

# If We Have Died with Christ We Will Rise with Christ

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Dear Parishioner:

The death of someone we love is one of the most difficult moments we face in life. While no one can remove the pain and loss we feel, our faith in Jesus Christ can sustain us in our hour of trial. This funeral guide has been prepared to assist you in this difficult hour and to comfort you in your moment of loss.

In the first part of the guide you will find a list of readings prescribed by the Church for the funeral liturgy. Read them and find strength in them. Choose **one** reading from the Old Testament and **one** reading from the New Testament. The priest will choose the gospel.

In the second part of this guide, you will find a list of hymns that proclaim our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and so are appropriate for the funeral liturgy. You may choose the hymns you like from this list, or you may leave the selection of the hymns to the organist.

In addition to choosing the readings and music, there are two other ways in which you can involve your family and friends in the funeral liturgy: (1) friends and relatives can do the readings, (2) friends and relatives can bring up the offertory gifts.

If someone from your family wishes to give a eulogy after Communion, please read the guidelines for the Eulogy on the next page: (1) Only **one** person may give the eulogy; there is **no** exception to this rule; (2) The eulogy should be written and **no longer than five minutes**..

After you have read this guide, please make an appointment to see me at the parish office (860-658-7627) so that we can make final arrangements for the Funeral Mass.

On behalf of the parish community of St. Mary's Parish, I extend my condolences to you. May your faith in the risen Christ help and sustain you in the days and weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

*Father Frank Matera*

Pastor of Saint Mary's Church, Simsbury



*St. Mary's Church  
940 Hopmeadow Street  
Simsbury, CT 06070*

### ***Guidelines of the Funeral Eulogy at St. Mary's Parish***

The custom of a family member delivering a eulogy after communion is allowed but not required by the Funeral Liturgy. While this is a way to honor the deceased, in a few instances this custom has been abused. Some eulogies, for example, are excessively long, trying the patience of the congregation. Others incorporate inappropriate remarks in an ill-advised attempt at humor. Saint Mary's Parish allows the option of a eulogy. Those who choose this option, however, must adhere to the following guidelines to which there are *no exceptions*.

**There is only one eulogy:** Just as there is only one homily delivered by the priest, so there is *only one eulogy, which occurs after communion*. Therefore, the family should choose *one person and only one person* to deliver the eulogy.

**The eulogy celebrates the Christian life of the deceased:** The purpose of the eulogy is to highlight the Christian life of the deceased in a personal way. Given the sacred setting of the Mass, the eulogy should be delivered with *reverence, respect, and dignity* by someone accustomed to public speaking. If a family member is not sure that he or she will be able to deliver the eulogy without breaking down, it is prudent to choose someone else.

**The eulogy should be appropriate to the setting:** At the funeral liturgy the Church celebrates the mystery of Christian death, which finds its meaning in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is no place in the eulogy for inappropriate or offensive language. While there is a place for humor, one must remember that the eulogy is a moment to celebrate the Christian life of the deceased *not a time to entertain and regale the congregation with multiple stories*.

**The eulogy is brief, never longer than five minutes:** Given the length of the funeral, the eulogy should be no longer than five minutes. To keep within this time limit, the speaker should write out the text in advance. *A written text of 500 words takes five minutes to speak.*

**A eulogy is not required:** There are alternate ways of paying tribute to the deceased. For example, set aside time *at the wake or reception* when several people can offer remarks on behalf of the deceased. At the wake or at the reception, a family member can give remarks about the deceased and then invite others to do the same. This popular and growing practice has the distinct advantage of involving several people in a more relaxed atmosphere that is not constricted by the time limits of the funeral.

*Fr. Frank J. Matera*

Pastor

# READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

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*(Choose one)*

**Job 19:1, 23-27**

*I know that my Redeemer lives*

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB**

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! As for me, I know that my vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust. This will happen when my skin has been stripped off, and from my flesh I will see God: I will see for myself, my own eyes, not another's, will behold him: my inmost being is consumed with longing.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Wisdom 3:1-9**

*He accepted them as a holocaust*

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF WISDOM**

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

The souls of the righteous 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 to others, indeed, they seem 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 judgment they shall shine and 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.

