

St. Therese Parish
San Diego — California



“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”
John 14:6

Order of Christian Funerals
Options for prayer

Prepared/Edited/Revised by Fr. PJB – May 2018

Dear Family,

As a parish, as Church, we extend to you the consolation of our faith, and our hope in the Lord, “sharing in the faith of Your Son’s disciples and the hope of the children of God.” (*Order of Christian Funerals*). We make it our prayer and hope that serving you and your loved one at this time, and celebrating our Catholic faith (as is required in the ritual for our Church, *Order of Christian Funerals*), we may “bring the light of Christ’s resurrection to this time of testing and pain, as we pray for your loved one, and for those who love him or her. For it is Christ Jesus who has unlocked the gates of life for those who believe; and it is our prayer your loved one will know the forgiveness of sins, and be granted a place of happiness, light and peace in the kingdom of God’s glory for ever and ever.” (*Order of Christian Funerals*).

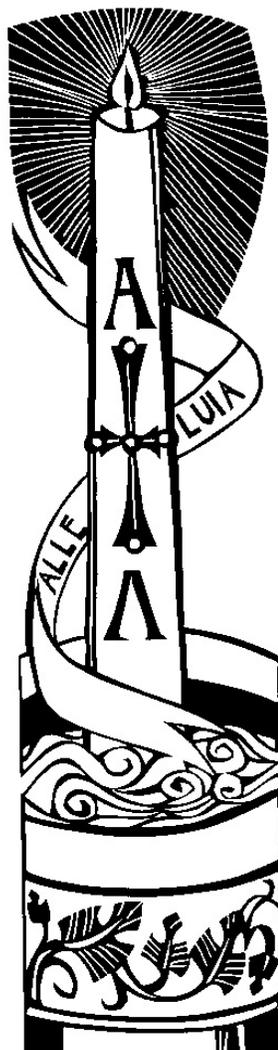
This booklet is offered to assist you in the preparation of the funeral rite for your loved one who is dying or has died. Since the very beginnings of our Church, and indeed, since the death of Our Lord, we the faithful have stood literally and figuratively at the empty tomb: gathering together in the hope and joy of the Resurrection, in the belief your loved one enjoys “no more pain, no more suffering, but rejoices forever the vision of Our Lord, seeing Him face to face.” (*Order of Christian Funerals*). This is our faith, and we are honored to share it with you, and to extend its consolation to all in your family.

In His Name, the One from Whom all good things come, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with our own love and prayer,

The Community of *St. Therese Parish*,



Fr. Peter J. Bosque, *Pastor*



Why the Church Prays a Funeral...

CATHOLIC FUNERALS – *ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS*

The **TEACHING** of the Church on Funerals (Derived from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*)



The Christian funeral is a liturgical (prayerful) celebration of the Church. The Church wants to express as beautifully, and meaningfully, as possible the “communion” of those who gather to pray the funeral *with* the one who has died, and to proclaim our faith as Catholics in eternal life. (See #1684)

The liturgy of the Catholic Church is the **funeral Mass**. This celebration takes place in a parish church (not in a place of business, outside, etc.), for in the Eucharist (the Mass) the Church expresses Her union with your loved one who has died – offering to the Father in the Holy Spirit the Mystery we received in the death and resurrection of Christ, by which we ask God to purify your loved one of all sins, and the life

consequences of any life lived far from God’s Will — and to admit him or her to the Paschal fullness of the Table of the Kingdom that is to come. It is by the Funeral Mass thus celebrated that the community gathered, especially the family of the loved one who has died, learns to live in communion with the one who “has fallen asleep in the Lord,” by receiving the Body of Christ of which he or she is a living member and, then, by praying for him and with him. (See #1689)

There is a farewell to the deceased, our “commendation to God” by the Church. It is “the last farewell by which the Christian community greets one of its members before his or her body is brought to its tomb.” By this final greeting “we sing for his or her departure from this life and separation from us,” but also express our faith that there is a communion and a reunion later. “For even dead, we are not at all separated from one another.... We shall never be separated, for we live for Christ, and now we are united with Christ as we go toward him . . . we shall all be together in Christ.” (St. Simeon of Thessalonica (circa 1429)). (See #1690)



