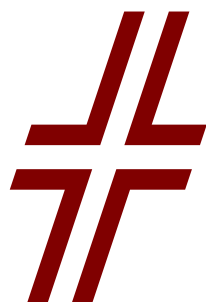


**Church
of
Saint John-Visitation**



*Funeral Planning
Guide
for Families*

Church of Saint John

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“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be consoled.” Matthew 5:4

Dear Friends in Christ:

On behalf of our parish community, we extend to you our prayers, condolences, and sympathies to your family during this difficult time as you mourn the loss of your loved one.

Your loved one is special both to you and to our parish community. Our parish staff will be available to assist you during this time of sorrow.

This **Funeral Planning Guide for Families** is offered as a way to assist with the planning and preparation for the Funeral Mass to be celebrated at the Church of Saint John.

This booklet guides you through the various options and selections with planning the Funeral Mass that are to be discussed with the priest celebrating the Funeral Mass. If you do not desire to take an active part in this process, the priest who will be celebrating the Funeral Mass will make the necessary selections.

Please be assured that you and your loved one are in our prayers. Both now and in the future, please feel free to contact us for any spiritual assistance and support.

*May the God of hope give you the fullness of peace,
and may the Lord of Life be always with you.*

Prayerfully in Christ,

Rev. Michael P. Kerrigan

Rev. Michael P. Kerrigan
Parish Administrator

Preparing for the Funeral Mass

This guide is designed to assist your family in planning for the funeral liturgy of your loved one. The basic format is similar to the regular Sunday Mass with the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Important aspects are presented to guide your family with the preparation of the Funeral Mass.

Reception at the Church

The priest will meet the family as the coffin is brought into the Church's main entrance. During this greeting, the body will be sprinkled with holy water as a way to recall the deceased person's baptism.

Placing of the Pall

The funeral pall, a white cloth that recalls the white garment given in baptism, is placed on the coffin. Family members and friends may assist with the spreading of the cloth after the blessing with holy water. Otherwise, the funeral director will handle doing this.

Placing of a Christian Symbol (optional)

A family member may bring a symbol of Christian life (e.g. a family bible or sacred prayer book used by the deceased, a cross or crucifix, some type of religious article, etc.) and place this symbol on the white cloth. This item will be returned to the family at the end of the Mass.

Entrance Procession

An opening song will be sung as the priest and altar servers lead the family members to the front of the church. Please follow the directions of the funeral director regarding seating.

Opening Prayer and Scripture Readings

After the family and relatives have arrived in the pews, they are to remain standing until the opening prayer has been offered. Following this prayer, everyone is to be seated.

Your family may select the bible passages to be used for the funeral Mass. You may choose one reading from the Old Testament or one reading from the New Testament or one from both the Old Testament and New Testament. Relatives or a family friend may do the reading. The person needs to be comfortable with public reading.

Also, you may choose the Gospel reading that will be proclaimed by the priest or deacon.

Various options are provided in this guide to assist your family with choosing the selections selecting the choices of Scripture passages.

General Intercessions (optional)

After the homily, a family member or friend may read the intercessory prayers. Different sets of prayers are provided. If someone would like to offer these prayers, one should be comfortable with reading in public.

Presentation of the Gifts

After the General Intercessions have ended and everyone is seated, two relatives or friends are asked to go to the table in the back of the Church and bring forward to the priest the gifts of bread and wine that will be used for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Liturgy of the Eucharist and Holy Communion

This part of the Mass follows the order of Sunday and weekday Masses.

The reception of Holy Communion is for Roman Catholics who practice their faith, regularly attend Mass on the Lord's day in the Lord's house and are not aware of serious sin requiring the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation prior to the reception of Holy Communion. Your relatives and friends are asked to respectfully observe the Catholic Church's understanding about who may receive Holy Communion.

Christians from other denominations, non-practicing Catholics and anyone else may come forward to receive a blessing during the distribution of Holy Communion. Those desiring a blessing may indicate so by crossing their arms over their chest as they approach the priest.

Concluding Rites

A prayer of commendation and a Song of Farewell will conclude the Funeral Mass prior to the coffin being carried out from the church. A hymn will be sung as the procession leaves the church.

Eulogies

In accordance with both the **General Instruction of the Roman Missal #382** and **Order of Christian Funerals #27**, eulogies are not permitted at the Funeral Mass in the Church.

"At Funeral Masses there should usually be a short homily [given by a priest or deacon], but to the exclusion of a funeral eulogy of any kind." These guidelines respect the liturgical and spiritual aspect of a funeral Mass being celebrated in a sacred space.

