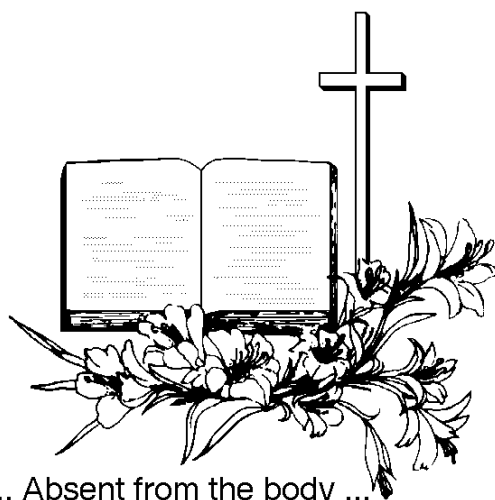


ST. MARY QUEEN OF CREATION
PREPARING TO CELEBRATE
THE FUNERAL MASS



... Absent from the body ...
Present with the Lord

Please return this booklet to the funeral director or parish office.

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

The Catholic liturgy always provides courage and comfort for those mourning the death of the one they loved. However, the more the family, relatives and friends actively plan and participate in the ceremony itself the deeper will be the consolation and strength they experience.

This book has been designed to facilitate such active involvement in preparing for and taking part in the Funeral Mass of Christian Burial.

Placing of the Pall. A funeral pall, reminding us of the garment given at baptism and therefore symbolizing our life in Christ, is draped over the coffin at the beginning of the liturgy. Family members or friends are encouraged to do this. Please select 2 – 6 family members or friends for this.

Scripture Readings. We invite you to make a selection of ONE reading from the Old Testament section and ONE reading from the New Testament section. The priest for the funeral will select the Gospel.

Presentation of Gifts. The church encourages family members or friends at the Funeral Mass to bring to the altar the bread and wine. Please select up to three family members to present the gifts.

Music. More than anything else in worship, music affects our feelings and the atmosphere in which we pray. You are invited to select up to four hymns from the parish hymnal for the funeral liturgy.

When you have finished making your selections, please complete the form provided and present it to funeral director or parish office the day before the liturgy.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

During the Easter season one of the following five New Testament Readings is used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament.

- 1** **A** Acts 10:34-43
- 1** **B** Acts 10:34-36, 42-43
- 1** **9** Revelation 14:13
- 2** **0** Revelation 20:11-21:1
- 2** **1** Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the book of Job

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead

they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,

and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him;

And from my flesh I shall see God:

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Because God did not make death,
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.
For he fashioned all things that they might have being;
and the creatures of the world are wholesome,
and there is not a destructive drug among them
nor any domain of the nether world on earth,
for justice is undying.

For God formed man to be imperishable;
the image of his own nature he made him.
But by the envy of the devil,
death entered the world,
and they who are in his possession experience it.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace

For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with the elect.

The word of the Lord.

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 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;
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.

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.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly,
to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God,
to comfort all who mourn;
To place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes,
To give them oil of gladness in place of mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.
They will be called oaks of justice,
planted by the LORD to show his glory.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.

Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked man his thoughts;

Let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down

And do not return there till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,

Giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats,

So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;

It shall not return to me void,

but shall do my will,

achieving the end for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Lamentations

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

The word of the Lord.

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 makes cloth with skillful 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.

A reading from the book of Sirach

Happy the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,
peaceful and full is his life.
A good wife is a generous gift
bestowed upon him who fears the LORD;
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
and a smile is ever on his face.
A gracious wife delights her husband,
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;
A gift from the LORD is her governed speech,
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,
priceless her chaste person.
Like the sun rising in the LORD'S heavens,
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.
Like the light which shines above the holy lampstand,
are her beauty of face and graceful figure.
Golden columns on silver bases are her shapely limbs
and steady feet.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

During the Easter season one of the following five New Testament Readings is used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament.

1 B	Acts 10:34-36, 42-43
1 9	Revelation 14:13
2 0	Revelation 20:11-21:1
2 1	Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter proceeded to speak, saying,

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

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

You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

He commissioned us to preach to the people
and testify that he is the one appointed by God
as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness,
that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,

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

For Christ, while we were still helpless,

died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,

though perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us

in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,

will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies,

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

Not only that,

but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

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

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

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

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

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

As to his death, he died to sin once and for all;
as to his life, he lives for God.

Consequently, you too must think of yourselves
as (being) dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

He who did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

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

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

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

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

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

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

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly
through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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.

Why then do you judge your brother?

Or you, who do you look down on your brother?

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;

for it is written:

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

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

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since death came through a man,
the resurrection of the dead came also through a man.
For just as in Adam all die,
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,
but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

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

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

And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the
glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ.

But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed;
always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.

For we who live are constantly being given up to death
for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in
our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since, then, we have the same spirit of faith,
according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke,"
we too believe and therefore speak,
knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence.

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

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

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

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Knowing that the One who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.

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

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

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

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands,
eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,
should be destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a dwelling not made with hands,
eternal in heaven.

We are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each one may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,

and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body

to conform with his glorified Body

by the power that enables him also

to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

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

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of St. Paul to the Timothy

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David:
such is my gospel, for which I am suffering,
even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

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

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him
we shall also live with him;
if we persevere
we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him
he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful
he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the second Letter of St. Paul to the 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 Lord stood by me and gave me strength,
so that through me the proclamation might be completed
and all the Gentiles might hear it.

And I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat
and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.

To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of St. Peter

Beloved:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
to an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven for you
who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith,
to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

In this you rejoice,
although now for a little while
you may have to suffer through various trials,
so that the genuineness of your faith,
more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire,
may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor
at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Although you have not seen him you love him;
even though you do not see him now yet believe in him,
you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,
as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of St. John

Beloved:

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

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John had a vision of a great multitude,

which no one could count,

from every nation, race, people, and tongue.

They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,

wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

I said to him,

"My lord, you are the one who knows."

He said to me,

"These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress;

they have washed their robes and made them white

in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason

they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night

in his temple.

The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.

They will not hunger or thirst anymore,

nor will the sun or any heat strike them.

For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne

will shepherd them

and lead them to springs of life-giving water,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this:

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," said the Spirit,

"let them find rest from their labors,

for their works accompany them."

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence
and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne,
and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds,
by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead;
then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.

(This pool of fire is the second death.)

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

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

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

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

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

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

The word of the Lord.



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