



I KNOW MY SAVIOR LIVES

A guide to preparing your loved one's funeral



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Dear Parishioner,

Trusting in God, we are gathered together to pray and offer the Sacrifice of Mass for your loved one called by the Lord. Although we gather in sorrow, it is in great hope that one day you shall see your loved one again and enjoy their love and friendship. The great mercy of God will gather us all in the joy of his kingdom, so let us console one another with our faith in Jesus Christ and His promise. Be assured of the prayers of the parish family at St. Cornelius. I hope the following materials will help you in the preparation for the burial of your loved one.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Gregory J. Parlante, KCHS

This booklet is to assist you in the planning of the funeral during your time of sadness. The Church's funeral liturgies are to bring comfort and peace to the family as we commend our beloved dead to God's loving embrace. Normally there are three parts to the Catholic Rite of Funerals:

- I. **The Vigil for the Deceased** takes place the evening before the Funeral Mass and is within the context of the visitation at the funeral home (chapel). The Vigil consists of Scripture readings and prayers pertaining to the mystery of death and resurrection. The Rosary (a decade) may be included within the Vigil Service. Words of remembrance are appropriate at the Vigil Service.
- II. **The Funeral Mass** takes place in the parish church. Family members or friends may choose to place the Pall on the casket and also bring forth the gifts of bread and wine in the Offertory Procession. Catholic adult family and friends are also invited to be a part of the Liturgy of the Word. Brief, respectful words of remembrance are optional before the Funeral Mass. It is preferred that words of remembrance be shared at the luncheon or at the gravesite.
- III. **The Rite of Committal/Burial**

For pastoral reasons an abbreviated form of the Catholic Rite of Funerals may take place at the cemetery. Some families may simply choose the Rite of Committal/Burial in place of the 3 part Catholic Rite of Funerals. If a "graveside ceremony" is chosen as the committal burial service, it would include readings from the Scriptures, a brief reflection and possible words of remembrance. The Funeral Mass, however, is celebrated only in the parish church.

In recent years, the Catholic Church has allowed a relative or close friend of the deceased to offer a brief reflection or words of remembrance. If this is the desire of the family, it would normally be within the context of the Vigil for the Deceased. This reflection should be prepared beforehand in written form lasting no longer than three to five minutes. If the remarks are done in church, a copy must be provided to the Music Director ahead of time. The one giving the reflection should speak to the accomplishments of the deceased keeping in mind that it takes place in the context of a religious service. It is not a time for comments or jokes that may be embarrassing to members of the family or those present.

Again, know that your parish family, as well as the local community, are praying for you and your loved one at this time of loss.

SYMBOLISM IN THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The Liturgical Color for the funeral is chosen to express Christian hope; often the color is white.

The Paschal (Easter) Candle is placed at the foot of the casket to symbolize the Risen Christ and to signify that the deceased shares in Jesus' victory over death. It recalls the Easter Vigil when we await the Lord's resurrection and new light for the living and dead is kindled.

The Pall is placed over the coffin prior to the entrance procession. It is a reminder of the baptismal garment and all it signifies. The use of a similar pall for all in the community also signifies our equality in the eyes of Christ. This may be done by a family member(s) during the funeral Mass.

Holy Water is sprinkled on the casket to symbolize baptism into new life. It also reaffirms our faith in eternal life.

Incense is used during the Funeral Rite as a sign of honor to the physical person of the deceased, which through baptism became the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Incense also is used as a sign of the community's prayers for the deceased rising to the throne of God and as a sign of farewell.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Beginning on page 10 are the approved readings for a funeral Mass from the Old Testament and the New Testament. This booklet is to assist you, the family, primarily for planning the funeral rituals but also and perhaps more importantly for you to find solace and comfort from the Word of God.

The readings that you select for the Funeral Liturgy should be chosen because of how the scripture speaks to your heart at this time of loss and grief but also of hope and of the resurrection of the body. Yes, there are many readings to choose

from, but it is in the process of selecting that the Word of God may come to life and speak to you and your family in this moment of sadness.

The role of lector (reader) of the sacred scripture is reserved to Catholic adults.

