

Funeral Mass Planning Guide

Saint Ambrose Catholic Parish

929 Pearl Road - Brunswick, Ohio 44212

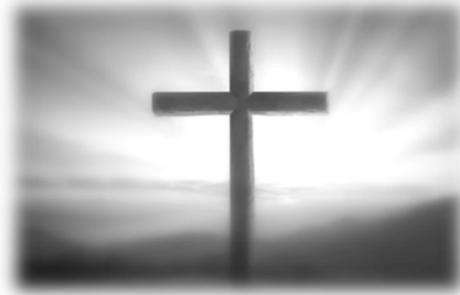
Phone 330.460.7300 - Fax 330.460.7342

Website: www.St.Ambrose.us

Email: Funerals@St.Ambrose.us



Jesus Christ
IS
EVERYTHING
FOR US!



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NAME OF DECEASED _____ **DATE OF BIRTH** _____

DATE OF DEATH _____ **AGE** _____ *Catholic* *Non-Catholic*

FUNERAL HOME _____ **PHONE** _____

CALLING HOURS FOR WAKE _____

CEMETERY _____ *Casket* *Urn*

Mass of burial *Service at Funeral Home* *Graveside Service only*

DATE OF MASS/SERVICE _____

TIME OF MASS/SERVICE _____ **BURIAL DATE/TIME** _____

CELEBRANT _____

FIRST READING *OT1—OT7 (pp. 3-4)* _____ *Reader* _____

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *R1—R7 (pp. 5)* _____

SECOND READING *NT1—NT13 (pp. 6-8)* _____ *Reader* _____

GOSPEL *G1—G14 (pp. 9-12)* _____

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS *Choose list A or B (page 13)*
 _____ *Reader* _____

GIFT BEARERS *Bread & wine—choose 2 to 4 people.* _____

MUSIC

OPENING SONG (*Page 2*) _____

PRESENTATION SONG (*Page 14*) _____

COMMUNION SONG (*Page 14*) _____

RECESSIONAL SONG (*Page 15*) _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

You may also e-mail form to Office@StAmbrose.us

GENERAL INFORMATION

ALL SOULS' DAY MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Held yearly on November 2nd, this Mass allows us to remember all of our dearly departed loved ones. During this Mass the names of those who have died in the past calendar year are read aloud and a candle is prepared for the family.

*Please know how greatly our parish community
cares about you and your family.
If we can be of any help or support to you, please let us know.*

FATHER BOB STEC

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CATHOLIC FUNERALS

In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by His death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity.

CREMATION

In recent years, the Catholic Church has lifted the prohibition against the practice of cremation and has revised the rites for services with cremated remains. While the church favors cremation *after* the funeral liturgy, it realizes that financial constraints or other circumstances may result in the desire for cremation before the funeral service. **The church discourages the practice of dividing or scattering cremated remains.**

TIMES FOR FUNERAL MASSES

Funerals can be scheduled **no more than one month in advance** so that all the details can be properly attended to. According to diocesan guidelines, funeral Masses can be held on any day of the year except a Sunday, a Holy Day or during the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday).

MASS PROGRAM BOOKLETS

The parish office will prepare a funeral booklet for the funeral Mass. It is important that the information (readings, songs, etc.) is received in the parish office **as soon as possible**.

PHOTOS

If you would like a photo of your loved one on the front cover of the booklet, please email it to office@stambrose.us at the same time the readings and songs are turned in.

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.

MUSICIANS AND SERVERS

Our pastoral staff will contact the musician and altar servers. Other instrumentalists are available to you if you desire them. If you would like to make arrangements for additional instrumentalists and/or vocalists, please call our Music Minister, Matthew Fodor at 330.460.7337, or email him at MFodor@StAmbrose.us. 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 Ambrose.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

We have several spaces available for receptions after the funeral. Our Funeral Luncheon Ministry will be in contact to see if you interested in holding the luncheon on our campus.

STIPENDS

All parishioners are entitled to our ministers without charge. We also would not exclude anyone who is not formally registered or has not been able to contribute financially to the parish. Some people wish to make an offering to the church. Typically, a portion of the fees paid to the funeral director is used to cover the services of the musician (\$150) and the church (\$125). Again, these are not required in order to receive a Christian burial.



The Mass of Christian Burial

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GREETING

The priest, ministers and the assembly greet the body at the entrance of the Church.

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER, THE PALL AND THE PLACING OF SYMBOLS

The 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 or 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 at the liturgy. Family members may choose to place Christian symbols on top of the casket during the Mass. A favorite cross, rosary or prayer book of the deceased would be most appropriate. The casket is then processed to the front of the church near the Paschal Candle, the sign of the light of Christ and the eternal life into which the deceased are now born.