For families who wish to deliver eulogies, occasions to offer them may be at the wake, cemetery or luncheon following the funeral.

First Reading: *Old Testament Selections* *(please choose one reading)*

1: A Reading from the Book of Job (19: 1, 23-27)

Then 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;

And from my flesh I shall see God;

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

#2: A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-9)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;

and their passing away was thought an affliction

and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished,

yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,

because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,

and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,

and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,

and the LORD shall be their King forever.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,

and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,

and his care is with the elect.

#3: 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.

#4: 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!"

#5: 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.

#6: A Reading from the Book of the prophet Daniel (12:1-3)

At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people;

It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time.

At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake;

some shall live forever, 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.

#7: A Reading from the second book of Maccabees (12:43-46)

Judas the ruler of Israel then took up a collection among all his soldiers,

amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem
to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way,

inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;

for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,

it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had
gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought.

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

#8: A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-11)

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.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.
What advantage has the worker from his toil?
I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about.
He has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering,
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.
I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life.

#9: A reading from the Book of the prophet Ezekiel (37:1-14)

The hand of the LORD came upon me,
and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD
and set me in the center of the plain, which was now filled with bones.
He made me walk among them in every direction so that I saw how many
they were on the surface of the plain. How dry they were!
He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come to life?

"Lord GOD," I answered, "you alone know that."

Then he said to me: Prophecy over these bones, and say to them:

Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones:

See! I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life.

I will put sinews upon you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin,
and put spirit in you so that you may come to life

and know that I am the LORD.

I prophesied as I had been told, and even as I was prophesying I heard a noise;

it was a rattling as the bones came together, bone joining bone.

I saw the sinews and the flesh come upon them, and the skin cover them,
but there was no spirit in them.

Then he said to me:

Prophecy to the spirit, prophecy, son of man, and say to the spirit:

Thus says the Lord GOD: From the four winds come, O spirit, and breathe
into these slain that they may come to life.

I prophesied as he told me, and the spirit came into them;

they came alive and stood upright, a vast army.

Then he said to me: Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.

They have been saying,

"Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off."

Therefore, prophecy and say to them:

Thus says the Lord GOD:

O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them,
and bring you back to the land of Israel.

Then you shall know that I am the LORD,

when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people!

I will put my spirit in you that you may live,

and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD.

I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

#10: A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah (41:9-14)

You whom I have called my servant, whom I have chosen and will not cast off,
Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you,
and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice.

Yes, all shall be put to shame and disgrace who vent their anger against you;

Those shall perish and come to nought who offer resistance.

You shall seek out, but shall not find, those who strive against you;

They shall be as nothing at all who do battle with you.

For I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you,

"Fear not, I will help you" says the LORD;

your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

#11: A reading from the Book of Sirach (2:1:-11)

When you come to serve the LORD, prepare yourself for trials.

Be sincere of heart and steadfast, undisturbed in time of adversity.

Cling to him, forsake him not; thus will your future be great.

Accept whatever befalls you, in crushing misfortune be patient;

For in fire gold is tested, and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation.

Trust God and he will help you; make straight your ways and hope in him.

You who fear the LORD, wait for his mercy, turn not away lest you fall.

You who fear the LORD, trust him, and your reward will not be lost.

You who fear the LORD, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.

Study the generations long past and understand; has anyone hoped in the LORD
and been disappointed?

Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken?

Has anyone called upon him and been rebuffed?

Compassionate and merciful is the LORD.

Second Reading: *New Testament Selections* *(please choose one reading)*

1: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-43)

Peter proceeded to speak and said,

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

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

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all.

For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

#4: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-5, 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.

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.

#5: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:14-23)

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!"

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

#6: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (8:31b-35, 37-39)

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?
It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

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.

#7: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (14:7-9, 10b-12)

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written:

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

#8: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:20-23)

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits 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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

#9: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:51-57)

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.

And when 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.

#10: A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:14-5:1)

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

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.

#11: A reading from the second letter of Paul to the 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.

#12: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (3:20-21)

Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

#13: A reading from the 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.

#14: A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy (2:8-13)

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

If we 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.

#15: A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy (4:6-8)

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time
of my departure has come.

I have fought the good fight,

I have finished the race,

I have kept the faith.

From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me
but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

#16: A reading from the first letter of John (3:1-2)

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

#17: A reading from the first letter of John (3:14-16)

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our
brothers and sisters. Whoever does not love remains in death.

Everyone who hates his brother or sister 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 and sisters.

