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Sections for a Mass of Christian Burial

www.walterjohnsonfh.com/church

www.wersonfh.com/church

www.sullivanfh.net/church

In preparing for your loved one's funeral, please review the booklet online. Your thoughtful information will assist the priest presiding at the Funeral Mass to speak meaningfully about your loved one.

The booklet online is a planning guide for the Funeral Mass. It will assist you in selecting the Old Testament Reading, New Testament Reading, Petitions, Music and any possible family involvement in the Mass.

After making your selections please return to the funeral home's webpage and submit the form.

To find the form to fill out, please open the link above and select your church.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This booklet is designed to manage the many practical details that go into planning a Catholic funeral and to help gather the information that will be of help for the family and the parish in preparing ***FUNERAL LITURGY.***

This booklet has been created to ensure that the practical details connected with planning a funeral are attended to in a way that helps all involved make the funeral a suitable celebration of the special meaning of the deceased person's life. We encourage the family or friends of the family to participate in the Funeral Liturgy as much as possible. Hopefully, this booklet will be of some help to you in planning this Liturgy.

The Church will provide an organist and cantor/soloist for all funerals and memorial liturgies. Family members may select music from the list below. If family members do not have a preference, appropriate music will be selected by the organist.

Dear Friends,

"If one member suffers in the body of Christ which is the Church, all the members suffer with that member."

1 Corinthians 12:26

During this time of sadness, please be assured of the prayers of our parish community for you and your family. We believe the healing presence of family and friends and the comfort of our faith in God help us to mourn our loss and lead us to a deeper belief in God's loving presence in our lives.

The central pages of this booklet provide you with an opportunity to help plan the Mass by choosing readings, music, and the possible involvement of your family in the Mass. Filling out form with information related to your loved one will make Funeral Mass more personal.

We will pray with your family the day before the Mass and will be happy to answer any questions. The Funeral Director will also be of assistance to you in any way possible.

Our prayers are with you,

Find peace in the Risen Lord,

The Parish Community of Saint Joseph the Carpenter.

MUSIC

Many times there is music very meaningful to the family that is of a popular or secular nature. While this music may be beautiful, it is not appropriate at a *Eucharistic Celebration* according to *Archdiocese Guidelines* and *Rite of Christian Funerals*. You may consider using that music at the wake.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS:

I Know that My Redeemer Lives	PR
The Strife is O'er	PR
Sing with All the Saints in Glory	PR
Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord	OC
Lord of All Hopefulness	OC
God is Our Fortress and Our Rock	PR
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	PRO
Amazing Grace	ROC
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	PR
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say…	OC
The King of Love ... (based on Psalm 23)	OC
Jerusalem My Happy Home	OC
For All the Saints	PR
I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord	OC
Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless	OC
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart	OC
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus	PR
I Am the Bread of Life	PRC
On Eagle's Wings	PROC
Be Not Afraid	OC
Blest Be the Lord	PRO
Blest Are They	PRO
Here I Am	POC
City of God	R
Peace is Flowing like a River	OC
Gather us In	P
I Have Loved You	OC
Behold the Lamb	C

One Bread, One Body	C
Prayer of St. Francis	OC
How Great Thou Art	PR
O Lord I Am Not Worthy	OC
Let There be Peace on Earth	R
Panis Angelicus	OC
Ave Maria	OC

P = Processional; O = Offertory; C — Communion; R — Recessional.

FORMAT FOR FUNERAL LITURGIES

1. *INTRODUCTORY RITES*
   - Greeting
   - Sprinkling with Holy Water
   - Placing of the Pall (*FAMILY*)
   - Entrance Procession
   - Placing of Christian Symbols *(FAMILY - OPTIONAL)*
   - Opening Prayer
2. *LITURGY OF THE WORD*
   - OT Reading (Lector)
   - Psalm (Sung by Organist or Cantor)
   - NT Reading (Lector)
   - Gospel & Homily (Priest)
   - General Intercession
3. *LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST*
   - Presentation of the Gifts (*FAMILY*)
   - Eucharistic Prayer
   - Holy Communion
4. *FINAL COMMENDATION*
   - Invitation to Prayer
   - Song of Farewell
   - Prayer of Commendation
5. *PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FUNERALS

The following scripture passages are particularly appropriate for expressing the Christian meaning of death. Choose one reading from each of the two categories: the **first reading** from the Old Testament or certain **New Testament readings during the Easter season**, and a **second reading** from the non-gospel books and letters of the New Testament. For the shorter form of a reading, omit the part in the brackets.

St. Joseph's Parish Supplies Commissioned Eucharistic Ministers and Trained Lectors

FIRST READING: OLD TESTAMENT

(Choose one to be read by an assigned reader.)

