

# *Funeral Mass Planning Guide*

*St. Angela Merici Parish  
Fairview Park, Ohio*



*Soli Deo Gloria*

*In loving memory of:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Name of Deceased)*

*who was born on* \_\_\_\_\_

*and who received the fullness of life*

*on* \_\_\_\_\_

*Mass of Christian Burial*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(date)*

*St. Angela Merici Church  
Fairview Park, Ohio*

*Presider:* \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep this booklet as a keepsake of the funeral  
liturgy and a remembrance of your loved one.

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*Dear Family Members,*

I offer you the prayers and concern of our parish at this time of sorrow. The priests and staff at St. Angela Merici are here to assist you in celebrating the life of your loved one, so please schedule a time to meet with us as soon as you are able. Be sure to contact the funeral home first as they will help to guide you through the funeral arrangements and will take care of calling the church to schedule the Funeral Mass.



The Liturgy of the Church, specifically the Mass of Christian Burial, uses rituals that help us to pray and mourn. Within this ritual, there are certain choices that can be made regarding your involvement, the readings and music. This booklet will direct you in making those choices.

Take a moment with your family to read through the entire booklet before making any decisions about the liturgy. Then, prayerfully go over the Outline of the Mass that is found on page 12 and complete the *Mass of Christian Burial Planning Form*, which is inserted in the center of this book. By going through this process, you and your family will be able to share more fully in the liturgy and best express the care you have for your deceased family member.

We understand that this is a difficult time; therefore, you should not feel pressured to make selections if you are unable. Just let us know and the priest or deacon will plan the liturgy for you.

My prayer for you is that in celebrating the Rite of Christian Burial you may be comforted and find the fullness of hope as promised to us in the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Father Michael J. Lanning, Pastor

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

We know there are questions that will arise, so we have included a few commonly asked questions here to aid you.

*What should we do first?*

Call the Funeral Home. They will help you in making the arrangements and will contact the Parish to schedule the Funeral Mass. Then, share this booklet with your family and read it in its entirety *before* making any decisions regarding the liturgy. Also, be sure to contact the priest or deacon so that you can talk with him about your loved one and the choices you have made in remembering him or her.

*How can family members be involved in the Funeral Mass?*

There are many ways to participate, from placing the pall on the casket at the beginning of Mass to proclaiming Scripture and presenting the Gifts at the Offertory. See page 11 for details.

*Are we limited to the Scripture choices presented in this booklet?*

This booklet provides Scriptures that are most often chosen; however, you are free to choose other selections of Scripture that may have special meaning to you or your loved one.

*Can we request secular music for the Mass?*

The Mass is really a time for liturgical music. Secular music may be more appropriately played at a wake or gathering after Mass.

*What about a eulogy or a personal remembrance at Mass?*

Please read page 11 of this booklet and be sure to talk with a priest before the day of the Funeral Mass regarding the eulogy.

*What does the Church teach about cremation?*

When cremation is chosen for a good reason, the full course of the Order of Christian Funerals should still be celebrated, including the Wake, the Funeral Liturgy, and the Committal. More information regarding cremation can be found on page 6.

### **Christian Symbols Used in the Funeral Mass**

It may be helpful for you to familiarize yourself with the symbols that will be used at the Funeral Mass.

**Blessed 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.

**The Pall:** A reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased and a sign of Christian dignity, it is placed over the coffin. Christian symbols are to be used during the Mass; flags should not be used during the church service.

**Placing of Christian Symbols:** Family members may choose to place a Christian symbol on top of the casket during the Mass. A favorite cross, rosary, or prayer book of the deceased would be most appropriate.

**The Paschal Candle:** A sign of the light of Christ and the eternal life into which we are born and die with him. It represents Christ's saving presence in our midst and is a reminder that Christ is with the deceased, and with the worshiping community.

**White Vestments:** The priest wears white vestments as a symbol of holiness and joy in celebration of your loved one's being called home to God.



## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

The Rites of Christian Burial are celebrated to offer praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the author of life. The Rites of Christian Burial are available to all baptized Christians, and include three distinct parts:

**The Wake:** This takes place during the visiting hours at the funeral home. A minister from the church is available to lead a prayer service and invite you, your family, and friends to share memories of your loved one.

**The Funeral Liturgy:** This takes place in the church, normally in the context of a Mass. The body or cremated remains of the person are honored by being brought to the church and the memory and spirit of the deceased are joined to the greater mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

**The Committal:** This is the graveside service committing the body to its final resting place where the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection.

## SCHEDULING THE FUNERAL

According to our diocesan guidelines, funerals can be held on most days of the year except a Sunday or a Holy Day and a few other special days. The normal times for funerals at St. Angela Merici are 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The funeral director will coordinate with St. Angela as to days and Mass times. If, for personal or pastoral reasons, you need a service in the funeral home, please make arrangements with a priest.

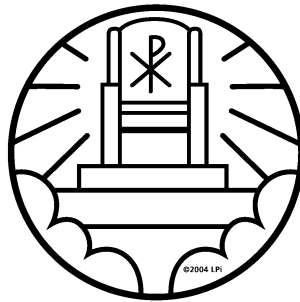
Normally, Catholic parishes celebrate the funerals of their parishioners; however, we do not exclude someone because they are not formally registered or have not contributed financially to the parish. We will also do our best to accommodate your family members and/or former parishioners. Your loss is a time for our community to gather and pray, and we are committed to assisting you in your time of need.

## **ABOUT 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 would prefer that cremation occur after the funeral liturgy, it realizes that financial constraints or other circumstances often result in the desire for cremation before the funeral service. Grieving in the presence of the body over several days can help people to deal with their loss.

The cremated remains can be brought into the church for the Funeral Mass. Typically, a priest will accompany the cremated remains to the cemetery for committal after the funeral. The Church discourages the practice of dividing or scattering cremated remains. It is important to note that the cremated remains should be buried in a cemetery or placed in a mausoleum; and this should occur as soon as possible after the Funeral Mass.

Please talk to a priest, as well as the funeral director, about the procedures for funerals with cremated remains. The practice is still fairly new within the Church, and we want to proceed in as respectful and holy a manner as possible.





## **OFFERINGS / STIPENDS**

It is customary that a stipend is offered to those who provide a service at the Funeral Mass: the celebrant, organist, professional soloist or cantor, and three altar servers. A donation can be made to the Parish as well. The funeral director will assist you in making these monetary offerings.

If the family wishes to hire additional musicians, those arrangements are to be made separately, in cooperation with our Music Director or Organist. Please be aware that even if you provide your own organist, the fee for the organist at St. Angela Merici is still required due to the necessity of his presence at all funerals as Music Director.

Finances should not be the deciding factor on the burial of your loved one. If there are any questions or concerns regarding the above stipends, please feel free to talk to the priest.



## **FLOWERS**

Flowers are almost always present at a funeral Mass and are usually brought to the Church from the funeral home by the funeral director. Funeral flowers are a visible tribute to the deceased and their messages of love and support are generally appreciated by grieving family members. Most families choose not to, or are unable to, bring home all of the flower arrangements following a funeral service. Often times, families donate these flowers to St. Angela's. Donated flowers are gratefully accepted and will be displayed at our Masses.

## **FUNERAL LUNCHEONS**

At this time, funeral luncheons cannot be held at St. Angela's.



*“Lord, for your  
faithful people  
life is changed,  
not ended...”*

## **HOW TO USE THE REST OF THIS BOOKLET TO PLAN THE LITURGY**

Please continue to read through the entire booklet before making any decisions. The following pages explain the progression of the liturgy and offer suggestions on how family members and friends can be involved. We hope that using this booklet will provide you with some comfort and help you to make choices that celebrate the life of your loved one.

In the center of this booklet, you will find the *Mass of Christian Burial Planning Form* which can be easily removed and used to record the names of those who will participate in the funeral liturgy as well as music and reading selections.

We encourage you to invite others to take part in the funeral liturgy. Being involved not only honors your loved one, but can help you move from life before a death to life after a death.