#18: A reading from the book of Revelation (14:13)

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

#19: A reading from the book of Revelation (20:11-21:1)

I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.
The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them.
I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne,
and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.
The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the
scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead.
All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire
is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life
was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

#20: A reading from the book of 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."
Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true."

He said to me, "They are accomplished. 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."

Gospel Selections *(please choose one reading)*

1: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12a)

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down,

his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

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

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

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

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for they will be satisfied.

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

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

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

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you

and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

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

#2: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (11:25-30)

At that time Jesus said,

"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

#3: A reading from the holy gospel according to 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.

#4: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (25:31-46)

Jesus spoke this parable 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.'

Then he will say to those on his left,
'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say,
'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them,
'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'

And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'

#5: A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark (8:34-38)

Jesus summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them,

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross,
and follow me.

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life
for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.

What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?

What could one give in exchange for his life?

Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this faithless and
sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes
in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

#6: A reading from the holy gospel according to 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!"

#7: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (7:11-17)

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd
accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died
was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.

A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was
moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep."

He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!"

The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming,

"A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

#8: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (12:35-40)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants.

Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

#9: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (23: 33, 39-43)

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,

"Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us."

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

#10: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a)

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this, he breathed his last.

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, had not consented to their plan of action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

At 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. The women 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."

#11: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (24:13-35)

Now that very day, the first day of the week, two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?"

They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him,

"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they went to 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.

#12 : A reading from the holy gospel according to John (5:24-29)

Jesus said:

"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."

#13: A reading from the holy gospel according to 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."

#14: A reading from the holy gospel according to 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."

#15: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (11:17-27)

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

And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

#16: A reading from the holy gospel according to 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."

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.

#17: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (12:23-26)

Jesus told his disciples: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me."

#18: A reading from the holy gospel according to 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.

#19: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (17:24-26)

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"Father, my disciples are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

#20: A reading from the holy gospel according to 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

General Intercessions (*please choose one set of prayers*)

I.

Priest: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his son from the dead;
with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead.

Our response to these prayers will be: **Lord, hear our prayer**

- 1) For **(Name)** who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life,
that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints,
we pray to the Lord:
- 2) For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life,
that he/she may be raised on the last day, we pray to the Lord:
- 3) For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who helped us,
that they may have the reward for their goodness, we pray to the Lord:
- 4) 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:
- 5) For the family and friends of our brother/sister **(Name)**
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:
- 6) For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered
together again in God's kingdom, we pray to the Lord:

II.

Priest: My friends, let us join with one another in praying to God, not only
for our departed brother/sister, but also for the Church, for peace in our world,
and for ourselves. Our response to these prayers will be: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- 1) For the Church to continue to preach the Gospel and be given the strength
to express in action the word that is proclaimed, we pray to the Lord:
- 2) For those in public office that they may promote justice and peace,
we pray to the Lord:
- 3) For those who bear the cross of pain in body, mind or spirit that they may
never feel forsaken by God, we pray to the Lord:
- 4) May God deliver the soul of his servant **(Name)** from the powers of darkness,
we pray to the Lord:
- 5) May God grant him/her light and peace in the eternal kingdom, we pray to the Lord:
- 6) May God welcome into glory our family, relatives and friends who have departed
this life, we pray to the Lord,

III.

Priest: Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen for 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 by responding: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- 1) In baptism (**Name**) received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death, we pray to the Lord:
- 2) For our brother/sister who 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 people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace, we pray to the Lord:
- 4) 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:
- 5) The family and friends of (**Name**) 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 confidences 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:

Church of Saint John-Visitation
Funeral Liturgy Planning Sheet

Name of Deceased: _____	Age: _____
Family Contact: _____	Relationship: _____
Contact Phone # _____	
Date and Time of Funeral Mass: _____	
Funeral Director: _____	

FUNERAL MASS SELECTIONS:

Gathering Rite

Will family place the pall on the coffin? Yes _____ No _____
Will a Christian symbol be placed on the coffin? Yes _____ No _____

What item? _____ By whom? _____

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading # _____ Read by: _____

New Testament Reading # _____ Read by: _____

Gospel Reading # _____

General Intercessions # _____ Read by: _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Who will present the offertory gifts? 1) _____

2) _____

Music Selections (up to four choices) 1) _____

Responsorial Psalm: 2) _____

_____ 3) _____

Final Commendation: _____

_____ 4) _____

Please give this form to the priest or deacon at the wake service
or fax to St. John-Visitation Parish Office (718)548-7774