**Wisdom 4:7-15**

*A blameless life is a ripe old age*

## **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF WISDOM**

But the righteous one, 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 passes for gray hair, and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age. The one who pleased God was loved, living 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 that consideration into account.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

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

*The Lord God will destroy death forever*

**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: "Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he saved us! This is the LORD to whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Lamentations 2:17-26**

*It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save*

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS**

My life is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; My enduring hope, I said, has perished before the LORD. The thought of my wretched homelessness is wormwood and poison; Remembering it over and over, my soul is downcast. But this I will call to mind; therefore I will hope: The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted, his compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning-- great is your faithfulness! The LORD is my portion, I tell myself, therefore I will hope in him. The LORD is good to those who trust in him, to the one that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the LORD's deliverance.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Daniel 12:1-3**

*Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake*

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL**

"At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since the nation 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 to everlasting life, others to reproach and everlasting disgrace. But those with insight shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, And those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**2 Maccabees 12:43-46**

*It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again*

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF MACCABEES**

He 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 in mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. 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 absolved from their sin.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

# READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

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*(Choose one)*

**Acts 10:34-43**

*God appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead*

## **A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

Then 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."

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Romans 5:5-11**

*Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him*

## **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**

**Romans 5:17-21**

*Where sin increased, there grace abound all the more*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS**

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.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Romans 6:3-9**

*Let us walk in newness of life*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS**

Or 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**

**Romans 8:14-23**

*We groan while we wait the redemption of our bodies*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS**

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own

accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

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

*Who can come between us and the love of God?*

**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 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**

**Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12**

*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS**

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So [then] each of us shall give an account of himself [to God].

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

*All people will be brought to life in Christ*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS**

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits 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 first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. 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**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-57**  
*Death is swallowed up in victory*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS**

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. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**2 Corinthians 4:14—5:1**  
*What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS**

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**

**2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

*We have an everlasting home in heaven*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS**

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. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Philippians 3:20-21**

*Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours to be like his glorious body*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS**

But 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**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*We shall stay with the Lord forever*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS**

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, 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**

**2 Timothy 2:8-13**

*If we have died with him, we shall live with him*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY**

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so they also oppose the truth-- people of depraved mind, unqualified in the faith. But they will not make further progress, for their foolishness will be plain to all, as it was with those two. You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, persecutions that I endured. Yet from all these things the Lord delivered me. In fact, all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**1 John 3:1-2**

*We shall see God as he really is*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JOHN**

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**

**1 John 3:14-16**

*We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters*

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JOHN**

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Revelation 14:13**

*Happy are those who die in 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**

**Revelation 20:11—21:1**

*The dead have been judged according to their works*

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

Next 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.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD**

**Revelation 21:1-5a; 6b-7**

*There will be no more death*

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

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. 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." 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**

# Music for the Funeral Liturgy

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**The parts of the Mass will be sung:  
Responsorial Psalm, Alleluia, Gospel Acclamation  
Sanctus, Acclamation, Great Amen, Lamb of God**

**Below you will find an extensive list of hymns. Although we have placed some of the hymn in particular categories, you may choose to have a particular hymn list as an entrance hymn for a communion hymn, or a hymn list for communion as an offertory hymn.**

## **Entrance Hymn**

645 - Amazing Grace  
663 - Lord of All Hopefulness  
683 - Be Not Afraid  
712 - The King of Love  
724 - I heard the Voice of Jesus Say  
873 - Shall We Gather at the River  
955 - Precious Lord, Take my Hand

## **Offertory Hymn**

Ave Maria by Schubert (solo)  
578 - How Great Thou Art  
712 - The King of Love  
721 - You Are Mine  
728 - Eye Has Not Seen  
777 - Here I Am, Lord  
963 - Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

## **Communion Hymn**

Panis Angelicus by Franck (solo)  
683 - You Satisfy the Hungry Heart  
928 - Take and Eat This Bread  
932 - One Bread, One Body  
941 - Eat This Bread  
945 - I Am the Bread of Life

## **Recessional Hymn**

- 525 - The Strife Is O'er (not during Lent)
- 527 - I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- 691 - On Eagle's Wings
- 870 - Jerusalem, My Happy Home
- 871 - We Shall Rise Again
- 884 - For All the Saints

## **Additional Hymns**

- 735 - Blest Are They
- 634 - Come, You Thankful People, Come
- 615 - Holy God We Praise Thy Name
- 567 - Holy, Holy, Holy
- 694 - How Firm a Foundation
- 593 - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
- 646 - Keep In Mind
- 828 - Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
- 902 - O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God
- 688 - O God, Our Help in Ages Past
- 539 - Sing With All the Saints in Glory
- 640 - There Is a Balm
- 642 - What Wondrous Love Is This
- 882 - Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones