



## *Introduction to Funeral Planning Kit*

We wish to extend to you our sincere condolences as you grieve the death of your loved one. Despite the sense of loss and sadness, Our Lord is close to you at this most difficult time.

Our Parish community desires to help you at this sacred time, especially as you prepare your loved one to go back to God.

This Funeral Planning Kit was created to help you prepare for your beloved's funeral liturgy.

The sacred liturgy is a time of thanksgiving to God for the life and love of your beloved; it is a time of prayer asking for God's mercy as we all stand in need of His mercy; and it is a time of seeking God's comfort and consolation for the family and friends of the deceased.

In the Funeral Planning Kit, you will find a letter of prayerful support from our pastor, Father Bill Donovan, and all the information you will need to plan every aspect of the sacred liturgy. As described in the coming pages, you and your family will select hymns, readings from Sacred Scripture, and prayers from lists of possible options.

In addition, a Table of Contents has been provided so that you can easily find the information provided.

If you have any questions, our Parish staff is ready to assist you. May you experience the closeness of Our dear Lord Jesus and His Blessed Mother at this most difficult moment.



## Table of Contents

---

- Introductory Letter.....Page 1
- Table of Contents.....Page 2
- Letter from the Pastor.....Page 3
- Funeral Planning Sheet-General Instructions.....Page 4
- Liturgy Planning Sheet.....Page 5
- General Intercessions Sheet.....Page 6
- Music Sheet.....Pages 7-8
- Funeral Readings, First Reading Sheets.....Pages 9-16
- Funeral Readings, Responsorial Psalm Sheet.....Page 17
- Funeral Readings, Second Reading Sheets.....Pages 18-40
- Order of Christian Funeral at Mass.....Pages 41-42
- Special Minister Directions Sheet.....Pages 43-47
- Diagram of the Church for Ministers.....Separate Document
- Some Resources on Grief and Loss.....Separate Document

Church Address: 350 Conshohocken State Road  
Office Address: 1110 Vaughan Lane  
Gladwyne, PA 19035

Phone: 610-642-0938  
Fax: 610-642-1432  
[www.sjvgladwyne.com](http://www.sjvgladwyne.com)



## *A Prayerful Word from Our Pastor*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire faith community of Saint John Vianney Parish, I wish to extend to you and your loved ones our sympathies and prayerful support at your time of loss and sadness. Our Catholic Faith strengthens us at this time with the truth that Almighty God has created each one of us out of love and has invited us to a life of union with Him for all eternity. Therefore, our Catholic faith teaches us that death is not the end. We understand that life has changed not ended.

At this time, we turn our minds and hearts in humble prayer to our all-merciful God, who desires the salvation of all. Our merciful Lord generously allows us to pray to Him for our loved ones. So, we appreciate at this moment the power of prayer! We are also consoled by the truth that the bonds of love which are forged in this life do not end with death. Be assured that your loved one will be prayed for most especially every day before the Blessed Sacrament for the next 30 days.

Our abiding love and respect for our deceased family members allows us to undertake the important preparations necessary for a meaningful and beautiful Funeral Liturgy. The Church invites the family and friends of the deceased to assist in the preparations for the Funeral Liturgy of their loved one. To that end, we share this liturgical planning kit to aid you in making selections of hymns and readings for the Funeral Liturgy.

Be assured of the daily remembrance of you and your loved in our Masses.

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

Rev. William G. Donovan  
Pastor

**FUNERAL PLANNING SHEET – GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS****I. Selection of Hymns**

Generally, the Funeral Liturgy (Mass) will include six (6) hymns: (1) the Entrance Hymn, (2) the Offertory Hymn, (3) the Communion Hymn, (4) the Meditation Hymn, and (5) the Song of Farewell (as part of the Final Commendation) and (6) the Recessional Hymn. Please consult (on pages 7 and 8) the list of hymns commonly sung at the Funeral Liturgy and select six hymns. Please record your six hymn selections on the enclosed *Liturgy Planning Sheet* (which can be found on page 5).