To help you in choosing Scripture and liturgical music, there are some popular choices offered here that are appropriate for the funeral liturgy. These are only suggestions and you may certainly choose others which might better express the faith of the deceased and the hope of those gathered.

**What about visiting clergy?** If you have a family member or friend that is either a priest or deacon, please know that they are most welcome to take part in the funeral liturgy; just let us know in advance.

Once you have completed the *Mass of Christian Burial Planning Form*, please return it to the priest. He will review your choices with you either at the wake or sometime before the funeral. If we can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to call us at 440-333-2133.

## HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

*“I am the resurrection and the life: those who believe in me, though they should die, will come to life, and those who are alive and believe in me will never die.” — John 11: 25-26*

Funerals are a way of expressing our beliefs, thoughts and feelings about the death of someone we love. Here are some ways you can honor your loved one by participating in his or her funeral liturgy:

- Choose the Scriptures to be read at church
- Select hymns to be used for worship
- Serve as pall bearers (arrange with funeral director)
- Place the pall on the casket at the beginning of the Funeral Mass
- Place Christian symbols on the casket
- Proclaim the Scriptures at the funeral
- Prepare and read the Prayers of the Faithful
- Present the gifts of bread and wine
- Be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, if you are trained and commissioned as such.

In the Catholic rite, it is preferable to offer a eulogy at the wake. Some exceptions can be made for reflections before the Mass begins, or a poem, prayer, or words of remembrance after Communion. Please speak to the priest about this. From our experience, we know that this can be very emotional. We ask that this be written out before the celebration of Mass, and that it be brief. It is also appropriate for these types of remarks to be made at the cemetery or wherever you may gather after the interment.

## OUTLINE OF THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

### Introductory Rites

- Greeting
- Sprinkling with Holy Water
- Placing of the Pall
- Placing of Christian Symbols (Optional)
- Opening Song
- Opening Prayer

### Liturgy of the Word

- Old Testament Reading
- Responsorial Psalm - Sung or Recited
- New Testament Reading
- Gospel
- Homily by Celebrant or Concelebrant
- Prayers of the Faithful

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

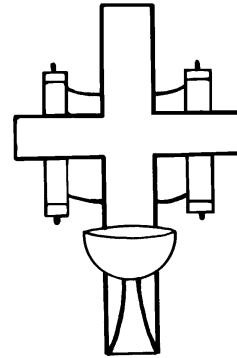
- Offertory Song
- Presentation of the Gifts
- Holy, Holy, Holy and Eucharistic Prayer

### Communion Rite

- The Lord's Prayer
- Communion Song
- Song of Reflection (Optional)

### Final Commendation

- Remarks of Remembrance (Optional)
- Closing Song



## **Introductory Rites**

### **Greeting**

### **Sprinkling with Holy Water**

**Placing of the Pall** – After the body has been blessed with Holy Water, 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; however, the funeral director can also do this on behalf of the family.

**Opening Song** – The list on page 42 includes suggested Opening Songs. Music should always follow the liturgical season, e.g., no Alleluias are sung during Lent. Other song options, or a soloist-only choice, should be made with the priest and Music Director as early as possible.

**Placing of Christian Symbols** – Family members may choose to place a Christian symbol on top of the casket during the Mass. A favorite cross, rosary, or prayer book of the deceased would be most appropriate. This is optional.

### **Opening Prayer**

### **Liturgy of the Word**

Family members or friends are encouraged to proclaim the readings at the funeral liturgy. 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 reader(s) a copy of the selected Scripture reading so they may prepare in advance. If you wish

the priest to proclaim the readings, please indicate this on the *Planning Form*. If only one reading is chosen, it should be from the New Testament (refer to “New Testament Readings” section on page 24).

**Old Testament Reading** The first reading is taken from the Old Testament. Please select one of the readings from the section beginning on page 18 and indicate your choice on the *Planning Form*. You may choose another appropriate reading; please discuss with the priest beforehand.

**Responsorial Psalm** – The psalm is usually sung at the funeral liturgy. Please choose one of the selections from page 42, and the organist/soloist/cantor will lead the assembly in singing the response.