Importance of the Body / Guidelines for Cremation

As it has throughout history,

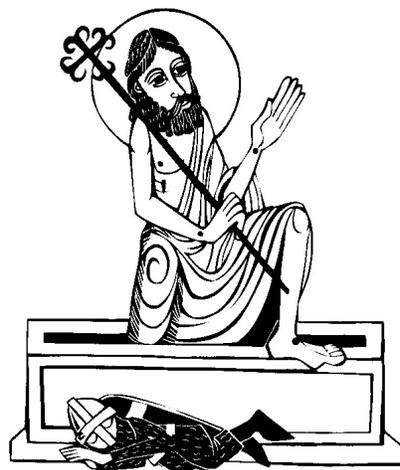
“the Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead be observed.”

(Canon 1176 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law)

In the past the Church prohibited cremation because the practice had been associated with a denial of the Christian belief in the resurrection of the dead and the immortality of the soul. Also, depending on the state, the crematoria often cremated bodies in groups, and there was no integrity to the cremated remains as belonging to this or that person.

As a matter of teaching, “(t)he Christian faithful are unequivocally confronted by the mystery of life and death when they are faced with the presence of the body of one who has died. Moreover, the body which lies in death naturally recalls the personal story of faith, the loving family bonds, the friendships, and the words and acts of kindness of the deceased person.

Indeed, the human body is inextricably associated with the human person, which acts and is experienced by others through that body... *Order of Christian Funerals #411* – emphasis added.



With everything our Church teaches about Sacraments, and why their celebration is so critical to our lives as Catholics, the body is properly a focus, an importance, for who we are. “The body of a deceased Catholic Christian is also the body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the Bread of Life. **Thus, the Church's reverence for the sacredness of the human body grows out of a reverence and concern both natural and supernatural for the human person.**” *Order of Christian Funerals #412* – emphasis added.

The Church removed the prohibition for cremation in 1963, with state laws being modified to also require an integrity for the individuality of each body. Thus, the cremains are of that one person who has died. Now, only in those very rare circumstances, a Catholic Mass is not allowed only if the cremation was done *“for reasons that are contrary to Christian teaching.”*

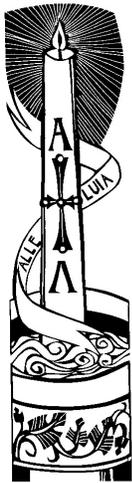


Whether the body is cremated before or after the funeral Mass, the cremated remains of the body **must be treated with the respect** belonging to a child of God – parallel to what is done with a body. The remains should be placed in a “worthy vessel” designed for this purpose and interred in a grave or mausoleum. In keeping with the Church’s teaching, the cremated remains **should not be scattered, kept at home or divided among family members.**

While cremation is now possible, and for financial and environmental reasons, may even be preferred for burial, cremation should still be considered *AFTER* the celebration of **the funeral liturgy** — *Order of Christian Funerals* – “413: Although cremation is now permitted, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body.” For the reasons already described, the Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of your loved one be present for the funeral rites. The presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in the *Order of Christian Funerals*, not only to reaffirm the Catholic reverence for the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit but as a way to console the grieving of family and friends. Even in death, the body is a reminder of the Incarnation and a foreshadowing of our resurrection from the dead: “...in baptism the body was marked with the seal of the Trinity and became the temple of the Holy Spirit,” (*Order of Christian Funerals*, #19.)

So, PLEASE, consider delaying the cremation until AFTER the funeral Mass. If you decide to proceed in this way, be aware there is no legal or moral reason to embalm. Simply hold the body until the funeral Mass, and use a simple casket for rental use at the funeral. After the funeral Mass, with the burial and committal now delayed to allow time for the cremation to be done, the family may now even now consider an evening funeral, or to gather socially with those who had come to express their love and hope at this difficult time.

Catholic Funerals – The Order of Christian Funerals



The *Order of Christian Funeral* is, in fact, a series of “rites” (prayers), each prayed around the sharing of the Scripture, reminding you and everyone that we pray not just **for** your loved ones who have died, but **WITH** them!