OPENING SONG

The following is a list of suggested Opening Songs. These selections have been chosen from the Breaking Bread hymnal used at Saint Ambrose. (Other songs are acceptable; yet please make every effort to make sure that they can be found in our music book to assure active participation by all present. You are most welcome to borrow a copy of the hymnal from the parish secretary. Please remember to return the hymnal.) Note that 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 hymns with Alleluias are inappropriate during the Lenten season.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Amazing Grace #432</i> | <i>How Great Thou Art #424</i> |
| <i>Be Not Afraid #431</i> | <i>I Know That My Redeemer Lives #678</i> |
| <i>Christ, Be Our Light #596</i> | <i>On Eagle's Wings #436</i> |
| <i>Here I Am, Lord #378</i> | |

OPENING PRAYER

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

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

RECESSIONAL SONG

Here is a list of suggestions for a closing hymn. Others selections are welcome but must be approved by the music coordinator.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>Amazing Grace #432</i> | <i>How Great Thou Art #424</i> |
| <i>Be Not Afraid #431</i> | <i>Lead Me, Lord #630</i> |
| <i>Christ, Be Our Light # 596</i> | <i>On Eagle's Wings #436</i> |
| <i>City of God #385</i> | <i>Precious Lord, Take My Hand #688</i> |
| <i>Holy God, We Praise thy Name #193</i> | <i>We Will Rise Again #439</i> |

A LOVING LEGACY

There are many ways to remember our loved ones that can do much good for years and generations to come. We would respectfully ask you to consider some memorial options in lieu of flowers that can honor your loved ones and be used to continue the work and mission of Jesus Christ.

SAINT AMBROSE ENDOWMENT FUND

Families can suggest gifts in loving memory of their loved ones by giving to the Saint Ambrose Endowment Fund. This is a restricted fund with oversight by its own advisory board. These funds can be designated (e.g. a scholarship fund for a student in need, support of Saint Ambrose School, the proceeds used to support a favorite group or ministry in the parish).

SAINT AMBROSE BUILDING FUND

Saint Ambrose is a growing parish. Donation to the building fund can support the needs of our parish for years and generations to come.

SAINT AMBROSE MEMORIAL FUND

Donations to the memorial fund are used to purchase liturgical items for the Church and the celebration of Mass. Items can include: vestments, candlesticks, artwork. Gifts to the memorial fund are used for the timeless items we need for our prayer and worship to the Lord.

All gifts and donations to any of these funds are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged by the parish and in the parish bulletin. For more information or assistance, please contact Father Bob Stec (330.460.7333).

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION SONG

Please choose either a short hymn or piano instrumental. Here are some suggestions:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Amazing Grace #432</i> | <i>Prayer of Saint Francis #523</i> |
| <i>Eye Has Not Seen #461</i> | <i>Quietly, Peacefully</i> |
| <i>Here I Am, Lord #378</i> | <i>These Alone Are Enough #395</i> |
| <i>May the Angels Be Your Guide</i> | <i>You Are Mine #456</i> |
| <i>Piano instrumental</i> | |

GIFT BEARERS

Family members or friends are strongly encouraged to present the gifts of bread and wine at Mass. Please choose two to four individuals to bring up the gifts.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

MYSTERY OF FAITH

GREAT AMEN

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

If you would like the prayer to be chanted or sung, please indicate this on the planning form.

SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Family members or friends who are commissioned Eucharistic Ministers are welcome to serve at this time. Please make the priest aware of the number of ministers available. (Usually one or two are needed. If none is available, the parish will provide them.)

COMMUNION SONG

Here is a suggested selection of songs to be sung during the sharing in Communion. Other songs are permitted, as long as they have a reference to the Eucharist being shared.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Be Not Afraid #431</i> | <i>One Bread, One Body #339</i> |
| <i>Behold the Lamb #338</i> | <i>The Supper of the Lord #351</i> |
| <i>Blest Are They #629</i> | <i>Taste And See (Moore) #334</i> |
| <i>Gift of Finest Wheat #323</i> | <i>We Remember # 494</i> |
| <i>I Am the Bread of Life #363</i> | <i>You Are Mine #456</i> |

REMARKS OF REMEMBRANCE

The Vigil (Wake) with its more intimate setting, is the most appropriate place for family members and friends to engage in this kind of sharing. However, **in the event of no wake, or if you wish a brief remembrance to be read at the funeral liturgy, please submit one type-written page of what you will be reading to the presiding minister before the liturgy.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

LITURGY OF THE WORD ~ FIRST READING

The first reading is taken from the Hebrew Scriptures or the "Old Testament." Please choose one of the following readings and indicate your choice on the planning form.

OT – 1

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF WISDOM

Wisdom 3:1-9

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before humanity, 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 God shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with God in love: because grace and mercy are with God's holy ones, and God's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

OT – 2

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF WISDOM

Wisdom 4:7-14

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.

OT – 3

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

OT – 4

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah 49:8-16

Thus says the Lord: In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you, Along the ways they shall find pasture, on every bare height shall their pastures be. They shall not hunger or thirst, nor shall the scorching wind or the sun strike them; for God who has compassion for them leads them and guides them beside springs of water.

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 or the child within her womb? Even if she should forget, I will never forget you. I have carved you on the palm of my hand.

The Word of the Lord.

OT – 5

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes 3:1-12

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from their toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for humanity to be busied about. God has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without our ever discovering it, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. I recognize that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life. For everyone to eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor is a gift from God. I recognize that whatever God does will endure forever. There is no adding to it or taking from it. Thus has God done that God may be revered.