**II. Selection of Readings from Sacred Scripture (First Reading and Second Reading) and selection of Readers**

There are two readings from Sacred Scripture which are proclaimed from the Pulpit before the proclamation of the Gospel. The First Reading is generally selected from the Old Testament and the Second Reading is selected from the New Testament letters. Kindly consult pages 9 to 16 for the list of possible First Readings and select one. Select a practicing Catholic to read the First Reading. Please consult pages 19 to 40 for the list of possible Second Readings and select one. Select a practicing Catholic to read the Second Reading. Please record your selections on the enclosed *Liturgy Planning Sheet* (which can be found on page 5).

**III. Responsorial Psalm**

The Responsorial Psalm will be sung by the cantor. In the Liturgy, the Responsorial Psalm takes place between the First and Second Readings. Please consult page 17 for the list of possible Psalm refrains, and record your selection on the *Liturgy Planning Sheet* (which can be found on page 5).

**IV. General Intercessions (Prayer of Faithful)**

Following the Homily, the General Intercessions are prayed. Please consult page 6 for a list of typical general intercessions which are prayed and kindly customize the respective petitions, including a petition for others who have died. Also, select a practicing Catholic to read the General Intercessions. Please record your selections on the enclosed *Liturgy Planning Sheet* (which can be found on page 5).

**V. Offertory Gift Bearers**

At the Offertory time, the gifts of bread and wine for the Mass may be brought up by family members or friends of the deceased. Kindly list the name of the gift bearers, not exceeding four, on the *Liturgy Planning Sheet* (page 5).

**VI. Eulogy/ Words of Remembrance**

A family member or a friend may be chosen by the family to share a few memories about the deceased person (it is optional). The words of remembrance can highlight the virtues of the deceased which we have come to esteem and appreciate. The words of remembrance are offered towards the end of Mass, following the Meditation Hymn and Prayer After Communion. The Priest will invite the eulogist to come forward, who will then offer his/her words from the Podium. These reflections should be written down and should span 3-5 minutes. The content should reflect the reality that we gather in the House of God and should strike a grateful and reverent chord.

\*\*After you have made all your selections and recorded them on the *Liturgy Planning Sheet*, and the *Funeral Intercession Sheet*, kindly deliver to the Parish Offices both the completed *Liturgy Planning Sheet* and the completed *General Intercessions Sheet* at least 48 hours before the scheduled Funeral Liturgy.\*\*

Thank you.



**LITURGY PLANNING SHEET**  
**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS**  
**General Information**

Funeral Liturgy For: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Funeral: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Celebrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Visitation in the Church? (Circle): (a) Yes (b) No If Yes, Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_

The Remains will be in (please circle): (a) casket (b) urn

Family Contact Person (please state relationship): \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Phone of Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

**Music Selections (See Pages 7-8)**

Entrance Hymn: # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Offertory Hymn: # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Hymn: # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Meditation Hymn: # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Song of Farewell: # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional Hymn: # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading and Responsorial Psalm Selections (See Pages 9-40)**

First Reading: # \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture Passage: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm: # \_\_\_\_\_ Words of Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

(Sung by cantor)

Second Reading: # \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture Passage: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Intercessions**

Name of Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

**Presentation of the Gifts**

Names of those bringing the gifts to the altar: (2-4 people)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Optional**

Will there be *Words of Remembrance* (Eulogy)? (Circle): (a) Yes (b) No

If yes, Name of Speaker(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Did the deceased serve in the armed forces? (Circle): (a) Yes (b) No Which branch? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, a "National Hymn" may be sung in place of the Recessional Hymn.

Do you want a National Hymn? (Circle): (a) Yes (b) No

National Hymn # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_



**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS SHEET**  
**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS**

**PRIEST:** 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:**

1. In baptism \_\_\_\_\_ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord...
2. Our (brother/sister) \_\_\_\_\_ was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We pray to the Lord...
3. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your son, especially: (insert names of deceased relatives)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

And for all the deceased members of the \_\_\_\_\_ family.  
We pray to the Lord...

4. Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all those whose faith is known to You alone. We pray to the Lord...
5. The family and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord...
6. We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our (brother/sister) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. We pray to the Lord...

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



**MUSIC SHEET**  
**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS**

We ask that you select six (6) hymns for the sacred liturgy. Below is a selection of hymns which are commonly used at Funeral Masses. Please select one hymn for each of the following categories: Entrance Hymn, Offertory Hymn, Communion Hymn, Meditation Hymn (optional), Song of Farewell, and Recessional Hymn. Kindly record on the Liturgy Planning Sheet (page 5) the title of the six hymns and the respective page number (where the hymns can be found in the Parish Hymn Book (called Journeysongs), located in the Church pews.