The first “rite,” though not required, is called the *Vigil*. This sharing of God’s Word, and reflective preparation for the Funeral Mass, is the public prayer of the Church, as opposed to what used to be called “the *wake*” and/or time when the *rosary* was prayed as the usual option. (Praying the rosary, or other prayer forms, is still encouraged, as ways for a family to grieve the loss of their loved one, and yet, be prepared to celebrate our hope in God’s mercy and redemption in His Son. But if the family wishes to celebrate these prayers, they would be done at another time, such as before or after the vigil, as they are considered personal, private, devotions in practice.) The *vigil* is the public prayer of the Church, and is often the first time family, friends and members of the parish community gather in remembrance of the deceased, for love and support. The *vigil* may be celebrated in the home of the deceased, in the funeral director’s place of business, or even in the parish church. The *vigil* may be the beginning or the ending of a time for gathering or viewing. The *Liturgy of the Hours*, Office for the Dead, is also encouraged to be prayed, but this should be prayed at other times than, and does not replace, the *vigil*. A *vigil* is especially important if many people are unable to participate in the central funeral rite (the Mass). The *vigil* is usually presided (led) by a priest or deacon. And yet, when no priest or deacon is available, the *vigil* may be prayed (led) by a volunteer minister. During the *vigil*, it is very appropriate for a family member or a friend to speak in remembrance of your deceased loved one.



The next prayer, as discussed above, is the most central prayer of the Catholic Church, **the Funeral Mass**. The Mass joins us with the Communion of Saints, in whose company we believe, pray, and have faith, and to which we pray your deceased loved one now belongs. It is for **this preparation** that this booklet is given to you for your reflection and consolation.

The final prayer is the *Committal* (the burial). The Catholic Church strongly teaches, as a matter of

Scripture and Tradition, that the body or cremated remains are to be buried (either in the ground or columbarium (always maintaining the integrity of the remains, which is why the Catholic Church considers it disrespectful to scatter ashes, or to divide them).

Each *rite* expresses our believe that your loved one, and all those who have died, are with God, and join in our prayer. This is what we believe when we celebrate each and every Mass, which is why our Church desires the celebration of a funeral Mass.

Other prayers in the *Order of Christian Funerals* are the *Gathering with the Body After Death; Prayer During the Transfer of the Body*, etc.). In the United States, with the services of funeral directors, requirement of law (depending on the circumstances of death, the coroner), etc., these prayers are rarely celebrated.

The central purpose of ALL of these *rites* (prayers) is to celebrate our faith in the life, death, and Resurrection of the Lord. In these prayers, the Church acknowledges the grief suffered in this world, and yet, also, we express our hope in the Kingdom that is to come! In these prayers, we acknowledge the love by which God touches us, and which brings the family together. In these prayers, we express our hope in the truth that “love does not come to end,” it does not “die” even as we die; no, we confirm our belief that we are on a journey, from birth, to life, to death, to our judgment and life eternal.

WE THIS IN MIND, please read through, consider, and pray, all that follows! Please complete PAGES ONE – through – THREE, and return these to the priest with whom you will be celebrating the funeral.

Other Aspects of Celebrating Catholic Funerals

1. Day of the Week and Time. A Catholic funeral and burial may be celebrated on any day other than Sunday, excluding Holy Days of Obligation and other seasonal days of the Church Year. While many families prefer Saturday for funerals, such a celebration and burial is most difficult to schedule and pray. There are no staff members present, which can affect the quality and gift we, as a parish, want to extend to families who have lost a loved one. Whatever is the day and time desired, these will need to be coordinated with the priest to assure his availability and that of the parish, especially here at *St. Therese Parish* which is served by only one assigned priest.

2. Music. Appropriate music for Catholic funerals includes liturgical hymns appropriate for Mass, which focus on the Paschal Mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection, thereby inspiring the Christian faithful to trust and hope in the Mercy and Love of God. Song selections need to be discussed with the parish staff, and are coordinated with the contracted music minister.

3. Flowers. If desired, flowers are welcome at the church, but are governed by the liturgical environment norms. Flowers would not be placed in sight that obstructs view, movement, focus on the ambo (place where God's Word is proclaimed), nor the altar. This becomes of particular concern during the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter Time. There are no restrictions for flowers at the doors of the church, vestibule (narthex) or on the sides of the church nave (the body of the church).

