, a family member comes forward to light a remembrance candle. The candle with their loved one's name can be taken home to use in private devotions.

MUSIC

Hymns (except for Psalms) are suggestions and many may be used in other parts of the Funeral Mass.

1. Prelude Hymns

- Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise
- Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone
- Broken Vessels/Amazing Grace
- Fly like a Bird
- Go in Peace
- His Eye is on the Sparrow
- Jesus Remember Me
- May You Walk with Christ
- We Remember

Other Options

- All My Tears
- I Am the Bread of Life
- I Am Not Alone
- I Believe that I shall See (Psalm 27)
- I Can Only Imagine
- In the Bulb there is a Flower
- Scars in Heaven
- The Anchor Holds
- To Where You Are
- Thy Will
- Untitled Hymn (Fly to Jesus)
- Well Done
- Who am I

MUSIC

2. Processional Hymns

- Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
- Amazing Grace
- Be Not Afraid
- Christ Be Our Light
- Fly Like a Bird
- For All the Saints
- God Is Love
- Here I Am, Lord
(Sea & Sky)
- Hosea
- How Great Thou Art

3. Responsorial Psalms

Psalm 23: *I shall live in the house of the Lord, all the days
of my life.*

Psalm 23 (Option 2): *Shepherd me, O God.*

Psalm 25: *To You, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

Psalm 27: *I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord.*

Psalm 42: *Like a Deer longs*

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

Psalm 89: *Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

Psalm 103: *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

Psalm 116: *I will walk before the Lord in the land
of the living.*

Psalm 122: *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

Psalm 128: *Blessed are those who love You.*

Psalm 130: *With the Lord there is mercy and fullness
of redemption*

MUSIC

4. Presentation of The Gifts Hymns

- All I Ask of You
- Amazing Grace
- Be Still and Know that I am God
- Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
- Be Still My Soul
- Because the Lord is My Shepard
- Eye has Not Seen
- Healing Waters
- Here I Am, Lord (Sea & Sky)
- Here I Am (Standing Right Beside You)
- Holy Darkness
- Holy is His Name
- How Great Thou Art
- How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place
- I the Lord
- It is Well with my Soul
- Isaiah 49
- Let There Be Peace on Earth
- Prayer of St. Francis
- Precious Lord Take My Hand
- Shelter Me, O God
- The Lord is My Light
- You are Near

MUSIC

5. Communion Hymns

- Amazing Grace
- Be Still and Know that I am God
- Be Still My Soul
- Because the Lord is My Shepard
- Give Me Jesus
- Healing Waters
- Here I Am (Standing Right Beside You)
- Holy is His Name
- How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place
- I Have Loved You
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- I the Lord
- Like A Shepherd
- One Bread, One Body
- Parable
- Precious Lord Take My Hand
- Shelter Me, O God
- Surely The Presence
- The Cup of Life Outpoured
- The Lord is My Light
- You Are Near

MUSIC

6. Meditation

Those with a special devotion to Mary, may select one of the following Marian hymns

- Ave Maria
- Hail Mary: Gentle Woman
- Holy is His Name
- Immaculate Mary
- Mary's Song
- Mary's Song (Amazing Grace Melody)
- Surely the Presence
- The Prayer (by Celine Dion)

7. Final Blessing

- Song of Farewell
- May the Angels Be Your Guide

8. Recessional Hymns

- Amazing Grace
- Fly Like a Bird
- Go in Peace
- How Great Thou Art
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- Let There Be Peace on Earth
- My Shepherd Is the Lord
- On Eagles Wings
- Shepherd Me, O God
- Sing A New Song
- Sing to the Mountains
- The Lord Is My Light
- This Is the Day

SUGGESTED FUNERAL READINGS

Please select one:

- Old testament reading
- New Testament reading
- Gospel reading

You may ask family members and/or friends to read the Old Testament reading and the New Testament reading.

You will be given a copy so they may practice reading it for the funeral Mass.

The priest or deacon always reads the Gospel reading.

Old Testament Readings

1. A reading from the Book of Job 19:1, 23-25, 27

Then Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record that with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever!

As for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; I will see for myself, my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him: my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament Readings

2. A reading from the Book of Wisdom

3:1-9

The souls of the righteous 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 to others, 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 judgement they shall shine and dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the LORD shall be their King forever.]