You can hear all of these hymns listed below by going to the Journeysongs website (at ocp.org), selecting “view songs” and playing the songs by typing them into the search bar. The number listed to the right of the song titles are the page numbers in the Church Hymnal (Journeysongs).

**ENTRANCE HYMNS**

All Creatures of Our God and King	578
Be Not Afraid	673
Be Thou My Vision	646
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	692
Jesus, Come to Us	660
Lord of All Hopefulness	647
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	672
Seek Ye First	685
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	690

**OFFERTORY HYMNS**

Amazing Grace	680
All I Ask of You	713
Be Not Afraid	673
Endless is your Love	722
Here I Am, Lord	818
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace	702
O God, You Search Me	678
Only in God	679
Only This I Want	732
Shelter Me, O God	689
Seek Ye First	685
Whatsoever You Do	828
You are Near	687



**COMMUNION HYMNS**

Gift of Finest Wheat	791
Here I Am, Lord	818
I Have Loved You	623
O God, You Search Me	678
Panis Angelicus	836
Servant Song	820
Shelter Me O God	689
Unless a Grain of Wheat	725
Ubi Caritas	776
Whatsoever You Do	828
You Are Near	687

**MEDITATION HYMNS**

All I Ask of You (is forever to remember me as loving you)	713
Ave Maria, Schubert or Gregorian Chant	486
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman	481

**SONG OF FAREWELL**

Go in Peace	561
In Paradisum (In Paradise, traditional Latin Chant)	136
O Loving God (to the tune of <i>Danny Boy</i> )	713
Song of Farewell (May the choirs of angels)	553

**RECESSIONAL HYMNS**

All Creatures of Our God and King	578
Christ Be Our Light	824
City of God	813
Eternal Father, Strong to Save	848
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	566
How Great Thou Art	614
Let There Be Peace on Earth	703
O God, Beyond All Praising	589
On Eagles' Wings	671
This is My Song (Finlandia)	846
What Wondrous Love is This	719





**First Reading Selection:**

Kindly select the First Reading from the following eight (8) options of readings from the Old Testament (which follow from page 9 to 16). Kindly record your selected First Reading on the *Liturgy Planning Sheet* (page 5).

**FIRST READING – OLD TESTAMENT**

**Option A-1: Job 19:1, 23-27**

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 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.



**Option A-2: Wisdom 3:1-9** [long form]

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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord.



**Option A-3: Wisdom 3:1-6. 9** [short form]

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.

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.



### Option A-4: 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 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.



**Option A-5: Isaiah 25: 6a. 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 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.



**Option A-6: Lamentations 3:17-26**

A reading from the Book of Lamentations:

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

The Word of the Lord.



**Option A-7: 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 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.



**Option A-8: 2 Maccabees 12:43-46**

A reading from the Book of Maccabees:

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

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,  
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;  
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,  
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.  
But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward  
that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness,  
it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead  
that they might be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord.





**Responsorial Psalm Options:**

Please review and select one of the five options below for the Responsorial Psalms. Kindly record the Responsorial Psalm number and words on the *Liturgy Planning Sheet* (page 5).

**RESPONSORIAL PSALMS**

**Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

**Psalm 27**

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Of whom should I be afraid?

**Psalm 103**

The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Psalm 33**

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

**Psalm 42**

Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for You, my God.



**Second Reading Selection:**

Kindly select the Second Reading from the following twenty-two (22) options of readings from the New Testament Letters (which follow from page 19 to 40). Kindly record your selected Second Reading on the *Liturgy Planning Sheet* (page 5).

**SECOND READING – NEW TESTAMENT**

**Option B-1: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 [long form]**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly  
is acceptable to him.

You know the word (that) he sent to the Israelites  
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all,  
what has happened all over Judea,  
beginning in Galilee after the baptism  
that John preached,  
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good  
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,  
for God was with him.