The Word of the Lord.

OT – 6

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

A valiant woman – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive much joy. A gift from the Lord is her governed speech, and her firm virtue is of surpassing wealth. Choicest of blessings is a modest wife, priceless her chaste person.

Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a valiant woman is the radiance of her home. When she opens her mouth she does so wisely; on her tongue is kingly instruction. She is clothed with strength and dignity; her husband sings her praises and her children proclaim her fidelity. Charm is deceitful and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for and let her works tell her praises at the gates.

The Word of the Lord.

OT – 7

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

Sirach 6:5-15

A kind mouth multiplies friends, and gracious lips prompt friendly greetings. Let your acquaintances be many, but one in a thousand your confidant. When you gain a friend, first test him, and be not too ready to trust him. For one sort of friend is a friend when it suits him, but he will not be with you in time of distress. Another is a friend who becomes an enemy, and tells of the quarrel to your shame.

Another is a friend, a boon companion, who will not be with you when sorrow comes. When things go well, he is your other self, and lords it over your servants; But if you are brought low, he turns against you and avoids meeting you.

But a faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance their worth.

The Word of the Lord.



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 may be written on the reverse side of the planning form (last page of this booklet).

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL~ GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

LIST A

PRIEST: Brothers and Sisters ...we join our prayers to his

LECTOR: Please respond by repeating "**Lord Hear Our Prayer**" after each intercession

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. **We pray to the Lord**
4. That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God. **We pray to the Lord**
5. Those who trust in the Lord now sleep in Him. Grant refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. **We pray to the Lord**
6. 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**

LIST B

PRIEST: Brothers and Sisters ...we join our prayers to his

LECTOR: Please respond by repeating "**Lord Hear Our Prayer**" after each intercession

1. For _____ 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 to the Lord**
2. 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 to the Lord**
3. For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. **We pray to the Lord**
4. 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 to the Lord**
5. For those who care for the sick and suffering, that God may bless and strengthen them in their ministry. **We pray to the Lord**
6. For all who have helped us during this time of sorrow, that they may know the rewards of their goodness. **We pray to the Lord**

G – 12

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

John 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.

G – 13

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

John 14:1-6

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

G – 14

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

John 19:17-18, 25-30

Jesus carrying the cross himself 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 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.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The psalm is always sung at the funeral liturgy. Please choose one of the following selections and the musician will lead the assembly in singing the response.

| NUMBER | PSALM | TEXT |
|--------|-----------|---|
| R1 | PSALM 22 | <i>Psalm of Hope (Amazing Grace)</i> |
| R2 | PSALM 23 | <i>Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.</i> |
| R3 | PSALM 23 | <i>The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.</i> |
| R4 | PSALM 27 | <i>The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom should I be afraid?</i> |
| R5 | PSALM 90 | <i>In every age, O God, you have been our refuge. In every age, O God, you have been our hope.</i> |
| R6 | PSALM 91 | <i>Angels beside me, angels to guide me, angels to watch over me.</i> |
| R7 | PSALM 103 | <i>Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord; slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving and forgiving are you.</i> |

*“Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted,”*

—Matthew 5:4

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 planning form.

NT – 1

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Romans 5:5-11

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT – 2

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Romans 5:17-21

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT – 3

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Romans 6:3-9

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT – 4

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Romans 8:14-23

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, "Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

Reading selections continued on next page

G – 8

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

John 5:24-29

Jesus said to the Jews: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation."

G – 9

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

John 6:37-40

Jesus said to the crowd: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

G – 10

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowd: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

G – 11

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

John 11:17-27

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. 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."

Reading selections continued on next page

G – 5**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE***Luke 23:33, 39-43*

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus 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."

G – 6**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE***Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53, 24:1-6*

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 who, though he was a member of the council, 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. But at daybreak on the first day of the week the women 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."

G – 7**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE***Luke 24:13-35*

Now that very day the first day of the week two of the disciples 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.

NT – 5**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS***Romans 8:31-35, 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? 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.***NT – 6****A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS***Romans 14:7-9*

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.***NT – 7****A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS***1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8*

I will show you the way which surpasses all the others. If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. Love is never jealous; it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. Love never ends. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

*The Word of the Lord.***NT – 8****A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS***1 Corinthians 15:51-57*

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

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

The Word of the Lord.

NT – 9**A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS***2 Corinthians 4:14-18*

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.***NT – 10****A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS***2 Corinthians 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.***NT – 11****A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN***1 John 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.***NT – 12****A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers [and sisters], about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so 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.***NT – 13****A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION***Revelation 21:1-7*

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

The Gospel is always proclaimed by the priest or deacon. Please choose one of the following Gospel readings & mark your selection on the planning form.

G – 1**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW***Matthew 5:1-12*

When he saw the crowds, Jesus 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."

G – 2**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW***Matthew 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."

G – 3**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW***Matthew 25:31-40*

Jesus said to his disciples: "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.'"

G – 4**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK***Mark 15:33-39*

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!"