FUNERAL MASS

You are asked to select one Old Testament reading and one New Testament reading. During the Easter season, there is no Old Testament reading but rather two readings from the New Testament. The priest will select the Gospel.

VIGIL SERVICE

The actual ceremony for the Vigil of the Deceased has selected two scripture readings for the service, however it is strongly suggested that the family choose their own scripture readings even for the Vigil service. One would need to choose a New Testament and a Gospel for the Vigil service. The reason for the family choosing the scripture readings for the Vigil service is that often times it is hard to pick just one reading for the Funeral Mass so the opportunity is given to the family to use other scripture readings at the Vigil of the Deceased.

GRAVESIDE CEREMONY

If a family chooses, for pastoral reasons, to have only a Graveside Service the family would be invited to select the scripture readings. Normally, a New Testament reading and a Gospel is appropriate. Short words of remembrance by one family member might be included in the Graveside Service.

CREMATION

Until 1963, the Catholic Church not only preferred burial of the body in a tomb, but actually prohibited cremation. That prohibition was in response to a

prevailing attitude connected with cremation that denied the resurrection of the dead and the immortality of the soul.

Today's changing economic, geographic, ecological and family factors have led the Church to shift its position. The Catholic Church, while still preferring burial in a tomb, now permits cremation "in case of necessity" as it is not chosen as a denial of Christian teaching of the resurrection of the Body.

The Church prefers burial of the body in the ground or in a tomb for these reasons: It imitates the example of Christ's burial. It emphasizes the dignity and respect for the human body. It strengthens our faith in our own personal resurrection. It counters the current cultural popularity and acceptance of the belief of reincarnation, a belief the Catholic Church does not accept as truth. It provides a foretaste of the spiritual transformation that takes place after death; and it helps facilitate the grieving process for the family.

"The Catholic Church honors the mortal remains of all the deceased. In Baptism, the body became "a Temple of the Holy Spirit". For this reason, Church law requires an appropriate Christian burial that honors the body of the deceased. While the burial of the body is the preferred custom and tradition of the Catholic Church, cremation is now allowed. When cremation is chosen, it is expected that either the body or the ashes of cremation will be present during the Funeral Rites of the Church."

The following options are possible:

1. The body in the cremation casket is present for the Vigil for the Deceased and for the Funeral Mass. After the Funeral Mass the body is cremated and the ashes are interred at the cemetery or columbarium at a convenient time.
2. The cremation of the deceased may take place prior to the Vigil for the Deceased. The remains must be placed in a suitable urn or container and should be present at the Vigil for the Deceased as well as at the Funeral Liturgy. The Rite of Committal takes place at the cemetery where the ashes are interred in the ground or a columbarium.
3. In the archdiocese, it is preferred that the ashes are buried within 30 days of cremation. Church law does not permit the ashes to be taken home or discarded by scattering in other places.

MUSIC

Because a funeral is an official ceremony of the Roman Catholic Church, guidelines for music for the Liturgy are to be followed. Music is to follow the liturgical norms for Catholic Liturgy and should be appropriately selected so that singing can be shared by all in attendance.

Each piece of music in a Funeral Mass has a specific liturgical purpose, and so the music selected for those places must fulfill that purpose; for example: Responsorial Psalm, Alleluia Response, The Great Amen. If the family has special requests for favorite songs or sacred hymns that do not fall into a liturgical category, those requests in most cases can be accommodated at the funeral home, apart from the funeral Mass. Examples of this type of request would include all secular (non-religious) songs, as well as all recorded music.

All hymn selections and musicians need to be coordinated with the Music Director, Margie Melchiorre. She will meet with you to discuss arrangements and can be reached by cell phone at (610)-420-8214 or by email at m.melc@verizon.net. If there is any question about the appropriateness of a hymn or piece of music, the final determination will be made by the Pastor.

During a Funeral Mass, three or four hymns may be selected:

- 1) Processional (Entrance) hymn
- 2) Hymn at the preparation of the gifts
- 3) A Communion hymn
- 4) A Song of Praise (optional)
- 5) Recessional hymn

Please take note: The parish Music Director is under contract and therefore is the chosen musician for all parish events.