We are witnesses of all that he did  
both in the country of the Jews and (in) Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.  
This man God raised (on) the third day and granted that he be visible,  
not to all the people, but to us,  
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,  
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.  
He commissioned us to preach to the people  
and testify that he is the one appointed by God  
as judge of the living and the dead.  
To him all the prophets bear witness,  
that everyone who believes in him  
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.



**Option B-2: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36. 42-43** [short form]

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words,

"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.



**Option B-3: Romans 5:1-11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

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

The Word of the Lord.



**Option B-4: Romans 5:17-21**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

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.



**Option B-5: Romans 6:3-9** [long form]

A reading from the letter of 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 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.



**Option B-6: Romans 6:3-4. 8-9** [short form]

A reading from the letter of 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.

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.





### Options B-7: Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

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.



**Option B-8: Romans 8:31b-35. 37-39**

A reading from the letter of 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 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.



**Option B-9: Romans 14:7-9. 10b-12**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

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.



**Option B-10: 1 Corinthians 15:20-23. 24b-28** [longer form]

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

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;  
then comes the end,  
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.



**Option B-11: 1 Corinthians 15:20-23** [shorter form]

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

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.



**Option B-12: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

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

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.



**Option B-13: 2 Corinthians 4: 14-5:1**

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

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.



**Option B-14: 2 Corinthians 5:1. 6-10**

A reading from the second letter of 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 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.





**Option B-15: Philippians 3:20-21**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians:

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.



**Option B-16: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,  
about those who have fallen asleep,  
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.  
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,  
so too will God, through Jesus,  
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.  
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,  
that we who are alive,  
who are left until the coming of the Lord,  
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.  
For the Lord himself, with a word of command,  
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,  
will come down from heaven,  
and the dead in Christ will rise first.  
Then we who are alive, who are left,  
will be caught up together with them in the clouds  
to meet the Lord in the air.  
Thus we shall always be with the Lord.  
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.



**Option B-17: 2 Timothy 2:8-13**

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy:

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.



**Option B-18: 1 John 3:1-2**

A reading from the first letter of John:

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.



**Option B-19: 1 John 3:14-16**

A reading from the first letter of John:

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.



**Option B-20: Revelation 14:13**

A reading from the book of Revelation:

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.



**Option B-21: Revelation 20:11-21:1**

A reading from the book of Revelation:

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.



**Option B-22: Revelation 21:1-5a. 6b-7**

A reading from the book of Revelation:

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 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.





## **ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS AT MASS**

The Funeral Mass is largely similar to Sunday Mass, but with a few changes. The following is the Order of the Funeral Liturgy:

(All are invited to stand and join in singing the Entrance Hymn. The liturgical ministers along with Priest process in the Entrance Procession from the sacristy to place of casket/urn).

**Introductory Rites** (which take place in front of casket or urn).

- The Sign of the Cross and Greeting;
- Sprinkling with Holy Water (The remains of the deceased are blessed.)
- The placing of the pall (i.e., a large white cloth which recalls the white garment worn at one's Baptism) on the casket by family members or other loved ones. (If an urn is employed, there is no placement of the pall.)
- The Opening Prayer (which is prayed by the Priest from the Presider's Chair in the Sanctuary);

(All are invited to be seated for listening to the readings from Sacred Scripture)

**Liturgy of the Word** (Scripture Readings)

- First Reading (The First Reading is read from the Pulpit by the First Reader);
- Responsorial Psalm (The Responsorial Psalm is sung from the Pulpit by the Cantor);
- Second Reading (The Second Reading is read from the Pulpit by the Second Reader);
- Additional instructions for the First and Second Readers are given on pages 44 - 45.

(All stand)

- Gospel Acclamation (The Acclamation is sung by the Cantor from the Podium)
- Gospel (The Gospel is read from the Pulpit by the Priest)

(All are invited to be seated)

- Homily

(All are invited to stand for the Prayer of the Faithful)

- Prayers of the Faithful (also called the General Intercessions) (The General Intercessions are read from the Podium by the Reader of the General Intercessions.)



## Liturgy of the Eucharist

(All are invited to be seated for the Preparation of the Altar and Presentation of the Gift. All are invited to sing the Offertory Hymn.)

