

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FUNERALS

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

(First Readings)

- 1. Job 19:1, 23-27a**
We know that our Redeemer lives.
- 2. Ecclesiastes 3:1-11**
There is a time for everything under the heavens.
- 3. Wisdom 3:1-9**
The just are at peace in God's hands.
- 4. Wisdom 4:7-15**
Honor is not measured in terms of years. The just who die early will know God's rest.
- 5. Sirach 6:6-12, 14-16**
Faithful friends are beyond price.
- 6. Sirach 44:1-15**
Let us now give praise to an illustrious man (father), whose good works will not be forgotten.
- 7. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**
The God who saves us will wipe the tears from every face.
- 8. Isaiah 43:1-3a**
I have called you by name: you are mine.
- 9. Daniel 12:1-3**
The wise will shine like the stars forever.
- 10. Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-31**
A woman (mother) who honors the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

(Second Readings)

- 11. Romans 5:5-11**
Christ died for sinners; our hope will not be disappointed.
- 12. Romans 6:3-9**
If we die with Christ, we will also live with him.
- 13. Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39**
What could separate us from the love of Christ?
- 14. Romans 14: 7-9, 10c-12**
Jesus is Lord of both the dead and the living.
- 15. 1 Corinthians 2:6-9**
Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, what God has ready for those who love him.
- 16. 1 Corinthians 13:4-12**
Love never fails.
- 17. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57**
Death has no victory.
- 18. 2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1**
We fix our sights not on what is seen but what is unseen, an eternal dwelling to come.
- 19. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**
We have an eternal dwelling in heaven.
- 20. Philippians 4:4-9**
The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- 21. Colossians 3:12-17**
Let the peace of Christ control your hearts and give thanks to God through Christ.
- 22. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
We shall be with God forever.
- 23. 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18**
I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.
- 24. 1 Peter 1:3-9**
God gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus.
- 25. 1 John 3:1-2**
Beloved, we are God's children now, and we will see God face to face.
- 26. Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7**
There shall be no more death; all things are made new.

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 Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every thing under the heavens.

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

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

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance.

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

A time to seek and a time to lose;
a time to keep and a time to cast away.

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

A time to love and a time to hate;
a time of war and a time of peace.

What advantage have the workers from their toil?

I have considered the task that God has appointed
for humankind to be busied about.

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

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 to others, 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.

As gold in the furnace, God proved them;
and took them as sacrificial offerings.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.

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

Because grace and mercy are with God's holy ones,
and God's care is with the elect.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just one, though they 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, the attainment of old age.

The one who pleased God was loved;
they who lived among sinners was transported—

Having become perfect in a short while,
they reached the fullness of a long career;
for their soul was pleasing to the LORD,
therefore God sped them out of the midst of wickedness.

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

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Let your acquaintances be many,

but one in a thousand your confidant.

When you gain a friend, first test him,

and be not too ready to trust him.

For one sort is a friend when it suits him,

but he will not be with you in time of distress.

Another is a friend who becomes an enemy,

and tells of the quarrel to your shame.

Another is a friend, a boon companion,

who will not be with you when sorrow comes.

When things go well, he is your other self,

and lords it over your servants;

But if you are brought low, he turns against you

and avoids meeting you.

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;

he who finds one finds a treasure.

A faithful friend is beyond price,

no sum can balance his worth.

A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy,

such as he who fears God finds;

For he who fears God behaves accordingly,

and his friend will be like himself.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Let us now give praise to an illustrious man.

Some men the Lord honored with great glory,
and were renowned for their strength;

Others were intelligent advisers and uttered prophetic oracles.

Others directed the people by their advice,
by their understanding of the popular mind,
and by the wise words of their teaching.

Others composed musical melodies and others set down ballads.

Others were rich and powerful, living peacefully in their homes.

All these were honored by their contemporaries,
and were the glory of their day.

Some of them left a name behind them, so that their praises are still sung,
while others have left no memory,
and disappeared as though they had not existed.

They are now as though they had never been,
and so too, their children after them.

But here is an illustrious man, whose good works will not be forgotten.

His reputation will be passed on to his descendants
and this will be their inheritance.

His family continues to keep the covenant and will,
because of what their father did.

His family line will continue and his glory will not fade.

His body will be laid to rest, but his reputation will live forever.

The people will proclaim his wisdom, and the assembly will celebrate his praises.

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 God will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations;
God will destroy death forever.

The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of the people will be removed
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 God has saved us!"

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,

God's mercies are not spent;

They are renewed each morning,

so great is God's faithfulness.

My portion is the LORD, says my soul;

therefore will I hope in God.

Good is the LORD to one who waits,

to the soul that seeks;

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 the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and heard this word of the Lord:

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

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

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

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of noble character?

She is worth far more than jewels.

Her family has full confidence in her,
and lacks nothing of value.

She brings them good not harm,
all the days of her life.

She gets up while it is still dark;
she provides food for her family.

She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks.

She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.

She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over the affairs of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children arise and call her blessed:

“Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who honors the Lord is to be praised.

Give her the reward she has earned,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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 who 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 this love for us

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

How much more then, since we are now justified by Christ's 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 Saint Paul to the Romans

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

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

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

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

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

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

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

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

God did not spare God's own Son

but handed him over for us all,

will God 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 Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one 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 brothers and sisters?
Or you, why do you look down on your brothers and sisters?
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 accounting of ourselves to God.

The word of the Lord.

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

We 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.

Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden,
which God predetermined before the ages for our glory,
and which none of the rulers of this age knew;
for, if they had known it,
they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

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.

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

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, is not pompous,

it is not inflated, it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interests,

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

it does not rejoice over wrongdoing

but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

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 grew up, I put aside childish things.

At present, we see indistinctly, as in a mirror;

but then face to face.

At present, I know partially;

but then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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 Saint 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 Saint 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 God,
whether we are at home or away.

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

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

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, brothers and sisters,

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.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,
if one has a grievance against another;
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

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.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

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.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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 Saint Paul to Timothy

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 the heavenly Kingdom.

To God be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first Letter of St. Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
who, in 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 Jesus 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 Saint 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 God.

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 God,
for we shall see God as God is.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

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

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.

God will dwell with them and they will be God's people
and God will always be with them as their God.

God 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 victors will inherit these gifts,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people."

The word of the Lord.