**New Testament Reading** – The second reading is always taken from the New Testament. Please choose one of the readings from the section beginning on page 24 and indicate your choice on the *Planning Form*. You may choose another appropriate reading; please discuss with the priest beforehand.

**Gospel** – The Gospel is always proclaimed by the priest or deacon. Please choose one of the Gospel readings from the section beginning on page 33 and indicate your choice on the *Planning Form*. You may choose another appropriate Gospel reading; please discuss with the priest beforehand.

**Homily** – The priest will meet with the family to gather ideas for the homily. Family members may wish to write down some notes about the deceased to share with the priest. These may be written on the sheet of paper marked “Notes” on the reverse side of the *Planning Form*.



**Prayers of the Faithful** – These prayers may be offered by a family member, friend or the priest. Suggested petitions are listed on pages 40-41. Please choose five (5). You are also welcome to compose your own petitions. The traditional response to the Prayers of the Faithful is “Lord, hear our prayer.” The priest will introduce and conclude the intercessions with a prayer.

### **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

**Offertory Song** – Please choose one of the suggested musical selections to be sung during the Preparation of the Gifts from the list on page 43. Other song options, or a soloist-only choice, should be made with the priest and Music Director as early as possible.

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

**Mass Parts** – The Mass parts (e.g., Holy, Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Great Amen) will be sung, with a musical arrangement chosen by the Organist.

### **Communion Rite**

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** – Family members or friends who are commissioned Eucharistic Ministers are welcome to serve at this time. Please notify the priest if extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers are available.

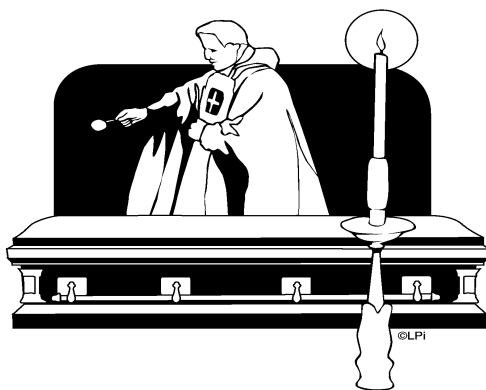
**Communion Song** – Please choose one of the songs from page 43 to be sung during the sharing in Communion. Other songs are permitted, as long as they have a reference to the Eucharist being shared.

**Song of Reflection** – Please choose one of the songs from page 43 for a moment of reflection after Communion. This is optional.

### **Final Commendation**

**Remarks of Remembrance** – Following the Prayer after Communion, one family member or friend may speak in remembrance of the deceased. Notes from the family used in the homily may be sufficient to make the celebration personal. Please speak to the priest about this in advance.

**Closing Song** – Please choose one of the songs on page 43 to be sung at the conclusion of the Liturgy. Other song options, or a soloist-only choice, should be made with the priest and Music Director as early as possible.





*“Happy now are the dead  
who die in the Lord;  
They shall find rest  
from their labors.”*

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

**READING #1**                      **Wisdom 3: 1-9**    (Short) **Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9**  
(For short form, omit passage in brackets.)

**A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

**The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.  
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.  
But they are in peace.**

**For if before men, indeed, they be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;  
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them  
and found them worthy of himself.  
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.  
[In the time of their visitation they shall shine,  
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;  
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,  
and the Lord shall be their King forever.]  
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:  
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.  
The word of the Lord.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

READING #2

Wisdom 4: 7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die early,  
shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not  
with the passing of time,  
nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,  
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;  
he who lived among sinners was transported –  
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind  
or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right  
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while,  
he reached the fullness of a long career;  
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,  
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,  
nor did they take this into account.

The word of the Lord.

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

READING #3

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

**A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes**

**There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every thing 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 that God has appointed  
for the sons of men to be busied about.  
He has made everything appropriate to its time,  
and has put the timeless into their hearts,  
without man's ever discovering,  
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.**

**The word of the Lord.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

READING #4

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,  
has an unfailing prize.