1. A Reading from the 2nd book of Maccabees (12:43-46)

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

2. A Reading from the book of Job (19:1, 23-27a)

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite 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 for ever!
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

3. A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-9 or 3:1-6, 9)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality.
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
[in the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble.
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.]
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord

4. A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (4:7-15)

The just man, though he die early,
shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not
with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported—
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.
Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.
But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord

5. A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (25:6a, 7-9)

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.
On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,
The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;
The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth;
for the LORD has spoken.
On that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!
This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord

6. A Reading from the book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

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

7. A Reading from the book of the prophet Daniel (12:1-3)

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and 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

8. A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-11)

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted
a time to kill and a time to heal;
a time to break down and a time to build up;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek and a time to lose;
a time to keep and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.
What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

The Word of the Lord

9. A Reading from the book of Sirach (44:1-15)

Now will I praise those godly men, our ancestors, each in his own time:
Rulers of the earth by their authority, men of renown for their might,
Or counselors in their wisdom,
or seers of all things in prophecy;
Resolute governors of peoples, or judges with discretion;
Authors skilled in composition, or poets with collected proverbs; Composers of melodious psalms, or discoursers on lyric themes;
Stalwart men, solidly established and at peace in their own estates.
All these were glorious in their time, each illustrious in his day. Some of them have left behind a name that is remembered to their praise;
But of others there is no memory,
for it perished when they perished,
and they are as though they had never lived,
they and their children after them
Yet these also were godly men whose virtues have not been forgotten;
their wealth remains in their families, their heritage with their descendants;
Through God's covenant with them their family endures, and their hopes are never shattered.
All these are buried in peace, but their name lives on and on.
At gatherings their wisdom is retold, and the assembly sings their praises.

The Word of the Lord

10. A Reading form the First Book of Kings (19:4-8)

Elijah left his servant there and went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it.
He prayed for death: 'This is enough, O Lord!
Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.
He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree,
but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat.
He looked and there at his head was a hearth cake
and a jug of water.
After he ate and drank, he lay down again,
but the angel of the Lord came back a second time,
touched him, and ordered,
"Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!"
He got up, ate and drank;
then strengthened by the food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (DURING THE SEASON OF EASTER)

1. A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

(10:34-43 or 10:34-36,42-43)

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

2. A Reading from the Book of Revelation (14:13)

I, John, 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

3. A Reading from the Book of Revelation (20:11-21:1)

I, John, 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

4. A Reading from the Book of Revelation (21:1-5a, 6b-7)

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

The One who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son."

The Word of the Lord

SECOND READING: NEW TESTAMENT
(Choose one to be read by an assigned reader,)

1. A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)
Brothers and sisters:
Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who 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

2. A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:17-21)
Brothers and sisters:
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 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 the one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the 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

3. A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: (6:3-9 or 6:3-4, 8-9)

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father; we too might live in newness of life.

[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

4. A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:14-23)

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons 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

5. A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(8:31b-35, 37-39)

Brothers and sisters:
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

6. A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(14:7-9, 10c-12)

Brothers and sisters:
No one 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. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? 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

7. A Reading from the 1st letter of Paul to the Corinthians
(15:20-28 or 15:20-23)

Brothers and sisters:
Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through a man. 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 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

8. A Reading from the 1st letter of Paul to the Corinthians
(15:51-57)

Brothers and sisters:
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

9. A Reading from the 2nd Letter of Paul to the Corinthians
(4:14-5:1)

Brothers and sisters:
Knowing 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

10. A Reading from the 2nd letter of Paul to the Corinthians
(5:1, 6-10)

Brothers and sisters:
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. 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

11. A Reading from the 1st letter of Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters: (3:20-21)

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

The Word of the Lord

12. A Reading from the 1st letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)

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

13. A Reading from the 2nd letter of Paul to Timothy (2:8-13)

Beloved: 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

14. A Reading from the 1st letter of John (3:1-2)

Beloved:

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

15. A Reading from the 1st letter of John (3:14-16)

Beloved:

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.

16. A Reading from the 2nd letter of Paul to Timothy (4:6-8)

For I am already being poured out like a libation,
And the time of my departure is at hand.
I have competed well;
I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.
From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,
which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day,
and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Word of the Lord

17. A Reading from the 1st letter of Paul to the Corinthians

(12:31-13:8a)

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But
I shall show you a still more excellent way.
If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love,
I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.
And if I have the gift of prophecy
and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains
but do not have love,
I am nothing.
If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over
so that I may boast but do not have love,
I gain nothing.
Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous,
(love) is not pompous, it is not inflated,
it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests,
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,
endures all things.
Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION:

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive holy communion. We are encouraged to receive communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour.

For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us.

For those not receiving holy communion

All who are not receiving holy communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to holy communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

THE FUNERAL IS A CELEBRATION OF THE PARISH COMMUNITY

A Christian funeral is celebrated in three stages: **the vigil** (commonly called the wake), **the funeral liturgy** (usually Mass, but not always), and **the committal** or final disposition of the body or cremated remains.

1. A VIGIL SERVICE PREPARES FOR THE FUNERAL

The preferred preparation for the funeral is a vigil or "wake" (so-called from the traditional practice of staying awake to watch over the body of a dead person) celebrated in the afternoon or on the night before. The vigil or wake is the time when the life of the deceased as God's gift to us is remembered. It is an opportunity for family members and others from the community to share the meaning of the life of the deceased as the gift and blessing that he or she was to each of them.

2. THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The funeral Mass should ordinarily be held in the parish where the deceased was a member. However special circumstances do sometimes warrant that a funeral take place in the mortuary chapel.

The Funeral May Be Celebrated with or without Mass

It is usually preferable that Mass be celebrated with the funeral, but a funeral without Mass is also acceptable. If those who are to participate in the funeral have little experience of Catholic ritual and would be more comfortable not celebrating the Eucharist, the planners should consider a funeral without Mass. A funeral ritual without a Mass still celebrates the mystery of God in life and in death and commends the deceased to God's care.

Cremation and the Funeral Service

Cremation has been an acceptable alternative to ground burial or entombment for Catholics since 1963. If the body is to be cremated, this can happen either before or after the vigil and funeral service.