Cantor – The cantor is under contract and therefore it is preferred that one of the parish cantors be used for liturgical ceremonies but for pastoral reasons other options may be discussed with the pastor.

Professional Musicians/Singers- Professional musicians (instruments) and singers may be used during the Funeral Mass at the Offertory Rite or Communion Rite, when approved by the Pastor or Parish Music Director.

REMUNERATION FEES

Fees for the Music Director and cantor are determined either through the funeral director or with the Music Director herself. There is no fee for a parish family in the use of the church for a funeral liturgy. A family or individuals may wish to give a memorial gift to St. Cornelius Parish in the name of the deceased family member.

There is no remuneration or fee for the priest/deacon or altar servers for services during the Funeral Rite. However, if the family wishes to give a gift to either priest/deacon or altar server it should be in an envelope to the individual(s).

MASS INTENTIONS

It is a tradition of the Church that a Mass or Masses are celebrated for the deceased. These Mass Intentions are always scheduled with the church secretary. If requested, a Mass card may be sent to the family of the deceased. The stipend for a Memorial Mass according to Diocesan policy is minimal \$10.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Some families or individuals may choose to make a donation in the name of the deceased person or family member. Acknowledgements of all memorial gifts are sent by the church office to the family of the deceased as well as the donor of the memorial gift.

PRAYER

God, our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.

May all your people who have gone
before us in faith
share his victory
and enjoy the vision of your glory
forever,

where Christ lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the
faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.

Amen.

Roman Catholic Readings – Ordinary Time

The selection of passages from the Bible is an important part of planning a funeral ceremony, as we want to turn to God's word for wisdom and comfort in this time of loss. The Word of God is at the heart of our Christian celebration of faith in this funeral rite in anticipation of the resurrection of the body.

To make this easier for the family, the Catholic Church has pre-selected a number of Biblical passages that are appropriate for the occasion of a funeral. Please look over these passages as part of your funeral preparations, and find those words that speak to your heart.

Instructions:

1. The first reading is taken from the Old Testament. Each reading also has an accompanying psalm, which will be chosen by the Music Director.
2. The second reading is taken from the New Testament.
3. The family is invited to designate two adult, catholic persons to read the first two readings, one reading each. The psalm is sung by a cantor, who leads the congregation to sing a response.
4. The priest or an assisting deacon will proclaim the gospel.

Choices for the First Reading – Old Testament

1. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

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

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

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.

2. Job 19:1, 23-27a

I know that my Vindicator lives.

A reading from the Book of Job

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

3 Wisdom 3:1-9 (short form, 3:1-6, 9)

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

- Omit the words in bolded brackets [] for the short form of this reading.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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

4 Wisdom 4:7-15

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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.

5. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

He will destroy death forever.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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

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

6. Lamentations 3:17-26

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

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.

7. Daniel 12:1-3

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

A reading from the Book of the Prophet 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.

Choices for the Second Reading – New Testament

1. Romans 5:5-11

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,

because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

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

But God proves his love for us

in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.

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

Not only that,

but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

2. Romans 5:17-21

Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of the one,

death came to reign through that one,
how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace
and of the gift of justification
come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression
condemnation came upon all,
so, through one righteous act,
acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man
the many were made sinners,
so through the obedience of the one

the many will be made righteous.
The law entered in so that transgression might increase
but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that,
as sin reigned in death,
grace also might reign through justification for eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

3. Romans 6:3-9 (short form, 6:3-4, 8-9)

We too might live in newness of life.

Omit the words in bolded brackets [] for the short form of this reading.

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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.

4. Romans 8:14-23

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, Abba, "Father!"

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,

if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.
I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing
compared with the glory to be revealed 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.

5. Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

will he not also give us everything else along with him?

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

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

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

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

6. Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans
Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself,
and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why then do you judge your brother?

Or you, why do you look down on your brother?

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;
for it is written:

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

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

7. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (short form, 15:20-23)

So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.

