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Sections for a Mass of Christian Burial

www.walterjohnsonfh.com/church

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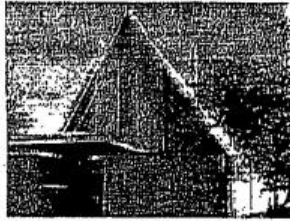
After making your selections please return to the funeral home's webpage and submit the form.

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

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

1571 South Martine Ave.
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Telephone: (908) 889-2100
Fax: (908) 889-9477



Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Dear Friends:

During this time of sadness, our parish community extends our heartfelt prayers to you and your family. We believe the love of family and friends and the comfort of our faith in God help us to mourn our loss. This leads us to a deeper understanding of God's loving presence in our lives.

In preparing for your loved one's funeral, please review the enclosed booklet. Your thoughtful information will assist the priest presiding at the Funeral Mass to speak meaningfully at the appropriate times. The form entitled "The Mass of Christian Burial" is a planning guide for the Funeral Mass. It will assist you in selecting the Old Testament and New Testament readings, the music and any possible family involvement in the Mass.

Please make note the *Format for Funeral Liturgies* outline and the *Directives on a Eulogy*. Any questions you may have after reviewing this information are most welcome. If you are in need of further assistance, please feel free to contact the parish office at 908-889-2100 or the Funeral Director.

Our prayers are with you.

The Parish Community of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Format for Funeral Liturgies

Blessing (Priest)

Opening Prayer (Priest)

Old Testament Reading (Family Member)

Psalm (Sung by Organist/Singer)

New Testament Reading (Family Member)

Gospel Acclamation (Sung by Organist/Singer)

Gospel (Priest)

Petitions (Family Member)

Presentation of Gifts (Wine, Bread, etc) (Family Members)

Songs (Chosen by the Family)

Rite of Entrance (Gathering)

Preparation of the Gifts

Communion

Meditation

Recessional (Closing)

We encourage the family, or friends of the family, to participate in the Funeral Liturgy as much as possible. Hopefully, the above outline will be of some help to you in planning this Liturgy. If we can be of any assistance please feel free to call upon us (908-889-2100.)

Directives on a Eulogy

At this time of sorrow, it may be helpful for family and friends to remember their deceased loved one with fondness and love. This is a natural part of the grieving process. At our parish, we have provided the following directives to help answer any questions you may have regarding the appropriateness of the eulogy in the context of the funeral.

Based on the guidelines established by Archbishop John J. Myers, Archdiocese of Newark and our pastoral application, the eulogy may be delivered, *if the family desires it*, at **one** of these appropriate times:

- At the funeral home the evening before the funeral;
- At the grave site after the Funeral Mass;
- At the repast (family gathering after the Mass/burial;)
- In the church, **before** the Funeral Liturgy.
 - *If this choice is selected*, we ask that **one person deliver the eulogy, which is to be limited to one typed, double-spaced page.**
 - **This is to be submitted to the presiding priest the day prior to the funeral, via fax 908-889-9477, email ihm123@aol.com, or delivery to the parish office in the Nazareth Center.**

Old Testament
Readings

Old Testament

#1

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

31:10-31

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 clothe with skillful hands.
She rises while it is still night,
and distributes food to her household.
She picks out a field to purchase;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
She fears not the snow for her household;
all her charges are doubly clothed.
Her husband is prominent at the city gates
as he sits with the elders of the land.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom,
and on her tongue is kindly counsel.
She watches the conduct of her household,
and eats not her food in idleness.
Her children rise up and praise her;
her husband, too, extols her:
“Many are the women of proven worth,
but you have excelled them all.”
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

#2

A Reading from the First Book of Kings

19:4-8

Elijah left his servant there and went a day's journey into the desert,
until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it.

He prayed for death:

“This is enough, O Lord! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.

He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree,

but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat.

He looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water.

After he ate and drank, he lay down again,

but the angel of the Lord came back a second time,

touched him, and ordered,

“Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!”