4. Pictures/Photos. If desired, pictures of the deceased, the family, etc., are welcome in the vestibule (narthex) of the church. Many families consider such photos important when a guest book is used to memorialize who came to the funeral. In the church itself, however, the images/symbols of our faith (in the Lord Himself, and His Resurrection, such as the Paschal Candle, the altar, the crucifix, etc.), transcendent reminders of Christ and His Church, and designed to inspire hope. No other symbols or signs should detract from these as the proper focus to direct our hearts and minds to the Lord Himself and to the Communion of Saints in Heaven, to whom we are commending the deceased loved one. A photo is obviously intended to remind people of the life lost in death; and it thus becomes a symbol of who *was*. Thus, a photo does not point to the transcendent reality of our faith, of where the deceased loved one ***IS*** – in the Merciful Hands of Our Savior, Who loves us, died for us, and Who desired us to live with Him forever. So, during the Mass, or a Catholic funeral liturgy outside of Mass, no photo is present in the worshipping environment.

5. Items on the Casket. At the doors of the church, all items, if any (such as flowers, the U.S. flag), are removed from the casket, when the Mass begins. During these introductory rites, with the family gathered around the casket, a pall, a long white cloth which is a reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased and a sign of our Christian dignity, is placed on the casket. **The preference is for the family to place the pall on the casket** when invited to do so, though the funeral director staff or others may also do so. Typically, no other items are placed on the casket. After the pall is on the casket, a Christian symbol on the casket, such as a Bible or cross may also be placed on top of the casket. When the casket is escorted out of the church, then any flowers, flag, etc., that had been on the casket before Mass began, these may now be placed again on top of the casket.

6. Military Honors. In recognition of service in the armed forces, military honors may be accorded to the deceased at the cemetery.

7. Fees/Costs. (See next page.)

DONATION TO THE CHURCH

Many grieving families reluctantly (by generously) ask if there are any “fees” charged for celebrating the funeral. However sincere the concern and question, it is important to remember the Catholic Church (and therefore our parish) does NOT **charge** for sacraments. The priests, ministers, etc., all are here to serve our sisters and brothers (those who are loved by Our Lord— which is *everyone*) as disciples ourselves of Jesus Christ. We do this because of the goodness and generosity of the parish community who give of their time, talent, and money that makes our service possible to serve you! When we are talking about our faith, hope and love, about and with Jesus Christ, how can there be a “fee?”

And yet, if it were not for the gifts given to the Church, we simply would not have a church, and we would not have ministers to serve. As a practical example, our parish has over a million and half dollars in operating expenses, all directly related to the ministries we provide, which are ALL covered by donations. **This is why we ask of you for your donation.**

With the experience that many people give no donation to the church, this is why some parishes ASK for have a specific donation amount for a funeral — though this parish asks only that you consider making a donation that is proportionate to the other expenses you choose for the funeral!

Consider all of the expenses you are choosing to incur: the care and preparation of your loved one (preparation of the body for burial or cremation, the casket for the body or cremation urn); burial decisions, including choices of gravesites, a columbarium, headstones/markers, etc.; flowers, rentals, etc.; reception preparations and facilitation. **All of the discretionary expenses for the funeral should be considered as you reflect on what donation you would want to make to our parish.**

PLEASE consider a generous gift to your Church in proportion to the other expenses you are choosing to pay (for example, if the total expense is \$5,000, consider a donation of 10% of that total, \$500, for your Church). Please know this gift to the church is how we are able to be here to serve you, and future families.

Other expenses (such as payment to the musicians, cantors, etc., and range from \$100 to \$300), these are contracted services by which the family is compensating someone for their service. Please see those as private/personal arrangements of service, and are not donations to the church; as are any gifts you may (or may not) offer to the priest, deacon, ministers who serve you.

(Consider how the parish donation, payments for musician, much less gifts to ministers, these are much less than the minimum expenses families incur in paying others for the funeral director.)



VIGIL

Will there be a *vigil* — Yes — No.

If yes, it will it be held where? _____

Will someone speak to the grief of the family — Yes — No.