- Preparation of the Altar  
(The liturgical minister prepares the altar with Roman Missal and the chalice and paten.)
- Presentation of the Gifts (bread & wine)  
The Gift Bearers will carry the gifts (which will be prepared on a table at the back of the church) up the center aisle and hand the gifts of bread and wine to the Priest.)
- Prayer over the Offerings (which will be prayed by the Priest at the Altar)
- Preface
- Holy, Holy, Holy (All sing the Holy, Holy, Holy)

(All kneel following the singing of the Holy, Holy, Holy)

- Eucharistic Prayer (which is prayed by the Priest with acclamations prayed by the people).
  - Mystery of Faith (the Memorial Acclamation) (All sing the acclamation.)
  - Great Amen (All sing the Great Amen.)

(All stand for reciting the Our Father.)

- The Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Lamb of God (All sing the Lamb of God. All kneel following the singing of the Lamb of God).
- Holy Communion (All sing the Communion Hymn.)
- Meditation Hymn (Optional)
- Prayer after Holy Communion (Prayed by the Priest from the Presider's Chair).

## Concluding Rites

(Please stand)

- Words of Remembrance (optional; The person offering brief words of remembrance is invited to go to the Podium and all are invited to be seated.)
- Final Prayers of Commendation are offered by the Priest along with the incensation of the remains of the deceased.
- Song of Farewell
- Dismissal



### **Additional Direction for the Special Ministers at the Funeral**

The special ministers are:

First Reader;

Second Reader;

Reader of the General Intercessions;

Gift Bearers; and

Eulogist;

We realize that many who are coming and participating in the Funeral Mass may be new to our Parish and may be unfamiliar with the layout of our Church. We also realize that some of you who have been asked by the family of the deceased to undertake a special role in the liturgy may not normally exercise this role in your church and are unfamiliar with exactly “what to do and when to do it”.

So, first, we are grateful that you are willing to serve as First Reader, Second Reader, the Reader of the General Intercessions, Gift Bearers, or the Eulogist (option).

The following guidelines have been prepared for you to give you instructions on how to properly discharge your function in the sacred liturgy.

About 20 minutes before the Funeral Mass, we ask that that you meet with our sacristan to review your role and movements in the liturgy. Our staff are here to assist you and guide you so that your participation adds dignity and beauty to the liturgy.

Again, thank you for saying *yes* to participate in the Funeral Mass in a special way. Your participation will bring comfort to those in their grief. The staff at Saint John Vianney is committed to conduct and pray the prayers of the Mass with the dignity and respect for your loved one and, of course, God. It is in that spirit that we ask you to familiarize yourselves with these procedures.



## Readers of Scripture

### First Reading

The First Reader should take a seat at the end of a pew near the center aisle and close to the front of the Church.

The Liturgy will begin with the Priest greeting the congregation and sprinkling the casket or urn with Holy Water. After the Priest processes to the Presider's Chair in the sanctuary, the Priest will offer a short Opening Prayer which will conclude with the words, *We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.*

The Priest will then invite all to be seated for the readings from Sacred Scripture. This is the signal for the First Reader to exit the pew and walk up the center aisle, climbing two steps into the sanctuary. The First Reader will bow (a profound bow at the waist) to the Altar and Tabernacle. The Reader will then proceed to the Pulpit (which is the large marble lectern on your left).

It is recommended that no papers should be carried to the Pulpit. A copy of the first reading will be placed in the Pulpit. The First Reader can check the reading at the Pulpit before Mass.

To process to the pulpit, exit the pew to the center of the aisle.

Walk around the casket / urn, walk up the center steps of the sanctuary and stop on the center of the carpet facing the altar.

Make a propound bow (from the waist).

Proceed to your left and take your position at the Pulpit.

Begin the reading by saying, "A reading from the Book of..." Read the Scripture passage. Conclude with the words "The Word of the Lord" to which the people will respond, "Thanks be to God."

After the congregation responds, proceed to the center sanctuary carpet standing this time on the left side of the carpet and facing the altar. There you will meet the Cantor (singer) who will stand on the right side of the carpet. Together you will make a profound bow. Return to your seat the way you came up.



### Second Reading

The Second Reader should take a seat at the end of a pew near the center aisle and close to the front of the Church.

When the Cantor has completed the singing of the Responsorial Psalm, that is your signal to stand and begin processing toward the Altar. It is recommended that no papers should be carried to the Pulpit. A copy of the reading will be positioned in the Pulpit from which you will read.