Omit the words in bolded brackets [] for the short form of this reading.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians
Brothers and sisters:

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

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

For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:

Christ the first fruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
[then comes the end,
when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death,
for "he subjected everything under his feet."

But when it says that everything has been subjected,
it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him.

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

8. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Death is swallowed up in victory.

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.

9. 2 Corinthians 4:14—5:1

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

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians
Brothers and sisters:

Knowing 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.

10. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.

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.

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

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

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

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

11. Philippians 3:20-21

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians
Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified Body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

12. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

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.

13. 2 Timothy 2:8-13

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

A reading from the second Letter of Saint 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.

14. 1 John 3:1-2

We shall see him as he is.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

15. 1 John 3:14-16

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

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

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

Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.

The way we came to know love
was that he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers

Choices for the First Reading during the Easter Season

1. Acts 10:34-43 (short form, 10:34-36, 42-43)

He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

Omit the words in bolded brackets [] for the short form of this reading

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 children of Israel
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.

2 Revelation 14:13

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this:

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," said the Spirit,

"let them find rest from their labors,
for their works accompany them."

3. Revelation 20:11—21:1

The dead were judged according to their deeds.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence

and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne,
and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds,
by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead;

then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.

(This pool of fire is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life
was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

4. Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

There shall be no more death.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away."
The One who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new."
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of life-giving water.
The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son."
The word of the Lord.

Hymn Suggestions for Funeral Liturgies (2016)

Entrance and/or Recessionals

- #684 "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" (*I know that my Redeemer lives, the one who calls me home. I long to see God face to face, to see with my own eyes, I know that I shall rise again*)
- #479 "What Wondrous Love is This" (*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on...*)
- #537 "O God Beyond All Praising" (*We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still.*)
- #635 "Blest Are They" (*Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom of God!*)
- #558 "Sing A New Song" (*The trumpet sounds, the dead shall be raised, I know my Savior lives*)
- #617 "Sing with All the Saints in Glory"
- #575 "Rise Up with Him" (*For with Jesus who leads us, by grace we will rise up with Him*)
- #720 "Lift High the Cross"
- #420 "How Great Thou Art"
- #427 "Be not Afraid"
- #440 "We Will Rise Again"
- #432 "On Eagle's Wings"
- #633 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" (for military service)

Presentation of the Gifts

- #378 "Here I Am, Lord"
- #402 "There is a Longing"
- #438 "Only in God"
- #430 "You are Near"
- #456 "Come to Me" (*Come to me all who labor and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest.*)
- #457 "Eye has not Seen" (*Eye has not seen what God has ready for those who love Him.*)
- #460 "I heard the Voice of Jesus" (*Come unto me and rest*)
- #505 "Lord You Have Come to the Seashore"
- #527 "Prayer of St. Francis"
- #692 "Precious Lord, Take my Hand"
- #664 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"

Communion Hymns

#319 "Our Blessing Cup" (*Precious indeed in your sight, the life and death of those you love*)

#324 "Gift of the Finest Wheat" (*Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat!*)

#328 "Taste and See"

#347 "God's Holy Gifts" (*May the Body of Christ...be food for everlasting life*)

#333 "Behold the Lamb" (*All who eat, all who drink shall live; all who dwell in God shall come to know... His glory*)

#349 "I am the Bread of Life" (*I will raise you up on the last day*)

#365 "I Am the Living Bread"

#355 "The Supper of the Lord"

#368 "Panis Angelicus"

#454 "You are Mine"

#464 "Shepherd Me O God"

#497 "We Remember"

#671 "Loving and Forgiving"

Participation, Reading and Music Planner for Funeral Mass

Funeral Liturgy for: _____

Date of Mass: _____

Celebrant: _____

Deacon: _____

Contact Person Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell #: _____ Home #: _____

E-Mail: _____

Viewing: _____

Pall Bearers (white cloth): Placed by two or more people (not done if there is an urn)

1: _____ 2: _____

3: _____ 4: _____

Gift Bearers: two or more people. If they are children, they should be of First Communion age or older.

1: _____ 2: _____

Hymns

Entrance Hymn: _____

Offertory Hymn: _____

Communion: _____

Hymn of Praise (optional): _____

Recessional: _____

Readings: Select one of each from the list of readings.