She brings him good, and not evil,  
all the days of her life.

She obtains wool and flax  
and works with loving hands.

She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her fingers ply the spindle.

She reaches out her hands to the poor,  
and extends her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;  
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a reward of her labors,  
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

**READING #5**

**Isaiah 25: 6, 7-9**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

**On this mountain the Lord of hosts  
will provide for all peoples.**

**On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,  
the web that is woven over all nations;  
he will destroy death forever.**

**The Lord God will wipe away  
the tears from all faces;  
the reproach of his people he will remove  
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.**

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

**The word of the Lord.**



## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

READING #6

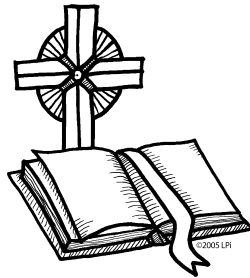
Sirach 44: 1, 10-15

**A reading from the Book of Sirach**

**Now will I praise those godly men,  
our ancestors, each in his own time.  
These 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,  
their posterity for their sake.**

**And for all time their progeny will endure,  
their glory will never be blotted out;  
Their bodies are peacefully laid away,  
but their name lives on and on.  
At gatherings their wisdom is retold,  
and the assembly proclaims their praise.**

**The word of the Lord.**



## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

READING #1

Romans 5: 5-11

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Hope does not disappoint,

because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,

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.

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

**READING #2**                      **Romans 6: 3-9**    (Short) **Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9**  
(For short form, omit passage in brackets.)

**A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

**Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus  
were baptized into his death?**

**We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,  
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father,  
we too might live in newness of life.**

**[For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,  
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.**

**We know that our old self was crucified with him,  
so that our sinful body might be done away with,  
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.**

**For a dead person has been absolved from sin.]**

**If, then, we have died with Christ,  
we believe that we shall also live with him.**

**We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;  
death no longer has power over him.**

**The word of the Lord.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

**READING #3**

**Revelation 21: 1-7**

**A reading from the Book of Revelation**

**I saw a new heaven and a new earth.**

**The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,  
and the sea was no more.**

**I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

**I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,**

**“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.**

**He will dwell with them and they will be his people  
and God himself will always be with them as their God.**

**He will wipe every tear from their eyes,  
and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,  
for the old order has passed away.”**

**The One who sat on the throne said,**

**“Behold, I make all things new.**

**I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the beginning and the end.**

**To the thirsty I will give a gift  
from the spring of life-giving water.**

**The victor will inherit these gifts,  
and I shall be his God,  
and he will be my son.”**

**The word of the Lord.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

**READING #4**

**1 Corinthians 15: 20-28**  
**(Short) 1 Corinthians 15: 20-23**  
(For short form, omit passage in brackets.)

**A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

**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;  
[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.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

**READING #5**

**2 Corinthians 4: 14 – 5: 1**

**A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

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

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

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

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

**For we know that if our earthly dwellings, 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.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

**READING #6**

**Timothy 4: 6-8**

**A reading from the second Letter of Paul to Timothy**

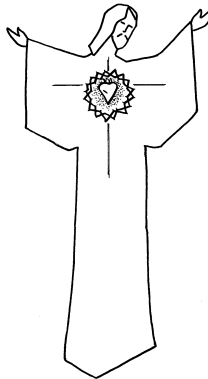
**Beloved:**

**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.**



## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

READING #7

1 Corinthians 12: 31—13: 13

A reading from the first Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

**Brothers and sisters:**

**Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.**

**But I shall show you a still more excellent way.**

**If I speak in human and angelic tongues**

**but do not have love,**

**I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.**

**And if I have the gift of prophecy,**

**and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;**

**if I have all faith so as to move mountains,**

**but do not have love, I am nothing.**

**If I give away everything I own,**

**and if I hand my body over so that I may boast**

**but do not have love, I gain nothing.**

**Love is patient, love is kind.**

**Love is not jealous, it is not pompous,**

**It is not inflated, it is not rude,**

**it does not seek its own interests,**

**it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,**

**it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.**

**It bears all things, believes all things,**

**hopes all things, endures all things.**



**Love never fails.**

**It there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing;  
if tongues, they will cease;  
if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.**

