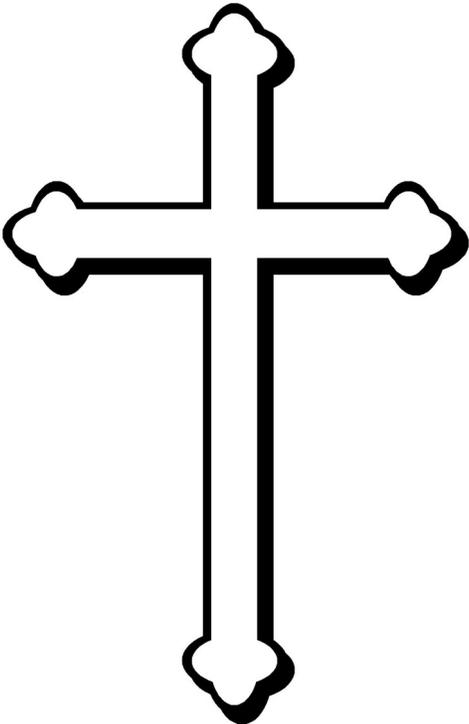




With Heartfelt  
Sympathy



## TESTIMONY OF FAITH/WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

A family has the option of having a Testimony of Faith offered before the beginning of the funeral Mass. It is not required.

The Testimony to the Faith in the life of the deceased should recall the blessings that came through the deceased person's life, their personal virtues, and their faith in Christ. It would be appropriate to recall their good works, their relationship with Christ, and the role faith played in their family and personal life. The words should always be respectful of the individual, all family members, and the sacred context and location in which the words are offered.

A Testimony of Faith is not the same as the secular understanding of a "eulogy", which is a reminiscing and toasting of the life of the departed outside the context of faith. Those who wish to give a eulogy, share a story, etc. about the deceased may fittingly do so during the wake, following the burial at the cemetery, or at a meal following the funeral.

Below are some guidelines for the Testimony of Faith:

- Only one person may deliver the Testimony of Faith at the funeral Mass. If several people wish to speak, we ask that they meet together, share their thoughts, and select one person to speak.
- The speaker should be someone who can maintain composure.
- The Testimony of Faith should be between three and five minutes in length.
- Please bear in mind that to speak publicly in a Catholic Church is a significant privilege. One should refrain from any hurtful comments, jokes, or language not in keeping with the respect due to the deceased or the dignity of the sacred liturgy.

If you decide to have someone offer the Testimony of Faith, please make note of that person's name on the planning sheet.

It is our normal practice to have this Testimony given at the beginning of Mass. We find this is preferable for the person offering the testimony, as it enables them to offer their testimony and then be free to pray without distraction during the rest of the Mass. Also, it enables everyone present to reflect on our departed brother or sister at the start of Mass. However, if desired, the testimony may be given at the end of Mass and before we depart for the cemetery. In that case, please notify a staff member or priest when you meet with them.

St. John Vianney Roman Catholic Church

2950 Southwestern Blvd  
Orchard Park, NY 14127

Dear Friends in Christ,

The parishioners of St. John Vianney Parish and I extend our sincere sympathies to you at this time of loss. May the comfort and consolation of God be with you and your family.

This booklet is presented to you so that, if you wish, you may plan the funeral liturgy at Church. You will find a yellow planning sheet in the center of the booklet where you can indicate your choices. Please return the completed planning sheet to the office or to the Parish staff member when you meet with them.

You may decide not to make any selections and to leave the choices to the priest.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance, both now and in the weeks ahead. Our prayers are with you at this time.

Sincerely,

Fr. Mark Itua  
Parish Office Phone (716) 674-9133  
Parish Office Fax (716) 674-9134

## Musical Selections

### Our Belief on Cremation

The Catholic Church has always had a preference for leaving the body of the deceased intact. This is because we treasure the body which we have known, which was made holy in Baptism, and which will be raised again at the Resurrection of the Dead. However, the Church does permit cremation if one so chooses.

When cremation is chosen the Church prefers that the body of the deceased be present for its funeral rites since the presence of the body most clearly brings to mind the life and death of the person and elevates our hope in the resurrection of the body. Therefore, if cremation is chosen, it is recommended that the cremation take place following the funeral Mass. In such instances, the burial would take place at a later date, after the cremation is completed.

At the same time, if a person chooses to have the cremation done immediately following death, the Church allows the cremated remains to be present for the liturgy, with the burial to take place immediately afterwards. In these instances an urn brought into Church should be respectful and not have any non-religious imagery or design.

All music played in Church must be religious music and be played live.

For any questions regarding music please contact  
Chuck Basil at 716-778-4866.

All Creatures of Our God and King	Lord of All Hopefulness
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus	Lord of the Dance
Amazing Grace	Morning Has Broken
Ave Maria (Hymnal)	Now We Remain
Ave Maria (Solo)	On Eagles' Wings
Be Not Afraid	One Bread One Body
Blest Are They	O Sanctissima
Be With Me Lord	Panis Angelicus
Canticle of the Sun	Parable
Eat this Bread	Prayer of Saint Francis
Eye has Not Seen	Seek Ye First
For All the Saints	Shelter Me, O God
Gift of Finest Wheat	Shepherd Me, O God
Go In Peace	Sing Out Earth and Skies
Hail, Holy Queen	Soon and Very Soon
Here I Am, Lord	Take and Eat
How Great Thou Art	The King of Love
I Am the Bread of Life	My Shepherd Is
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	The Strife Is O'er
I Lift Up My Soul	This Alone
Jerusalem My Happy Home	Ubi Caritas
Jesus, Remember Me	We Remember
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	We Walk By Faith
Let there Be Peace on Earth	You Are Mine
Lift High the Cross	You Are Near

Like A Shepherd

## **Prayer of the Faithful**

Our response is "Lord, Hear Our Prayer."

1. We pray for our brother (sister) N., who was given the pledge of eternal life in Baptism, that he (she) may now be admitted into the company of the saints.

We pray to the Lord.

2. For our brother (sister) N., who was nourished by the Body of Christ in Holy Communion, that he (she) might enjoy the banquet of life eternal.

We pray to the Lord.

3. We pray for all those who are coming to the end of their life, that they might be attended by loving caregivers, that they might find relief for their sufferings, and that God might give them peace and serenity.

We pray to the Lord.

4. For the family and friends of our departed loved one, that they may know the comfort and consolation of God.

We pray to the Lord.

5. For all of us assembled here today in faith, that, after a life of faithfulness to God, we will one day be reunited with all the faithful departed in the kingdom of God.

We pray to the Lord.

## **The Burial of Cremated Remains**

The remains of cremated bodies should be treated with the same respect given to a body which is in a coffin. This includes the manner in which they are carried and transported, and proper burial or entombment. Out of respect for the dignity of a person we do not divide their cremated remains, or disperse them in any way other than burial or entombment in a grave or mausoleum. Therefore the cremated remains of a body should always be entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium, or be buried in a common grave at the cemetery after the funeral. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased neglects the dignity due to the remains of a person, fails to give appropriate closure to their earthly life, and removes the possibility for future generations to visit and pray at the place of final rest of loved ones. Just as we would not keep a coffin in our home, so also we should not keep cremated remains anywhere except an appropriate place of final rest at a cemetery.

Our Parish staff can assist you if you have further questions regarding these matters.

## First Readings (Old Testament)

### 1. A reading from the book of Job 19: 1, 23-27

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 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.

The Word of the Lord.



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

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

The Word of the Lord.

### 16. A reading from the book of Revelation 14:13

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the spirit. "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The Word of the Lord.

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

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe away 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.

**13. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

4: 13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers [and sisters], about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so to 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.

**14. A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy**

2:8-13

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we 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.

**2. A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes** 3: 1-11

There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every thing 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 his toil?

I have considered the task that God has appointed

for the sons of men to be busied about.

He has made everything appropriate to its time,

and has put the timeless into their hearts,

without man's ever discovering,

from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

**3. A reading from the book of Wisdom** 3: 1-9

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.

**4. A reading from the book of Wisdom** 4: 7-15

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.

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.

**11. A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians** 5: 1, 6-10

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

So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that 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.

**10. A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians**  
4: 14-5:1

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

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

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.

**5. A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah** 25:6a, 7-9

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

**6. A reading from the book of Lamentations** 3: 17-26

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 I will 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.

**7. A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel** 12: 1-3

I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the Lord:  
“At that time there shall arise  
Michael, the great prince,  
guardian of your people;  
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress  
since nations began until that time.

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.

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

14: 7-9, 10b-12

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

**8. A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

15: 20-23

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at His coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

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

8:14-23

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, "Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

## 6. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

8:31b-35, 37-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

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.

## 8. A reading from the second book of Maccabees 12: 43-46

Judas, the ruler of Israel, then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of 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.

## Second Readings (New Testament)

### 1. A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-36, 42-43

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:  
“In truth, I see that God knows 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. 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.

### 2. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 5: 5-11

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

### 3. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 5: 17-21

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

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

### 4. A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 6:3-9

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.