

Mass of Christian Burial

This guide has been prepared to assist your family in planning the Mass of Christian Burial for your loved one here at ***St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church***.

We hope, by choosing your own Scripture Readings, Responsorial Psalm, Intercessions, and Liturgical Music, you and your family might share fully in the Liturgy and express your love and care for the recently deceased. Our Parish Priest will be the Principal Celebrant of the Funeral Mass.

If your family has a request for a visiting priest to concelebrate the Mass, we will do our best to accommodate your wish.

Please be assured of the prayers of our entire Staff and Family of St. Bartholomew during this time of Bereavement.

Liturgical Music

It is by Diocesan policy and that of St. Bartholomew Church, that ***all*** music for the Mass of Christian Burial be **from our parish hymnal or** sacred classical music. In reverence for the sanctity of the Holy Mass, Broadway or secular songs are inappropriate and are **not** permitted. The Mass is a living sacrifice and so all music must be live, no CD or pre-recorded music may be used at the Church during the Mass.

By parish policy, St. Bartholomew requires the ministry of the parish Director of Music who will play and cantor the Mass. The music director has been trained and formed in the rites of the Catholic Mass and will ensure the sung parts of the Mass are ministered appropriately. ***If a family member is a cantor in their Catholic Parish***, they may **assist** in ministering at the Mass. Please contact the parish priest or music director **before** making arrangements for a

guest cantor.

Introductory Rites

When you arrive at the Church the Priest and Servers will greet the family and casket outside (weather permitting) or in the Main Vestibule. At that time the Mass will begin with the Sprinkling of Holy Water and the placing of the Pall over the casket. Your family members may wish to assist in the placing of the Pall. The Pall symbolizes the white garment placed on us at Baptism. Family members are encouraged to assist in this ritual.

Liturgy of the Word

Family members are encouraged to proclaim the Scripture Readings at the Funeral Mass. Please try to choose individuals with clear speaking voices to minister as Lector as the readings are meant to bring comfort to those who are hearing the proclamation. Please give your Lectors (readers) a copy of the selected Scripture Reading so that they may prepare in advance. If there is no one to serve as Lector, the Priest will proclaim the readings.

The **First Reading** is taken from the **Old Testament**. The Responsorial Psalm is **always** sung by the Music Director. The **Second Reading** is taken from the **New Testament**. The **Gospel** you select is **always** proclaimed by the Priest or Deacon.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Family members are encouraged to present the gifts of BREAD and WINE at the Funeral Mass during the singing of the Presentation Hymn. Please select two family members to present the gifts. It is the policy of the Diocese of Cleveland that only Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist **commissioined for St. Bartholomew** can assist in the distribution of Eucharist.

Final Commendation

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal does not include any type of a Eulogy during the Funeral Liturgy. It is strongly suggested that these remarks be shared at the wake, cemetery or gathering after the interment. Our Priests would greatly appreciate any personal information from the Family that they may include in the Homily during the Liturgy.

First Reading

Daniel 12: 1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel:

I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:
“At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;

It shall be a time of 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.
Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8,11

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes: **(EE-KLEE-Z-ASTEES)**

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 what is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to dance;
A time to scatter stones, and 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 speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time for war, a time for peace.

He has made everything appropriate to its time, and he has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Isaiah 25: 6,7-9

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 the 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.
Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19, 20, 30-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs:

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, had an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.

She obtains wool and flax and works with loving hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff and her fingers ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to
the needy.

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her
at the city gates.

The Word of The Lord.
Thanks Be to God.

First Reading

Sirach 3: 2-6,12-14

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

The Lord sets a father in honor over his children;
a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.

He who honors his father atones for sins; he stores up riches
who reveres his mother.

He who honors his father is gladdened by children, and when he
prays, he is heard.

He who reveres his father will live a long life;
he obeys the Lord who brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old:
grieve him not as long as he lives.

Even if his mind fails, be considerate with him;
revile him not in the fullness of your strength.

For kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
it will serve as a sin offering
it will take lasting root.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Sirach 38: 16-20

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

My son, shed tears for one who is dead with wailing and bitter lament; as is only proper, prepare the body, absent not yourself from his burial.

Weep bitterly, mourn fully, pay your tribute of sorrow, as he deserves, one or two days, to prevent gossip; then compose yourself after your grief, for grief can only bring on an extremity and heartache destroy one's health.

Turn not your thoughts to him again; cease to recall him; think rather of the end.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Sirach 38: 16-20
(adapted)

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

My son, show tears over a dead man and intone the lament to show your own deep grief; bury his body with due ceremonial, and do not neglect to honor his grave.

And then be comforted in your sorrow; for grief can lead to death, a grief-stricken heart undermines your strength.

Let grief end with the funeral; a long-time grieving oppresses the mind. Once the dead are laid to rest do not worry, have courage.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Wisdom 3: 1-9

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Wisdom 4: 7-15

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 obscure 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.
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

First Reading

Job 19: 1, 23-26

A reading from the Book of Job:

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever!

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm

(Sung)

Psalm 23

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

God is my shepherd so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name.

Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff my comfort and my hope.

Responsorial Psalm

(Sung)

Psalm 27

**I believe, I believe I shall see the goodness
of the Lord, in the land, in the land of the living.**

The Lord is my light, the is my rock, my salvation.
The Lord is my refuge, guarding my life;
of whom should I be afraid.