**For we know partially and we prophesy partially,  
but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.**

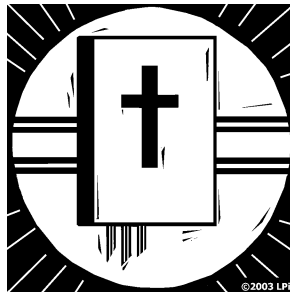
**When I was a child, I used to talk as a child,  
think as a child, reason as a child;  
when I became a man, I put aside childish things.**

**At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror,  
but then face to face.**

**At present I know partially;  
then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.**

**So faith, hope, and love remain, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.**

**The word of the Lord.**



## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

**READING #8**

**Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39**

**A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans**

**If God is for us, who can be against us?**

**He who did not spare his own Son**

**but handed him over for us all,**

**how will he not also give us everything else along with him?**

**Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?**

**It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn?**

**It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,**

**who also is at the right hand of God,**

**who indeed intercedes for us.**

**What will separate us from the love of Christ?**

**Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,**

**or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?**

**No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly**

**through him who loves 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.**

## GOSPEL READINGS

**GOSPEL #1**

**Matthew 5: 1-12**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**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.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## **GOSPEL READINGS**

**GOSPEL #2**

**Matthew 11: 25-30**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**On one occasion Jesus spoke thus:**

**“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
for although you have hidden these things  
from the wise and the learned  
you have revealed them to the childlike.**

**Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.**

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

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

**“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest.**

**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am meek and humble of heart;  
and you will find rest for yourselves.**

**For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## **GOSPEL READINGS**

**GOSPEL #3**

**John 11: 21-27**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**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.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL READINGS

**GOSPEL #4**

**John 6: 51-58**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**Jesus said to the crowds:**

**“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 who eats this bread will live forever.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL READINGS

**GOSPEL #5**

**Matthew 25:31-40**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**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 the least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## **GOSPEL READINGS**

**GOSPEL #6**

**John 14: 1-6**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**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.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



## GOSPEL READINGS

**GOSPEL #7**

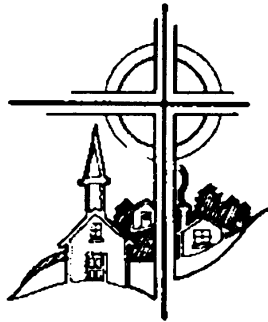
**John 12: 23-26**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**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.”**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



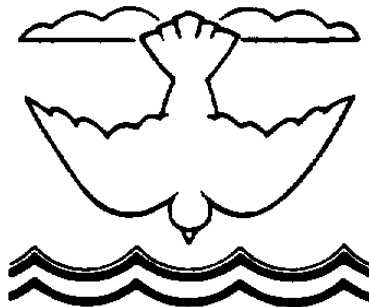
## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The Prayers of the Faithful may be offered by a family member or friend. Please choose at least five. You are also welcome to compose your own. The traditional response is “Lord, hear our prayer,” but others such as “Risen Lord, hear our prayer” or “Loving God, hear us” may be used. The priest will introduce and conclude the petitions with a prayer.

***Our response is:*** \_\_\_\_\_

- A. In baptism, \_\_\_\_\_ received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her to new life. *We pray to the Lord. (response)*
- B. 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. (response)*
- C. Our brother/sister was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome him/her to the halls of the heavenly banquet. *We pray to the Lord. (response)*
- D. For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she be raised up on the last day. *We pray to the Lord. (response)*
- E. Many friends and family have gone before us in faith. Grant them an everlasting home in paradise. *We pray to the Lord. (response)*
- F. Those who trusted in the Lord now rejoice with the Lord. Give refreshment, peace, and rest to all whose faith is known to you alone. *We pray to the Lord. (response)*

