

*The parish staff extend their prayers
and sympathy to you and your family
during this time of sorrow.*

*In the days and months that follow,
please know that all of the staff
are available for visits, prayer,
and grief resources.*

*Various reading materials
as well as support groups
are offered throughout the year.*

*As we go forward on our journey of life,
may we comfort one another with
our faith in Jesus Christ.*

Saint Rita Church
BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY
440-248-1350, ext. 143

FUNERAL LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE

Celebrating a Funeral at Saint Rita Parish



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PLANNING THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

*This booklet was prepared by the parish community of Saint Rita to assist your family in planning the Mass of Christian Burial for your loved one. We hope that by choosing the readings and music, you and your family might share more fully in the liturgy, and express your care and love for the deceased. Enclosed with this booklet is a **LITURGY PLANNING FORM**, to be returned to the priest presiding at the funeral Mass. Please fill-out the form and return it to the priest/Parish Office as soon as possible. If you need assistance, a parish staff member will gladly provide help. Be assured of the prayers and concern of our parish during this time of sorrow.*

CATHOLIC FUNERALS

In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, broke the chains of sin and death that bound humanity. The Order of Christian Funerals is divided into three rites that correspond to the three ritual movements in the funeral of Christians. These three movements form one procession from the funeral home, to the church, then to the cemetery. It includes: The Vigil Service (wake), Funeral Liturgy, and Rite of Committal. It is customary that the funeral of a Christian includes these three movements. Although this is customary, other options may be available.

CREMATION

In 1963, the Catholic Church lifted prohibitions against the practice of cremation and revised the rites for services with cremated remains. While the Church prefers cremation after the funeral liturgy, it realizes that financial constraints or other circumstances may result in cremation before the funeral service. The cremated remains can be brought into the church for the funeral Mass, and may be accompanied by a picture of the deceased, if desired. A minister will accompany the cremated remains to the cemetery for committal after the funeral. The Church teaches that the ashes of the faithful are to be buried, or interred in a sacred place, such as a mausoleum or columbarium. The Church strictly forbids other methods of disposal of a person's ashes such as: "the conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted...the ashes may not be divided among various family members." (*Ad Resurgendum cum Christo* [To Rise with Christ], Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, par. 6) "[It] is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea, or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jew-

FINAL COMMENDATION

INVITATION TO PRAYER

SONG OF FAREWELL

A song is sung as the casket is being incensed; a sign of our prayers, thoughts and petitions rising up to God and an acknowledgment of the sacred nature of the body.

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

The Presider prays that the angels lead the deceased into paradise, the martyrs come to welcome him/her and take him/her to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.

RECESSIONAL

*The Church's recommended text/hymn is : In Paradisum, the traditional Catholic funeral chant for processing from church with the body. This will be used if no other preference is indicated. Other suggested hymns are listed on the **LITURGY PLANNING FORM**.*

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

-That God may call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

The priest concludes with prayer.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Family members or friends are strongly encouraged to present the gifts of bread and wine at Mass. Please choose 2, 3, or 4 individuals to bring the gifts to the celebrant.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Family members or friends, who are commissioned Eucharistic Ministers, are welcome to serve at this time. Please make the priest aware of any available ministers. If no one is available, the parish will provide them.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

elry or other objects.” (*Ad Resurgendum cum Christo*, par. 7) Since the Church teaches that human beings are composed of both body and soul, it holds the remains of our deceased loved ones in great esteem. As Catholics, we believe that at Christ’s coming in glory, we will be reunited with our bodies and live in a new creation. Thus, whether one chooses cremation or traditional burial, it is important that your loved one’s body be shown proper respect.

TIMES FOR FUNERAL MASSES

According to diocesan guidelines, funeral Masses can be held on any day of the year except Sunday, a Holy Day, or during the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday). The usual time for funerals at Saint Rita is 10:00 AM.

MASS PROGRAM BOOKLETS

Funeral programs are not necessary since most hymns selected for funerals are found in our hymnal. Saint Rita does have a standard funeral program and will supply copies for your guests, as long as the necessary information is received in the Parish Office in a timely fashion. Should you, as a family, desire to develop and print a program on your own, you are welcome to do so. We ask that you do follow copyright laws when designing the program. If you need assistance in this area, please contact the Parish Office.

MINISTERS

Readers: Family members or friends are encouraged to proclaim the readings at the funeral Mass and to read the General Intercessions (petitions). Please try to choose individuals with clear speaking voices, as the Word proclaimed is meant to bring comfort to those who have gathered to pray. It is helpful to give your chosen reader a copy of the reading before the liturgy, so that they may prepare in advance. If you wish the parish to provide readers to proclaim the Scriptures, please indicate this on the planning form.

Musician and Servers: Our pastoral staff will contact both the musician and altar servers. Other instrumentalists are available to you if you desire them. Please call our Parish Office to make arrangements for additional instrumentalists and/or vocalists. Additional stipends may be appropriate.

Visiting Priests: Visiting priests are welcome to concelebrate and take part in the Mass at the discretion of the presiding priest from Saint Rita. Clergy from other Dioceses or Religious Orders are requested to obtain a letter of good standing from their Chancellor or Superior.

STIPENDS

It is customary that the family provide an offering to the Church. The usual donation for a funeral Mass is \$450. This is typically paid through the funeral director, and is meant to cover the services of the musician, the celebrant, and the Church. This is not required in order to receive a Christian burial. If there is a problem with finances, please speak with your funeral director and the celebrant.

MEMORIAL OFFERINGS

Masses for the intentions of the deceased may be requested through our parish or any parish church. The normal stipend for a Mass intention is \$10. Saint Rita Parish can schedule four (4) Masses a year per household based on availability. The large number of requests for Mass intentions precludes us from scheduling more. Additional Mass intentions may be distributed to the missions or retired priests. If you would like to honor your loved one by making donations to a special fund or ministry, please let us know. We discourage individual purchases of memorial vessels and vestments since this often results in duplication of items at the parish.

BEQUESTS

Gifts in honor of your deceased loved one help us to further the mission of the Church. We have envelopes available for such gifts. Many people prefer to request donations in lieu of flowers.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-For the family and friends of our brother/sister,
that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-For all of us assembled here to worship in faith,
that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

The priest concludes with prayer.

E-3

Reader: Please respond to each petition: Lord Hear our Prayer

-That the bishops and priests of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel,
may be given the strength to express in action the word they proclaim.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-That those in public office may promote justice and peace.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-That those bearing the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken
by God.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-That God may deliver the soul of his servant (deceased name)
from punishment and from the powers of darkness.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-That God in his mercy may blot out all his/her offenses.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-That God may establish him/her in light and peace.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

We Pray: **R. Lord, 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.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-The family and friends of (deceased name) seek comfort and consolation.
Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister (deceased name.) Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

The priest concludes with a prayer.

E-2

Reader: Please respond to each petition: Lord Hear our Prayer

-For (deceased name) who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life,
that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life,
that he/she may be raised up on the last day.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us,
that they may have the reward of their goodness.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

-For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again,
that they may see God face to face.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

GREETING

The priest, ministers, and assembly greet the body toward the back of the Church, symbolizing their life in the Church.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

After the body is greeted at the entrance to the church, blessed holy water is placed on the casket. This holy water reminds us of the saving waters of baptism. Its use calls to mind the deceased's baptism and initiation into the community and the newness of life into which he/she is now called. Immediately following, a white cloth or “pall” is placed on top of the casket. This cloth symbolizes the baptismal garment of our Catholic faith. Family members are encouraged to take part in this ritual. The casket will then begin the procession to the front of the church near the Paschal Candle, the sign of the light of Christ and the eternal life into which we entered at baptism.

OPENING SONG-PROCESSIONAL

The Church’s recommended text/hymn is : Give him/her eternal rest, O Lord. This will be used if no other preference is indicated. Other appropriate song choices are suggested on the planning form. These selections are chosen from the hymnal used at Saint Rita. Any special requests will need to be approved by the Music Director before the liturgy. Seasonal music is appropriate during the liturgical seasons of the year, i.e. Easter music during the Easter season, Christmas carols during the Christmas season, etc. Note: all songs that contain the word *Alleluia* are inappropriate during the Lenten season.

REMARKS OF REMEMBRANCE (EULOGY)

There are times when a family member or friend may wish to speak in memory of a deceased one, or read a favorite poem or prayer. This option is not necessary. Due to time restraints and the setting of a funeral Mass, the remarks or readings should be brief. We limit these remarks to less than four minutes. More extensive remarks are more appropriately made at the Funeral Home, at the Grave site, or the dinner following the funeral. For further information, speak with the celebrant.

OPENING PRAYER (READ BY CELEBRANT)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*The first reading is typically taken from the Hebrew Scriptures, or the “Old Testament”. Please choose one of the following readings and indicate your choice on the **LITURGY PLANNING FORM**. The chosen reading will be placed on the Ambo for the reader, he/she should not bring any paper with him/her when they approach the altar.*

A-1 A Reading from the book of Job

Jb. 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 Redeemer 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

A-2 A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wis. 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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord

that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

HOMILY

*The homily breaks open the Word of God and helps relate it to the life of the deceased. Family members may wish to write down some notes about the deceased to share with the priest. These notes should be turned in to the Parish Office along with the **LITURGY PLANNING FORM**.*

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL)

*These prayers may be offered by a family member or friend. Please choose one of the three options below, indicate your choice on the **LITURGY PLANNING FORM**. The traditional response to the general intercession is: "Lord Hear Our Prayer." The priest will introduce and conclude the intercessions with a prayer.*

E-1

Reader: Please respond to each petition: Lord Hear our Prayer

-In baptism (deceased name) received the light of Christ.

Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

We Pray: R. Lord, Hear our prayer.

-Our brother/sister (deceased name) was nourished at the table of the Savior.

Welcome (him/her) into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

We Pray: R. Lord, 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.

We Pray: **R. Lord, Hear our prayer.**

- Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day.

Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

D-16 A reading from the holy gospel according to John**Jn 12:23-28 or 23-26**

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

D-17 A reading from the holy gospel according to John**Jn 14:1-6**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

D-18 A reading from the holy gospel according to John**Jn 17:24-26**

Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

D-19 A reading from the holy gospel according to John Jn 19:17-18, 25-30

Carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order

A-3 A reading from the book of Wisdom**Wis. 3:1-6, 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. Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord

A-4 A reading from the book of Wisdom**Wis. 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. 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

A-5 A reading from the book of Isaiah**Is. 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

A-6 A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah Is. 49:13-16a

Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth, break forth into song, you mountains. For the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted. But Zion said, "The Lord

has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.” Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name.

The Word of the Lord

A-7 A reading from the book of Lamentations Lam. 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, will I hope in him. Good is the LORD to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

A-8 A reading from the book of Daniel Dn. 12:1-3

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, other 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

A-9 A reading from the book of Maccabees 2 Mc 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

D-14 A reading from the holy gospel according to John Jn 11:17-27 or 11:21-27

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

D-15 A reading from the holy gospel according to John Jn 11:32-45

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: “Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.” 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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The psalm is usually sung at the funeral liturgy. Please choose one of the following selections, indicate your choice on the LITURGY PLANNING FORM, and the musician will lead the assembly in singing the response.

- B-1

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
- B-2

Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
- B-3

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation.
- B-4

Psalm 27 (2)

I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.
- B-5

Psalms 42/43

My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?
- B-6

Psalm 63

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.
- B-7

Psalm 103

The Lord is kind and merciful.
- B-8

Psalm 115

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.
- B-9

Psalm 122

I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.
- B-10

Psalm 122

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
- B-11

Psalm 130

Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.

D-10 A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke
Lk 24:13-35 or 24:13-16, 28-35

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. [He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.] As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

D-7 A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke Lk 12:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

D-8 A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke Lk 23:33, 39-43

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

D-9 A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Lk 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; [24:1-6a]

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried. At day-break on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised.

SECOND READING

*The Second Reading is always taken from the New Testament. Please choose one of the following readings and indicate your selection on the **LITURGY PLANNING FORM**.*

C-1 A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:34-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, [what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.] He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

C-2 A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

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

C-3 A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Rom. 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 diffi-

culty 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

C-4 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans Rom 5:17-21

For 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

C-5 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans Rom 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

did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

D-5 A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark Mk 15:33-39; [16:1-6]

At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him.

D-6 A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke Lk 7:11-17

Soon afterward he journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

D-3 A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew Mt 25:1-13

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

“The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

D-4 A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew Mt 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you

C-6 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans Rom 6:3-4, 8-9

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. 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

C-7 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans Rom 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

C-8 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans Rom 8:31b-35, 37-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? 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

C-9 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans Rom 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. 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

C-10 A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

1Cor. 12:31—13:13

Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, It is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

C-11 A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor. 15:20-23, 24b-28

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

GOSPEL

*The Gospel is always proclaimed by the priest/deacon. Please choose one of the following Gospel readings and mark your selection on the **LITURGY PLANNING FORM**. (These are only suggested Gospel readings, please feel free to choose another which might better express the faith of those gathered.)*

D-1 A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew Mt 5:1-12a

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

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me.

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

D-2 A reading from the holy gospel from Matthew Mt 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

C-22 A Reading from the Book of Revelation**Rv. 20:11-21:1**

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord

C-23 A Reading from the Book of Revelation**Rv. 21:1-5a, 6b-7**

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

who belong to Christ; when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

C-12 A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**1 Cor. 15:51-57**

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

C-13 A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**2 Cor. 4:14-5:1**

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord

C-14 A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians
2 Cor. 5:1, 6-10

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord

C-15 A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians
Phil. 2:1-4

If there is any encouragement in Christ, and solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but, also, everyone for those of others. Your attitude must be that of Christ.

The Word of the Lord

C-16 A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians
Phil. 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

C-17 A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians
1 Thes. 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel

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

The Word of the Lord

C-18 A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy
2 Tm 2:8-13

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord

C-19 A Reading from the first Letter of Saint John
1 Jn 3:1-2

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord

C-20 A Reading from the first Letter of Saint John
1 Jn 3:14-16

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.

The Word of the Lord

C-21 A Reading from the Book of Revelation
Rv. 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