If yes, who? _____

Funeral Mass

The funeral Mass is the central liturgical celebration of the Catholic Christian community whereby we give praise to God in thanksgiving for Christ's victory over sin and death, and commend the one who has died to God's tender mercy by expressing our hope for eternal salvation. We affirm, in sign and symbol, word and gesture, our faith that every person, through baptism, shares in Christ's life, death and resurrection. Furthermore, we pray with those who have died that we shall all one day be raised up, and be united in the kingdom of light and peace. The Mass is always celebrated in a parish church where the entire Catholic Christian community gathers. The *Funeral Mass* is *always* celebrated in the parish church, ideally where the family suffering the loss of their loved one prays.



✠ Full name of the person for whom, and with whom, we are praying. ✠

(For example: John Michael Smith)

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

✠ Name (if different) to be used during the celebration of the Rites of Christian Burial. ✠

(For example: "Jack")

Funeral Mass

Selections of the Family for a Funeral Mass

Family Reflections—

People who have been invited by the family to offer reflections on the life of the one who has died, and the blessing that life is to others.

Opening Prayer: _____ (Priest)

Old Testament Reading: _____ (Lector: _____)
Person who will proclaim God's Word

Psalm: _____ (Lector: _____)
Person who will proclaim God's Word

New Testament Reading: _____ (Lector: _____)
Person who will proclaim God's Word

Gospel: _____ (Priest or Deacon)

General Intercessions: _____ (Lector: _____)
Person who will offer petitions to God.

Please list the names (and relationship with your loved one who has died) who have died, and ought to be remembered as well:

Offertory Procession: _____
People who may bring up the gifts for the Mass

Prayer over the Gifts: _____ (Priest)

Preface: _____ (Priest)

Prayer After Communion: _____ (Priest)

Notes/Comments (other ideas):

Music for Liturgy

Is your intention to contract one of our musicians to provide music at the Mass? The musicians are paid by the family, averaging between \$150 and \$300. Yes — No. While other musician/cantors (signers) may serve at our parish, these must be approved in advance, with the understanding that they will need to bring and use their own equipment – and as our liturgy is a *human* exchange and service, therefore we do not “play” music for prayer.

Please identify any musicians and singers....

Gathering (Opening) Song:

Responsorial Psalm:

Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia):

Preparation of the Gifts:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus):

Memorial Acclamation:

Great Amen:

Communion Songs:

Meditation (post-communion):

Closing (Exit) Song:

Other ideas???:

RITUAL SELECTIONS — FUNERAL or MEMORIAL MASS

Opening Prayers (Selected options for your consideration....)

OP-1

O God, Almighty Father,
our faith professes that Your Son died and rose again;
mercifully grant, that through this mystery
Your servant <Name>, who has fallen asleep in Christ,
may rejoice to rise again through Him.

Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

OP-4

Oh God, Who have set a limit to this present life,
so as to open up an entry into eternity,
we humbly beseech You,
that by the grace of Your mercy
You may command the name of Your servant <Name>
to be inscribed in the book of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

OP-2

O God, Whose Nature
is always to forgive and to show mercy,
we humbly implore You for Your servant <Name>
whom You have called (from this world) to journey to You,
and, since he/she hoped and believed in You,
grant that he/she may be led to our true homeland
to delight in its everlasting joys.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

OP-5

Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord:
as our faith in Your Son,
raised from the dead, is deepened,
may our hope of resurrection
for Your departed servant <Name>
also find new strength.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy
Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Readings

(The parenthesized text refers to Lectionary Reference Numbers)

(OT-1011-01)

#1 – A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees

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.

(OT-1011-02)

#2 – A Reading from the Book of Job

Then 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;
And from my flesh I shall see God;
my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

(OT-1011-03)

#3 – A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

But 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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

(OT-1011-04)

#4 – A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

But 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.

(OT-1011-05)

#5 – A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples
A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and
pure, choice wines.
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.

(OT-1011-06)

#6 – A Reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the LORD.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the LORD are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the LORD, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.
Good is the LORD to 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

(OT-1011-07)

#7 – A Reading from the Book of Daniel

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.