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

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament Readings

3. A reading from the Book of Wisdom

4:7-15

But the righteous one, 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 passes for gray hair, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. The one who pleased God was loved; living 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 that consideration into account.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament Readings

4. A reading from the Book of 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:

"Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him and he saved 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

5. A reading from the Book of Isaiah

40:28-31, 41:10

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is God from of old, creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.

He gives power to the faint, abundant strength to the weak. Though young men faint and grow weary, and youths stagger and fall; They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.

Do not fear: I am with you; Do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament Readings

6. A reading from the Book of Isaiah 41:10, 44:22, 49:15-16

Do not fear: I am with you; Do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

I have brushed away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like a mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you; your walls are ever before me.

The Word of the Lord

7. A reading from the Book of Isaiah 43:1-3

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away.

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you. For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament Readings

8. A reading from the Book of Lamentations

3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; My enduring hope, I Said, has perished before the Lord.

The thought of my wretched homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; Remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me.

But I will call this to mind, therefore I will hope: The Lord's acts of mercy are not exhausted, His compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning- great is His faithfulness.

The Lord is good to those who trust in him, to the one that seeks him. It is good to hope in silence for the Lord's deliverance.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament Readings

9. A reading from the Book of Daniel 12:1-3

[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 to everlasting life, others to reproach and everlasting disgrace. But those with insight 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

Old Testament Readings

10. A reading from the Second Book of Maccabees

12:43-46

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 mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous 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 absolved from their sin.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament Readings

1. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,

What has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

[He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."]

The Word of the Lord

[shorter version Acts 10: 34-36, 42-43]

New Testament Readings

2. A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

5:5-11

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

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament Readings

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

5:17-21

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

New Testament Readings

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

6:3-9

[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

[shorter version Romans 6:3-4, 8-9]

New Testament Readings

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

8:14-23

For 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 firstfruits 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

6. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

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?

As it is written: "For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered." 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

New Testament Readings

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

14:7-9, 10b-12

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

New Testament Readings

8. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-24, 25-28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.

When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament Readings

9. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:51-57

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

New Testament Readings

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

4:14–5:1

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

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

5:1, 6-10

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.

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

12. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians **3:20-21**

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

13. A reading from the first letter of 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 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

14. A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy 2:8-13

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

New Testament Readings

15. A reading from the first letter of John 3:1-2

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. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord

16. A reading from the first letter of John 3:14-16

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

New Testament Readings

17. A reading from the Book of Revelation

14:13

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

18. A reading from the Book of Revelation

20:11–21

I 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

New Testament Readings

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

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

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true."

He said to me, "They are accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son."

The Word of the Lord

New Testament Readings

20. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!
Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and
petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests
known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all
understanding will guard your hearts and minds in
Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is
honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any
excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will
be with you.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Readings

1. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12a

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 (falsely) because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Readings

2. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Readings

3. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'

While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.

Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Readings

4. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him.

And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of the least of my brothers, 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

5. A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6

[At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah."

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

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

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.

They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large.

On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed.

He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him.

The Gospel of the Lord

[shorter version Mark 15:33-39]

Gospel Readings

6. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 7:11-17

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

Gospel Readings

7. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 12:35-40

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

Gospel Readings

8. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 23:33, 39-43

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation?"

And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Readings

9. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53, 24:1-6a

[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, he 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.]

But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised.

The Gospel of the Lord

[shorter version Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53]

Gospel Readings

10. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-35

Now that very day 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.

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him.

But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.

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

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two re-counted 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

[shorter version *Luke 24: 13-16, 28-35*]

Gospel Readings

11. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 5:24-29

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

Gospel Readings

12. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 6:37-40

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

13. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 6:51-58

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

Gospel Readings

14. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 11:17-27

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

[shorter version John 11: 21-27]

Gospel Readings

15. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 11:32-45

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

Gospel Readings

16. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 12:23-28

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

Gospel Readings

17. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord

18. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 17:24-26

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

Gospel Readings

19. A reading from the Holy Gospel According to John 19:17-18, 25-30

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, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there who 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 to the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Poem by Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we will remember you.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we will remember you.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we will remember you.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
we will remember you.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we will remember you.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we will remember you.

When we are weary and in need of strength,
we will remember you.

When we are lost and sick at heart, we will remember you.

When we have joys we yearn to share,
we will remember you.

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a
part of us, we will remember you.



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section of this planning booklet.*



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” He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning.”

REV 21:4