To process to the Pulpit, exit the pew to the center aisle;  
Walk around the casket / urn, walk up the center steps of the sanctuary and stop on the center of the carpet facing the Altar;  
There you will meet the Cantor and together make a profound bow (from the waist)  
Proceed to your left and take your position at the Pulpit.

Begin the Second Reading by saying, “A reading from the Book of...” Read the Scripture passage. Conclude with the words “The word of the Lord” to which the people will respond, “Thanks be to God.”

After the congregation responds, proceed to the center of the carpet and facing the altar. Make a profound bow. Return to your seat the way you came up.

### **Universal Prayer (General Intercessions) (Prayer of the Faithful)**

The Universal Prayer is also known as General Intercessions or the Prayers of the Faithful. It is an ancient prayer whereby the people respond the Word of God by offering prayers of petition.

The reader of the General Intercessions should be seated in a pew near the center aisle. It is recommended that no papers should be carried to the Pulpit. A copy of the General Intercessions will be placed at the Podium.

At the conclusion of the homily, the Priest will move from the Pulpit to the Presider’s Chair. After the Priest arrives at the Chair that will be your signal to move to the sanctuary to read the General Intercessions.

Exit the pew, walk up the center aisle; walk around the casket / urn; then move up the center steps of the sanctuary and stop on the center of the carpet facing the Altar. Make a



profound bow while facing the altar and proceed to the Podium to your right. This Podium is the one that the cantor (singer) also used at the beginning of the Mass. Stand at the Podium, while the priest leads with an opening Prayer of the General Intercessions (it is on your sheet to follow along)

When the priest completes the opening prayer, you may begin reading the Prayers of petition.

When you have finished with reading the petitions, remain at the Podium until the priest closes the General Intercessions with a short prayer (also on your sheet).

At the conclusion of the priest's prayer, you may return to your seat the same way you came up.

### **Gift Bearers**

While the congregation is standing for the General Intercessions, the Gift Bearers exit their pew and proceed to the back of the church.

On a small table behind the very last pew there will be a table with the gifts that are to be presented to the Priest. Normally, there will be a cruet of wine and one or two ciboria (i.e., a golden vessel with a lid on it containing bread to be consecrated).

When the Prayers of the Faithful are completed, the Priest will say, "Please be seated as the Altar is being prepared." That is your clue to pick up the gifts, stand at the back of the Church in the center of the main aisle, and await the signal of the Priest to come forward.

When the priest signals you (nods to you) or when he proceeds to the bottom of the sanctuary steps in the center aisle, you may begin processing up the center aisle with the gifts. You will walk two-by-two up the center aisle.

Arriving at the priest, present the gifts one by one, bow, and move to the side. After all have given their gifts, all bow together and return to your seats by the side aisle.



### **The Words of Remembrance (Eulogy)**

The offering of words of remembrance (a eulogy) is optional.

If you have been asked to share some words of remembrance about the deceased loved one at the Funeral Mass, it's important to appreciate that it is an honor and privilege that comes with this important responsibility.

Generally, one tries to capture in 3-5 minutes the virtues and wonderful qualities of the deceased person which we esteem and which we try to emulate.

At the Funeral Mass, the Paschal candle reminds us of Baptism. On the day of one's Baptism, the Church placed a candle into the hands of the deceased's godparent and said, "See that this flame of faith is kept alive when the Lord comes." How did this faithful follower of Jesus, carry that flickering flame into life and how did he or she nurture it and share it with others? If you capture the answer to these questions in a few minutes, you will effectively and respectfully contribute to the overall dignity and holiness of this Funeral Mass. May God bless you. May the Holy Spirit guide you in preparing a loving and respectful reflection commending the deceased into the arms of our good and loving God.

Kindly take a seat in a pew near the front of the church.

We recommend that your text be written or typed. The text should be placed on the Podium prior to Mass. Please coordinate this with the Sacristan before Mass.

After the conclusion of the Prayer after Communion, the Priest will invite you to come forward and offer your words of remembrance.

Proceed to the center of the sanctuary and standing on the middle of the carpet make a profound bow and move to the Podium to your right.

Deliver your words of remembrance. At the conclusion of your comments, please move to the center of the carpet, make a profound bow, and return to your seat.