(OT-453-YR-II)

#8 – A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything, and
a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
A time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
A time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from their toil? I have
considered the task which God has appointed for us to be
busied about, and God has made everything appropriate to its
time. He has put timelessness into our hearts, without our
ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which
God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALMS
(Some selections)

(RP-1013-01)

#1

**Response: The LORD is my shepherd;
There is nothing I shall want.**

**Or: Though I walk in the valley of darkness,
I fear no evil, for you are with me.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Besides restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

Response:...

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

Response:...

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

Response:...

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life:
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

Response:...

(RP-1013-03)

#3

Response: The LORD is my light and my salvation.

**Or: I believe that I shall see the good things of
the LORD and in the land of the living.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

Response:...

One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
That I gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple.

Response:...

(RP-1013-02)

#2

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

**Or : No one who waits for you, O LORD,
Will ever be put to shame.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD

Response:...

Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress
Put an end to my affliction and my suffering,
and take away all my sins.

Response:...

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

Response:...

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
your presence, O LORD, I seek.
Hide not your face from me;
do not in anger repel your servant.

Response:...

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

Response:...

New Testament Readings

(Some selections)

(NT-1012-01)

#1 – A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

“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.

(NT-1014-03)

#3 – A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

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.

(NT-1014-01)

#2 – A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

(NT-1014-05)

#4 – A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

(NT-1014-08)

#5 – A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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.

(NT-1014-12)

#7 – A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

(NT-1014-13)

#8 – A Reading from the 2nd Letter of St. Paul to Timothy

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.

(NT-1014-10)

#6 – A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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.

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.

(NT-347-Year II)

#9 – A Reading from the First Letter of St. Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, which may not be defiled and is unfading, kept in heaven for you who, by the power of God, are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is even now ready to be revealed in the final time.

In this, you have cause to rejoice; although, for a little while now, you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may be for the praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, and still believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, prophets, who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours, searched and investigated it. They investigated the time and circumstances that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated when would be the sufferings destined for Christ, and the glories to follow them, were to happen.

It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you; revealing things that have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels longed to see.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

(Some selections)

(G-1016-01)

#1 – A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of
righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and
utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in
heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(G-1016-11)

#3 – A Reading from the Gospel according to John

Jesus answered the Jews and said to them:
“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and
believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not
come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life.
Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now
here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in
himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in
himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment,
because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this,
because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs
will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done
good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have
done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(G-1016-02)

#2 – A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus answered:
“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 your selves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(G-1016-12)

#4 – A Reading from the Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the crowds:
“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.

#5 – A Reading from the Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

General Intercessions – Prayers of the Faithful

(Some examples)

(POF-1)

#1

The priest begins:

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join in our prayers to his:

In baptism NN. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.
Lord, in your mercy: **R. Hear our prayer.**

Our brother/sister NN. was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.
Lord, in your mercy: **R. Hear our prayer.**

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them and everlasting home with your Son. Lord, in your mercy: **R. Hear our prayer.**

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. Lord, in your mercy: **R. Hear our prayer.**

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone.
Lord in your mercy: **R. Hear our prayer.**

For the mourners: The family and family of NN. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. Lord, in your mercy: **R. Hear our prayer.**

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister NN. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. Lord, in your mercy: **R. Hear our prayer.**

The priest then concludes:

Lord God,
giver of peace and healer of souls,
hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people,
whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb.
Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in the kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

The priest begins:

God, the almighty Father, raised Christ God's Son from the dead; with confidence we ask Him to save all His people, living and dead:

For &NN.& who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.
We pray to the Lord. **R. 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. **R. 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. **R. 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, **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

The priest then concludes:

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. **R. Amen!**

Let us turn to Christ Jesus with confidence and faith in the power of his cross and resurrection:

Risen Lord, pattern of our life for ever:
Lord, have mercy... **R. Lord, have mercy.**

Promise and image of what we shall be:
Lord, have mercy... **R. Lord, have mercy.**

Son of God who came to destroy sin and death:
Lord, have mercy **R. Lord, have mercy.**

Word of God who delivered us from the fear of death:
Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**

Crucified Lord, forsaken in death, raised in glory:
Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, gentle Shepard who brings rest to our souls,
give peace to NN. for ever:
Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain.
Bless NN.'s family and friends who gather around him/her today:
Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord have mercy.**

FUNERAL MASS - MEMORIAL MASS *continued.....*

Prayers Over the Gifts (Options for your consideration....)