He got up, ate and drank;

then strengthened by the food,

he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#3

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

9:2,6

You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing,
As they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as men make merry when dividing
spoils.

His dominion is vast and forever peaceful,
From David's throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice, both now and forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#4

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah
25:6.7-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples
A feast of rich food and choice wines,
juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.

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

#5

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah
35:3-6.10

Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,
Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
 Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God, he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense he comes to save you.
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
 the ears of the deaf be cleared;
Then will the lame leap like a stag,
 then the tongue of the dumb will sing.
Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing,
 crowned with everlasting joy;
They will meet with joy and gladness,
 sorrow and mourning will flee.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#6

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
43:1-5

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob,
and formed you O Israel:
Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name: you are mine.
When you pass through the water, I will be with you;
in the rivers you shall not drown.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned;
the flames shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in return for you.
Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious,
and because I love you,
I give men in return for you and peoples in exchange for your life.
Fear not, for I am with you;
from the east I will bring back your descendants,
from the west I will gather you.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament

#7

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah
49:8.13-16

Thus says the Lord:

In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you,
To restore the land and allot the desolate heritages,
Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth,
break forth into song, you mountains.
For the Lord comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted.
But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me;
my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget, I will never forget you.
See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name;
your walls are ever before me.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#8

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah
52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him
who brings glad tidings,
Announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation,
and saying to Zion,
“Your God is King!”
Hark! Your watchmen raise a cry, together they shout for joy,
For they see directly, before their eyes, the Lord restoring Zion.
Break out together in song,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For the Lord comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations;
All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#9

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah
58:6-9.11

This rather, is the fasting that I wish:
releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke;
Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke;
Sharing your bread with the hungry,
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;
Clothing the naked when you see them,
and not turning your back on your own.
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
Your vindication shall go before you,
and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#10

A Reading From The Prophet Isaiah
Isaiah 60: 19-20

No longer shall the sun be your light by day,
Nor the brightness of the moon shine upon you at night;
The Lord shall be your light forever,
your God shall be your glory.
No longer shall your sun go down,
or your moon withdraw,
For the Lord will be your light forever,
and the days of your mourning shall be at an end.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#11

A Reading from the Book of Job
19:23-27

Oh, would that my words were written down!
Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever!
But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,
And that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;
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.

Old Testament

#12

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations
3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.

The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall;
Remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me.

But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.

My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#13

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

2:1-9

My child, when you come to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for trials.
Be sincere of heart and steadfast,
undisturbed in time of adversity.
Cling to him, forsake him not;
thus will your future be great.
Accept whatever befalls you,
in crushing misfortune be patient;
For in fire gold is tested,
and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation.
Trust God and he will help you;
make straight your ways and hope in him.
You who fear the Lord,
trust him and your reward will not be lost.
You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#14

A Reading from the Book of Sirach
35:6-11

The just man's sacrifice is most pleasing,
nor will it ever be forgotten.
In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord,
be not sparing of freewill gifts.
With each contribution show a cheerful countenance,
and pay your tithes in a spirit of joy.
Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously,
according to your means.
For the Lord is one who always repays,
and he will give back to you sevenfold.
But offer no bribes, these he does not accept!
Trust not in sacrifice of the fruits of extortion.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#15

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

3:1-6.9

But 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 his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#16

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

4:7-15

But 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

#17

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

7:7-11

Therefore I prayed, and prudence was given me;
I pleaded, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I preferred her to scepter and throne,
And deemed riches nothing in comparison with her,
nor did I liken any priceless gem to her;
Because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand,
and before her, silver is to be accounted mire.
Beyond health and comeliness I loved her,
And I chose to have her rather than the light,
because the splendor of her never yields to sleep.
Yet all good things together came to me in her company,
and countless riches at her hands.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#18

A Reading from the Second Book of Maccabees
12:43-45

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 of the dead in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.
But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits
those who had gone to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#19

A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel
34:11-12.15-16

For thus says the Lord God:
I myself will look after and tend my sheep.
As a shepherd tends his flock
when he finds himself among his scattered sheep,
so will I tend my sheep.
I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered
when it was cloudy and dark.
I myself will pasture my sheep;
I myself will give them rest, says the Lord God.
The lost I will seek out,
the strayed I will bring back,
the injured I will bind up,
the sick I will heal
(but the sleek and the strong I will destroy),
shepherding them rightly.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#20

A Reading from the Book of Genesis
1:27-31

God created man in his image,
in the divine image he created him;
male and female he created them
God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it.
Have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air and all the living things that move on the earth.”
God also said:
“See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth
and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food;
and to all the animals of the land,
all the birds of the air,
and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground,
I give all the green plants for food.”
And so it happened.
God looked at everything he had made,
and he found it very good.
Evening came, and morning followed – the sixth day.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#21

A Reading from the Book of Genesis
12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram,
“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk
and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.
“I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you.
All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.”
Abram went as the Lord directed him,
and Lot went with him.
Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haram..

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

#22

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

3:1-11

There is an appointed time for everything,
And a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to castaway.

A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

What advantage has the worker from his toil?

I have considered the task which God has appointed for us
to be busied about.

He has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timeless into our hearts,
without us ever discovering, from beginning to end,
the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament
Readings

New Testament

#1

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 6:3-4.8-11

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism in 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.

New Testament

#2

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans
8:14-18

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.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans
8:31-35.37-39

What then shall we say to this?
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 interceded 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 over-whelmingly through him
who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities, 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.

New Testament

#4

A Reading from the Letter Of Paul to the Romans
14:7-10.12

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.
For if we live, we live for the Lord,
and if we die, we die for the Lord;
so then,
whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
For this is why Christ died and came to life,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
Why then do you judge your brother or sister?
Or you, why do you look down on your brother or sister?
For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.
So,
then each of us shall give an account of ourselves to God.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians
4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!
Your kindness should be known to all.
The Lord is near.
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.
Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard
your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
Finally,
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.
Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament

#6

A Reading from the Letter to St. Paul to the Colossians
3:14-15.17.23-24

And over all these put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace into which you were also called in one body.

And be thankful.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Whatever you do, do from the heart,
as for the Lord and not for others,
knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment
of the inheritance;
be slaves of the Lord Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament

#7

A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

1: 3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
in the heavens,
as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love

he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ,
in accord with the favor of his will.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians
6:7-10

Make no mistake: God is not mocked,
for a person will reap only what he sows,
because the one who sows for his flesh
will reap corruption from the flesh
but the one who sows for the spirit
will reap eternal life from the spirit.
Let us not grow tired of doing good,
for in due time
we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.
So then,
while we have the opportunity,
let us do good to all,
but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians
4:13-18

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

Indeed,
we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.
For the Lord himself,
with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel
and with the trumpet of God will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive,
who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament

#10

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
2:1-6.9

When I came to you, my friends,
proclaiming the mystery of God,
I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom.
For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling,
and my message and my proclamation were not
with persuasive words of wisdom,
but with a demonstration of spirit and power,
so that your faith might rest
not on human wisdom but on the power of God.
Yet we do speak a wisdom to those who are mature,
but not a wisdom of this age,
nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away.
But as it is written:
“What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,
and what has not entered the human heart,
what God has prepared for those who love him.”

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament

#11

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
9:24-27

Do you not know that the runners in the stadium
all run in the race, but only one wins the prize?

Run so as to win.

Every athlete exercises discipline in every way.

They do it to win a perishable crown,
but we an imperishable one.

Thus I do not run aimlessly;

I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing.

No, I drive my body and train it,
for fear that, after having preached to others,
I myself should be disqualified.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament

#12

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
12:31-13:1-7

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 cashing cymbal.
And if I have the gift of prophecy
and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;
if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love,
I am nothing.
If I give away everything I own,
and if I hand my body over so that I may boast
but do not have love, I gain nothing.
Love is patient, love is kind.
It is not jealous, nor 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.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
13:8-12

Love never fails.
If 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 an adult, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
15:12-20

But if Christ is preached as raised from the dead,
how can some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

If there is no resurrection of the dead,
then neither has Christ been raised.

And if Christ has not been raised,
then empty too is our preaching; empty, too, your faith.

Then we are also false witnesses to God,
because we testified against God that he raised Christ,
whom he did not raise if in fact the dead are not raised.

For if the dead are not raised,
neither has Christ been raised,
and if Christ has not been raised,
your faith is vain; you are still in your sins.

Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we are the most pitiable people of all.

But now Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament

#15

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
15:20-26

But now 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 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,
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.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
15:51-57

Behold, I tell you a mystery.
We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.
For that which is corruptible
must clothe itself with incorruptibility,
and that which is mortal
must clothe itself with immortality.
And when this which is corruptible
clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal
clothes itself with immortality,
then the work 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 1st Letter to the Hebrews
11:1-2.8-10.13-16

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for
and evidence of things not seen.

Because of it the ancients were well attested.

By faith

Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place
that he was to receive as an inheritance;
he went out, not knowing where he was to go.

By faith he sojourned in the promised land
as in a foreign country,
dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob,
heirs of the same promise;

for he was looking forward to the city with foundations,
whose architect and maker is God.

All these died in faith.

They did not receive what had been promised
but saw it and greeted it from afar
and acknowledged themselves to be strangers
and aliens on earth,

for those who speak thus show that they are seeking a homeland.

If they had been thinking
of the land from which they had come,
they would have had opportunity to return.

But now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly one.
Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God,
for he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament

#18

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

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus
and place us with you in his presence.
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 2nd Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians
5:1.6-10

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 was done in the body,
whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. Peter

1:3-4.6-9

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.

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.

New Testament

#21

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. John
3:1-2

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

Yet so we are.

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the 1st Letter of St. John
4:7-12.17

Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Whoever is without love does not know God,
for God is love.
In this way the love of God was revealed to us:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.
In this is love:
not that we have loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also must love one another.
No one has ever seen God.
Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.
In this is love brought to perfection among us,
that we have confidence on the day of judgment
because as he is, so are we in this world.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading From The Book of Revelation
14: 13

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

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation
21:1-4

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 Word of the Lord.

A Reading From The Book Of Revelation
21: 5-7

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.

A Reading from Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy
4:6-8

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

The Word of the Lord.

Petitions

Petitions

#1

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer.

N. lived a long life; may he(he) obtain rest from his(her) labors, and the reward of all his(her) goodness.

We pray to the Lord.

That Christ may look with love on those who mourn N's passing.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who looked after N.: that their generosity may be rewarded with abundant blessings.

We pray to the Lord.

That all of us who have known him(her), and who take part in this celebration, may receive an increase of faith and hope.

We pray to the Lord.

That all the dead, especially our relatives and friends, may find light, happiness and peace in the kingdom of heaven.

We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#2

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer.

N. has reached the shore of eternity; now that all his(her) earthly tasks are completed, may he(she) enjoy rest from all his(her) labors. We pray to the Lord.

N. fought the good fight; he(she) finished the race; he(she) kept the faith; may he(she) now receive from Christ the crown of eternal glory which he won for us with his death and resurrection. We pray to the Lord.

For those who grieve over his(her) death: that through their faith in Christ their sorrow may soon be changed into joy. We pray to the Lord.

For all those who cared for N. in his(her) old age: that the Lord may reward them for their kindness and patience. We pray to the Lord.

For all who knew and loved N: that they may draw inspiration from his(her) life. We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#3

Our Response Will Be: . Lord, hear our prayer.

That N. who began his(her) spiritual journey at Baptism may now reach its goal in the kingdom of heaven.

We pray to the Lord.

N. was nourished with the bread of life; may he(she) now enjoy the banquet of eternal life.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who mourn for N.: that they may be comforted by the faith that he(she) has gone to God, the destination of all of us.

We pray to the Lord.

For all who worship here: that they may receive an increase of faith in God and in his great promise.

We pray to the Lord.

For those whose lives are empty because they lack spirituality; for those who are going through the desert of suffering.

We pray to the Lord.

That God, in his infinite power and great mercy, may bring all the dead into the promised land of the kingdom of heaven.

We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#4

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Pope and all Church leaders that they may lead the people of God with courage and wisdom.

We pray to the Lord.

For all Christians, that they may bear open and fearless witness to Christ through lives of pray, service and respect for life.

We pray to the Lord.

For _____, who fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith; may she now receive from Christ the crown of eternal glory which he won for us through his death and resurrection.

We pray to the Lord.

That Christ may look with love on those who mourn _____ passing, especially, (FAMILY NAMES)

We pray to the Lord.

For all here present: that we may be inspired by _____ example; witnessing to Christ in our daily lives with courage and generosity.

We pray to the Lord.

For all the faithful departed, especially _____ (Family Names)

We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#5

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all Christians: that they may follow Christ with constancy and generosity.

We pray to the Lord.

That _____ who proved himself/herself a good and faithful servant in this life, may now hear those words from Christ, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master."

We pray to the Lord.

For all who mourn for _____, especially (Family names), that they may find inspiration and comfort in his example.

We pray to the Lord.

For all here present: that we may never lose sight of our great dignity as children of God and co-heirs with Christ to eternal glory.

We pray to the Lord.

That all who have died in the peace of Christ, especially _____ and his/her (Family members) may find rest in his kingdom of light and peace.

We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#6

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer

_____ fought the good fight; he finished the race; he kept the faith; may he now receive from Christ the crown of eternal glory which he won for us with his death and resurrection.

We pray to the Lord.

_____ showed much love for others in this life; may he now experience the loving mercy of God.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who mourn for _____, especially his/her family:

_____(Names)_____, that they may find inspiration and comfort in his example.

We pray to the Lord.

For all here present: that we may draw inspiration from the example of _____, and so strive to live out in our own lives Christ's great commandment of love.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who cared for _____, that the Lord may reward them for their kindness and patience.

We pray to the Lord.

For all who have died in the peace of Christ, especially, _____, his/her parents, may find rest in his kingdom of light and peace.

We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#7

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer

N. ate the bread of eternal life on earth; may he(he) now enjoy the eternal banquet of which this is a foretaste.

We pray to the Lord.

That Christ may raise him(her) up to the fullness of that divine life he came on earth to share with us.

We pray to the Lord.

For N's family, relatives and friends, whose spirits are cast down by sorrow; that they may find strength through their faith.

We pray to the Lord.

Strengthened by the bread of angels, Elijah walked all the way to the mountain of God; strengthened by the bread Christ gives, may we walk all the way to the kingdom of heaven.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who are without faith; that Christ may open their ears to the Good News which tells of the unimaginable good things God has prepared for those who love him.

We pray to the Lord.

For all the faithful departed: that they may enter into the full possession of the promised land/

We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#8

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer

For the Church: that through an effective preaching of the Gospel it may provide a lamp for a world darkened by doubt and unbelief.
We pray to the Lord.

N. was enlightened by the wisdom of the Gospel in this life; may he(he) now find his (her) way into the eternal kingdom.
We pray to the Lord.

For the sorrowing family, relatives, and friends of N. : that they may find strength and consolation in their faith and in the love and support of the community.
We pray to the Lord.

For all here present: that we may never exchange what is lasting and priceless for what is passing and insignificant.
We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#9

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church: that it may encourage its members to develop and use all their gifts of grace and nature.