Only one thing I ask:
may I live in the house of my Lord.
I shall gaze on God's goodness all of my days;
I shall live in the shelter of God.

I believe I shall see the goodness of God
in the land of the living.
Be strong, wait for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

(Sung)

Psalm 42

**My soul is thirsting for you my God,
when shall I see you face to face?**

Like the deer that yearns for water,
my soul is thirsting for you my God.
My soul is thirsting for the God of my life.
When shall I see you face to face?

Why am I so troubled?
I will put my hope in you my God.
Once again, I will praise him.
He is my savior and my God.

May the Lord show constant love by day,
so that I may sing his praise by night.
For the Lord is my defender.
He is the God of my life.

Responsorial Psalm

(Sung)

Psalm 90

**In every age O God, you have been our refuge,
in every age O God, you have been our hope.**

Long before the mountains came to be
and the land and sea and stars of the night,
through the endless seasons of all time,
You have always been and will always be.

Destiny is cast, and at your silent word,
we return to dust and scatter to the wind.
A thousand years are like a single moment gone,
as the light that fades at the end of day.

Teach us to make use of the time we have,
teach us to be patient even as we wait.
Teach us to embrace our every joy and pain,
to sleep peacefully and to rise up strong.

Responsorial Psalm

(Sung)

Psalm 131

**Like a little child in its mothers' arms,
my soul will rest in you,
my soul will rest in you.**

My heart is not proud, my eyes do not seek
the ways from above, the things that are great.
The marvels beyond are not what I need for you are my peace.

Quiet and still my soul is calm,
in your sweet embrace, like mother and child.
My hope is in you; my heart is full, for you are my peace.

As the deer longs for running stream,
my soul longs for you to see your face.
To you I will sing and offer my praise
for you are my peace.

Responsorial Psalm

(Sung)

Psalm 138

**In the presence of the angels, O Lord,
may we praise your name, may we praise your name.**

I will thank you Lord with all of my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you,
I will adore before your holy temple.

I will thank you Lord for your faithfulness and love,
beyond all my hopes and dreams.
On the day that I called you answered,
You gave life to the strength of my soul.

All who live on earth shall give you thanks,
when they hear the words of your voice.
And all shall sing of your ways:
“How great is the glory of God!”

Second Reading

I Corinthians 15: 51-57

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

I am going to tell you a mystery. Not all of us shall fall asleep, but all of us are to be changed in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

This corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, this mortal body with immortality. When the corruptible frame takes on incorruptibility and the mortal immortality, then the saying of Scripture will be fulfilled:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.
O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law. But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

II Corinthians 4: 13 - 5: 1

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

We know that the one who raised up the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

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

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

II Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

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 judgement 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.
Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

Revelation 21: 1-5, 6-7

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 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.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

Romans 6: 3-9

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

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 may be done away with, that we may 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.
Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

Romans 8: 31-53, 37-39

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

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 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.
Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

Romans 14: 7-12

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

None of us lives 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 the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother or sister? Or you, why do you look down on you brother or sister?

For we all shall stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So, then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

II Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy:

All that remains now is the crown of righteousness. I am already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is now. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

From now on a merited crown awaits me; on that day the Lord, just judge that He is, will award it to me, and not only to me but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5: 1-12

A reading from the holy 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 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 shall 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 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.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ!

Gospel Reading

John 5: 24-29

A reading from the holy 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 the 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 here 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.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ!

Gospel Reading

John 6: 51-59

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus said to the crowds:

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I give is my Flesh for the life of the world.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his Blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my Flesh is true food, and my Blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ!

Gospel Reading

John 11: 17-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him; "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him; "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ!

Gospel Reading

John 11: 32-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So, the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So, Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take the stone away." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

So, they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So, Jesus said to the crowd, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ!

Gospel Reading

John 14: 1-6

A reading from the holy 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 come to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ!

Universal Prayers

(Prayers of the Faithful)

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 our prayers to his:

READER:

In Baptism **N.** received the light of Christ, scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Our brother/sister **N.** was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.
Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom.

Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Universal Prayers

(Continued...)

Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer unjustly these sins against your love and gather them into the eternal kingdom of peace.

Lord in your mercy.

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.

Hear our prayer.

The family and friends of **N.** seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that comes from grief.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our Brother/sister **N.** Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Mass Offerings & Memorials

Our Parish often receives requests on ways that their loved Ones can be memorialized.

You are invited to stop in the Parish Offices where we will be happy to help you with Mass Offerings for the upcoming year. We are able to book 3 Masses per calendar year.

Another beautiful and visible permanent remembrance of your loved one is to have a **Memorial Paver Brick** placed under our Parish Bell Tower. There are various sizes still available. And your personal inscription will help preserve the memory of your loved one here at the Parish.

We have recently purchased permanent hymnals for our Church that are used not only every Sunday but for any Mass or Service held in the Church. A **Hymnal Memorial** provides your family to have a personal inscription placed on the inside cover of the book and is yet another wonderful way to remember those who are now sharing the promise of Eternal Life.

Again, you are invited to stop at the Parish Offices where our staff can assist you with these requests.

Gospel Reading

Luke 7: 11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to LUKE:

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied Him.

As they drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her.

When the Lord saw her, He was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and He said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!"

The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited His people."

This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ!

First Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-5

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated;
Indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill
shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!