Old Testament #: _____ Selection: _____

Reader: _____

New Testament #: _____ Selection: _____

Reader: _____

If you do not have any family members who wish to read, members of funeral ministry will be happy to do the readings.

Readers should be at church by 9:15 to practice if there is a viewing. If there is no viewing, they should find Veronica as soon as they get to church.

Intercessions are read by the deacon or priest and taken from the Book of Rites.

Number of Seats to reserve for immediate family: _____

Circle Approximate size of congregation expected:

10 to 50 50 to 100 100 to 200 more than 200

Percentage of that number who are practicing Catholics: _____

Funeral Director: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cemetery: _____

Please ask the funeral director to introduce readers and gift bearers to our sacristan, Veronica Egner. She will practice with them.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Music Director, Margie Melchiorre by cell at 610-420-8214 or by email at m.melc@verizon.net

Military Service

Branch of Service: _____

Service Serial Number: _____

Date of Entry: _____ Location: _____
(dd/mm/yyyy)

Discharge of Service: _____ Date: _____
(dd/mm/yyyy)

Place of Discharge: _____

Highest Grade, Rank Achieved: _____

Wars/Conflicts Served: _____

Additional Information:

Medals: _____

Honors: _____

Citations: _____

Participating Organizations at Wake or Committal Service (*military, lodge, etc*):

Flag (*committal service only*): Draped Folded

Presented to: _____

Wake/Rosary Service: Yes No

Location: _____

Officiator: _____

Visiting: Public Private None

Clothing Preference: From Current Wardrobe New

Other: _____

Description/Color: _____

Family Information

Information for: _____

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Membership In

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Biographical Information

An obituary is important and meaningful to those left behind. Include information about your loved one’s education, work, accomplishments, etc.

Name: _____

Place of birth and early years of childhood: _____

Schools: _____

Work Information: _____

Member Organizations: _____

Parish Name: _____

Parish Committees, Commissions, etc: _____

Achievements and Special Honors: _____

Additional Information: _____

How Social Security Can Help You When a Family Member Dies



You should let Social Security know when a person dies as soon as possible. Usually, the funeral director will report the person's death to Social Security. You'll need to give the deceased's Social Security number to the funeral director so he or she can make the report.

Some of the deceased's family members may be able to receive Social Security benefits if the deceased person worked long enough under Social Security to qualify for benefits. **Contact Social Security as soon as you can to make sure the family gets all the benefits they're entitled.** Please read the following information carefully to learn what benefits may be available.

- We can pay a one-time payment of \$255 to the surviving spouse if he or she was living with the deceased. If living apart and getting certain Social Security benefits on the deceased's record, the surviving spouse may still be able to get this one-time payment. If there's no surviving spouse, a child who's eligible for benefits on the deceased's record in the month of death can get this payment.
- Certain family members **may be eligible** to receive monthly benefits, including:
 - A widow or widower age 60 or older (age 50 or older if disabled);
 - A widow or widower any age caring for the deceased's child who is under age 16 or disabled;
 - An unmarried child of the deceased who is:
 - Younger than age 18 (or up to age 19 if he or she is a full-time student in an elementary or secondary school); or
 - Age 18 or older with a disability that began before age 22;
 - A stepchild, grandchild, stepgrandchild, or adopted child under certain circumstances;
 - Parents, age 62 or older, who were dependent on the deceased for at least half of their support; and
 - A surviving divorced spouse, under certain circumstances.

If the deceased was receiving Social Security benefits, you must return the benefit received for the month of death or any later months. For example, if the person dies in July, you must return the benefit paid in August. If received by direct deposit, contact the bank or other financial institution and ask them to return any funds received for the month of death or later. If paid by check, do not cash any checks received for the month the person dies or later. Return the checks to Social Security as soon as possible.

However, eligible family members may be able to receive death benefits for the month the beneficiary died.