We pray to the Lord.

For N: that for all the efforts he (she) made, and the work he (she) did, he (she) may hear words of praise from Christ to whom we must all one day give account of our lives.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who mourn for N. , and who are now deprived of the benefits of his (her) talents: that God may turn their darkness into light.

We pray to the Lord.

For ourselves: that we may not envy those who are more talented than we are, and that we may not be satisfied with ourselves until we have made full use of our own talents.

We pray to the Lord.

For all those whose talents lie idle either through laziness, cowardice, or simply through lack of opportunity.

We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#10

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer.

N. shared in the passion of Christ; may he (she) now share in his risen glory.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who mourn N's death: that they may be comforted by the knowledge that, after all his (her) pain, he (she) is now at peace.

We pray to the Lord.

For all who suffer: that they may bear their pain with Christ-like love and patience.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who work for the sick and suffering: that they may have a kind heart and gentle hands.

We pray to the Lord.

For all here present: that we may remember the what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory which is waiting for us in the next.

We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#11

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christ, to whom N was united in Baptism, may welcome him (her) into heaven and give him (her) a share in his glory.

We pray to the Lord.

For the family, relatives and friends of N: that they may find comfort in their faith in God, and strength through the support of the community.

We pray to the Lord.

For all here: that we may grow in faith so that we can stand firm even when hardship, misfortune, and even tragedy visits us.

We pray to the Lord.

For all those who have left this world in God's friendship, especially those who were dear to us. (Names may be mentioned)

We pray to the Lord.

Petitions

#12

Our Response Will Be: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all Christians: that they may bear open and fearless witness to Christ through lives of prayer and service.

We pray to the Lord.

For the pope and bishops: that they may lead the people of God with courage and wisdom.

We pray to the Lord.

N bore witness to Christ on earth; may he (she) now be crowned by him with honor and glory in heaven.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who mourn N's death: that they may be consoled in their loss by their gratitude to God for the kind of witness he (she) gave.

We pray to the Lord.

For all those who suffer for their belief in Christ.

We pray to the Lord.

For all here present: that we may be inspired by the example of N to witness to Christ in our daily lives with courage and generosity.

We pray to the Lord.

Christ, through his divine power, has broken the power of death; may he lead all our departed relatives and friends into the joyful vision of his presence.

We pray to the Lord.

Music / Hymns

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Music Ministry

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church provides an organist and cantor/soloist for all funerals and memorial liturgies. Family members may select music from the list below or make requests for specific music. If family members do not have a preference, appropriate music will be selected by the organist.

Listed below are some suggestions of appropriate music. Other requests can be accommodated. Music is generally chosen for the Rite of Entrance (Gathering), Preparation of Gifts, Communion, Meditation and recessional (Closing).

E –Entrance
O- Offertory
C- Communion
R-Recession
M- Meditation
A-Any

Alive in Christ Jesus E, A, R

Amazing Grace A

Ave Maria O,M * Cannot be at Communion

Be Not Afraid A

By Name I have Called You O,C,M

Come to Me E,O

Eternal Father, Strong to Save A (military)

Eye Has Not Seen O,C

Go in Peace R

Here I Am Lord O,C

Hosea O,C

How Great Thou Art A

How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place O,C

I Am the Bread of Life A

I Heard the Voice of Jesus O,C

I Know that My Redeemer Lives A

I, the Lord O,C

Irish Blessing R

Jerusalem My Destiny E,R

Lift High the Cross E,R

On Eagle's Wings A

* *Pastures of the Lord* R (military)

Prayer of St. Francis O,C

Song of Farewell R

** *A Visitor from Heaven* O,C,M

(**infant or child)

We Will Rise Again O,C

What Wondrous Love O,C

****With Hope* C,M

(***young adult – middle age)

You are Mine O,C

You are Near O,C

You Raise Me Up R

Psalms:

All I ask of You

Shepherd Me O God

The Lord is My Shepherd