- G. For the friends and family of \_\_\_\_\_, that they may know God's care at this time of sorrow. *We pray to the Lord. (response)*
- H. 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. (response)*
- I. For those who have fallen asleep with the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. *We pray to the Lord. (response)*
- J. For all of us gathered here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. *We pray to the Lord. (response)*
- K. For those who care for the sick and suffering, that God may bless and strengthen them in their ministry. *We pray to the Lord. (response)*



## **HYMNS AND RESPONSORIAL PSALMS**

Liturgical music enhances our prayer, helps us express our Christian hope, and points us toward the Paschal Mystery of Christ's saving death and resurrection. Music and songs that are not liturgical (perhaps a special song or personal favorite) are inappropriate for the Funeral Mass, but may be included at other times, for example during the wake or after the committal service at the cemetery. Refer to selections below when making choices for the Funeral Mass. These may be found in the Missal at Church. A song from one category may be used in any other category.

### **Opening Song**

All Creatures of Our God and King	Morning Has Broken
Be Not Afraid	The Strife is O'er
Glory and Praise to Our God	City of God
Sing With All the Saints in Glory	Lord of All Hopefulness
For All the Saints	Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
Amazing Grace	

### **Responsorial Psalm (Sung or Recited)**

Psalm 23 "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."  
Psalm 23 "Shepherd Me O God."  
Psalm 25 "To You O Lord, I lift my soul."  
Psalm 27 "The Lord is my light and my salvation."  
Psalm 42 "My soul is thirsting for the living God."  
Psalm 103 "The Lord is kind and merciful."  
Psalm 116 "I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living."  
Psalm 122 "I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to the house of the Lord."  
Psalm 143 "O Lord, hear my prayer."

**Offertory Song**

Here I Am, Lord  
Be Not Afraid  
Amazing Grace  
Hosea  
We Have Been Told

On Eagle's Wings  
Gentle Woman  
Ave Maria  
We Shall Rise Again

**Communion Song**

Gift of Finest Wheat  
I Am the Bread of Life  
I Myself Am the Bread of Life  
Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All

One Bread, One Body  
Soul of My Savior  
Taste and See

**Song of Reflection** (optional after Communion)

Amazing Grace  
Ave Maria  
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace  
Jesus, Heal Us

Lord of All Hopefulness  
Gentle Woman  
Pié Jesu by Fauré

**Closing Song**

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus  
Be Not Afraid  
Let There Be Peace on Earth  
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name  
How Great Thou Art  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise

Jesus, Remember Me  
For All the Saints  
On Eagle's Wings  
The Strife is O'er

## **ONGOING WAYS TO HONOR AND REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES**

Remembering helps us to heal. We hope you will consider joining a bereavement group. Sometimes families also wish to honor and remember the person who died through a gift to the Church. Here are some options.

**Offering Mass Intentions.** Masses for the intention of the deceased can be presented to our parish or any parish church. Please call the Parish Center at 440-333-2133. We will be happy to assist you in scheduling Mass Intentions.

**Memorial Gift.** If you, a relative, or friend would like to honor your loved one by making a donation for a memorial gift, we will be happy to help you look at some worthwhile and appropriate options. We discourage purchases of memorial vestments due to the large number that we already have. Other memorial choices can be discussed with the Pastor.

**Guardian Angel Fund.** Donating to this tuition assistance fund helps families at St. Angela Merici School who are experiencing financial difficulty in providing a Catholic education for their children.



*“May the angels lead you into paradise;  
may the martyrs come to welcome you  
and take you to the holy city,  
the new and eternal Jerusalem.*



We are grateful for the generosity of  
the following, who helped defray the  
cost of this booklet:

**Busch Funeral and Crematory Services**

**CHAMBERS FUNERAL HOMES**

**CORRIGAN CRACIUN FUNERAL HOME**

**McGorray-Hanna Funeral Homes**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*“Into your hands,  
Father of mercies, we commend our  
brother/sister in the sure and  
certain hope that, together with all  
who have died in Christ, he/she will  
rise with him on the last day.”*



**St. Angela Merici Church**

20970 Lorain Road

Fairview Park, Ohio 44126

440-333-2133

Fax: 440-333-8061

[www.samparish.org](http://www.samparish.org)