POG-1

As we humbly present to You
these sacrificial offerings, O Lord,
for the salvation of Your servant <Name>
we beseech Your mercy,
that &he/she&, who did not doubt Your Son
to be a loving Savior,
may find in Him a merciful Judge.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

POG-3

Look favorably on our offerings, O Lord,
so that Your departed servant <Name>
may be taken up into glory with Your Son,
in Whose great mystery of love we are all united.
Through Christ our Lord.

POG-2

Be near, O Lord, we pray, to Your servant <Name>
on whose funeral day
we offer You this sacrifice of conciliation,
so that, should any stain of sin have clung to him/her
or any human fault have affected him/her,
it may, by Your loving gift, be forgiven and wiped away.
Through Christ our Lord.

POG - 4

Lord Jesus, like a shepherd who gathers the lambs
to protect them from all harm,
You led &NN.& to the waters of baptism
and shielded &him/her& in innocence.
Now carry <Name> on the path to Your kingdom of light
where he/she will find happiness
and every tear will be wiped away.
To you be glory, now and for ever.

Preface Prayers (Options for your consideration....)

PRE-1

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.
In Him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned,
that those saddened by the certainty of dying
might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come.
Indeed for Your faithful, Lord,
life is changed not ended,
and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust,
an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven.
And so....

PRE-3

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.
For He is the salvation of the world,
the life of the human race,
the resurrection of the dead.
Through Him the host of angels adores Your majesty
and rejoices in Your presence for ever.
May our voices....

PRE-2

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.
For as One alone He accepted death,
so that we might all escape from dying:
as one man He chose to die,
so that in Your sight we all might live forever.
And so....

PRE-4

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For it is at Your summons that we come to birth,
by Your will that we are governed,
and at Your command that we return, on account of sin,
to that earth from which we came.
And when You give the sign,
we who have been redeemed by the Death of Your Son,
shall be raised up to the glory of His Resurrection....

Prayers After Communion (Options for your consideration....)

PAC-1

Lord God, whose Son left us,
in the Sacrament of His Body,
food for the journey,
mercifully grant that, strengthened by it,
our brother/sister <Name> may come
to the eternal table of Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

PAC-2

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that Your servant <Name>
who has journeyed from this world,
may by this sacrifice be cleansed and freed from sin
and so receive the everlasting joys of the Resurrection..

PAC-3

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that Your servant <Name>
for whom we have celebrated this paschal Sacrament,
may pass over to a dwelling place of light and peace.

PAC-4

Having received the Sacrament
of Your Only Begotten Son,
Who was sacrificed for us and rose in glory,
we humbly implore You, O Lord,
for Your departed servant <Name>
that, cleansed by the paschal mysteries,
he/she may glory in the gift of Resurrection to come.

PAC-5

Having received the Communion
of Your Son's Body and Blood, O Lord,
we ask You faithfully
to comfort amid the sorrows of this life
those whom You have graciously nourished
by these sacred mysteries,
so as to strengthen their hope of life eternal.

The Prayer of Saint Francis

O Lord, make me an instrument of Your Peace!
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, harmony;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light, and
Where there is sorrow, joy.
Oh Divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved
as to love; for it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. *Amen!*



Funeral Information



Full Name of the deceased: _____		Age: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Date of Death: _____	
Spouse: _____	City: _____	
Contact (Name & Relationship): _____	Phone Contact: _____	
Notes: _____		

Funeral — Day, Time & Date: _____

_____ St. Therese Parish _____ Other _____

_____ Funeral Mass (w/body , cremated remains) _____ Memorial Mass

_____ Chapel Service (*see below*) Where: _____

_____ Burial
Where: _____

yes no — Vigil Service Day & Date: _____

Where: _____

Priest/Deacon celebrating: _____ Musician: Yes No _____

Funeral Director Information

Funeral Chapel — Contact: _____

Other _____

Information received by: _____

Date: _____