Contacting Social Security

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov anytime to apply for benefits, open a **my Social Security** account, find publications, and get answers to frequently asked questions. Or, call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** (for the deaf or hard of hearing, call our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**). We can answer case-specific questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Generally, you'll have a shorter wait time if you call after Tuesday. We treat all calls confidentially. We also want to make sure you receive accurate and courteous service, so a second Social Security representative monitors some telephone calls. We can provide general information by automated phone service 24 hours a day. And, remember, our website, www.socialsecurity.gov, is available to you anytime and anywhere!

www.socialsecurity.gov

Printed on recycled paper



Social Security Administration
SSA Publication No. 05-10008
ICN 451390
Unit of Issue - HD (one hundred)
November 2015 (Recycle prior editions)

Department of Veterans

What are VA Burial Allowances?

VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits that are generally paid at the maximum amount authorized by law for an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs. A VA regulation change in 2014 simplified the program to pay eligible survivors quickly and efficiently. Eligible surviving spouses of record are paid automatically upon notification of a Veteran's death, without the need to submit a claim. VA may grant additional benefits, including the plot or internment allowance and transportation allowance, if it receives a claim for these benefits.

Who Is Eligible?

If the burial benefit has not been automatically paid to the surviving spouse, VA will pay the first living person to file a claim of those listed below:

- The Veteran's surviving spouse, OR
- The survivor of a legal union* between the deceased Veteran and the survivor, OR
- The Veteran's children, regardless of age, OR
- The Veteran's parents or surviving parent, OR
- The executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased Veteran

*Legal union means a formal relationship between the decedent and the survivor existed on the date of the Veteran's death, which was recognized under the law of the State in which the couple formalized the relationship and evidenced by the State's issuance of documentation memorializing the relationship.

The Veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- The Veteran died as a result of a service-connected disability, OR
- The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, OR
- The Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided to receive his or her full military retirement or disability pay, OR
- The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non VA facility, OR

- The Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to, or from, a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, OR
- The Veteran had an original or reopened claim for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death and would have been entitled to benefits from a date prior to the date of death, OR
- The Veteran died on, or after, October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.

How Much Does VA Pay?

Service-Connected Death If the Veteran died on or after September 11, 2001, the maximum service-connected burial allowance is \$2,000. If the Veteran died before September 11, 2001, the maximum service-connected burial allowance is \$1,500. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, VA may reimburse some or all of the costs of transporting the deceased Veteran's remains.

Non Service-Connected Death

- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2015, VA will pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$747 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2014, but before October 1, 2015, VA will pay \$300 for burial allowance and \$745 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2013, but before October 1, 2014, VA will pay \$300 burial allowance and \$734 for a plot.

Effective October 1, 2011, there are higher non-service-connected death rates payable if the Veteran was hospitalized by VA at the time of his or her death.

- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2015, VA will pay a \$747 burial allowance and \$747 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2014, but before October 1, 2015, VA will pay a \$745 burial allowance and \$745 for a plot.
- If the Veteran died on or after October 1, 2013, but Before October 1, 2014, VA will pay a \$734 burial allowance and \$734 for a plot.

If the death occurred while the Veteran was properly hospitalized by VA, or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the Veteran's remains may be reimbursed.

Note: If the Veteran dies while traveling at VA expense for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, VA will pay burial and plot allowances and transportation expenses.

Unclaimed Remains

If a Veteran dies and their remains are unclaimed, the entity responsible for the burial of the Veteran would be entitled to a \$300 burial allowance. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, VA may reimburse the cost of transporting the deceased Veterans remains. VA may also reimburse for the cost of a plot.

How Can You Apply?

You can apply by completing VA Form 21P-530 Application for Burial Benefits. You should attach a copy of the Veteran's military discharge document (DD Form 214 or equivalent) and a death certificate. If you are claiming transportation expenses, please attach a receipt for the expenses paid.

You can call us toll-free within the U.S. by dialing 1-800-827-1000. If you are located in the local dialing area of a VA regional office, you can also call us by checking your local telephone directory. For the hearing impaired, our TDD number is 711.

You should mail your application to the VA regional office located in your state. You can obtain the mailing address for VA regional offices by accessing our locations site. The address is also located in the government pages of your telephone book under "United States Government, Veterans."