

**St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church**

**St. Mary's Church—138 Fairfield Street, SE  
Old St. Mary's—125 Park Avenue, SE  
Parish Office— 203 Park Avenue, SE  
Aiken, SC 29801**



**Funeral Planning Booklet**

**Very Rev. Richard C. Wilson, V.F.**

**Pastor**

**Fr. Michael Ghattas**

**Parochial Vicar**

**Kimberly Gaynor—Administrative Assistant to Pastor**

**803-649-4777 x114**

**2026.07**



*Dear Parishioner and Family:*

*On behalf of St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, we offer our sincere condolences for your loss. While we know that words are only a small gesture of support, I want you to know that the spirit of your loved one has touched many people's lives in the church and beyond. They will be forever remembered and forever missed. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Our deepest sympathy and love to you and yours.*

*Sincerely in Christ,*

*Very Rev. Richard C. Wilson, V.F.*

*Pastor*

Eulogies are not allowed at the Mass. If a Eulogy is desired, it should take place at the Vigil, at the Funeral Repast or at Graveside.

## MUSIC FOR THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

Below are songs and Traditional Catholic hymns permitted at  
St. Mary's funerals.

### Entrance Hymns

(Please Choose One)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

I know that My Redeemer Lives

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Sing with all the Saints in Glory

The Church's one Foundation

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Abide with Me

How Firm a Foundation

Faith of Our Fathers

Be Still, My Soul

For All the Saints

All Ye Who Seek a Comfort Sure

O God Beyond All Praising

## Offertory Hymns

(Please Choose One)

Be Thou My Vision  
Lord of All Hopefulness  
The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

The Call

Ave Maria

Lead, Kindly Light  
How Sweet the Name of Jesus

## Communion Hymns

(Please Choose One)

Jerusalem, My Happy Home  
Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee  
Panis Angelicus  
Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless  
Soul of My Saviour  
Praise to the Holiest in the Height  
Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness  
Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Father, We Thank Thee

Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

O Food of Exiles Lowly

**Solos may take the place of Offertory, or Communion  
Please note not every solo is suitable for every cantor**

The Call – Communion Hymn

Panis Angelicus — Communion Hymn

Ave Verum — Communion Hymn

Ave Maria — Offertory Hymn

Litanei — Offertory Hymn

When at Night I go to Sleep — Offertory Hymn

Come Unto Him/ He Shall Feed His Flock — Communion Hymn

O Rest in the Lord — Offertory or Communion Hymn

Pie Jesu – Offertory or Communion Hymn

**\*\* It is our policy to utilize only St. Mary’s trained Cantors to  
serve at funerals.**

**Pick one for each:**

Entrance: \_\_\_\_\_

Offertory: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions or need more assistance with  
your music selection, please contact:

Mr. Franklin Deese – 706-550-5047

**\*\* It is our policy to utilize only St. Mary's trained Lectors to serve at funerals.**

### **Funeral Readings**

Outside Easter Time: Old Testament

(Please Choose One)

#### **First Readings:**

##### **Maccabees 12:43-46**

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel,

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.

Thus he made atonement for the dead  
that they might be freed from this sin.

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

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite 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 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.

### **Wisdom 3:1-9 Long**

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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

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

But they are in peace.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 Short**

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 in the eyes of 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.

## **Wisdom 4:7-15**

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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

On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,

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

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

The reproach of his people he will remove  
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the LORD for whom we looked;

let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

### **Lamentations 3:17-26**

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

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

The thought of my homeless poverty  
Is wormwood and gall;  
Remembering it over and over  
leaves my soul downcast within me.  
But I will call this to mind,  
as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the LORD are not exhausted,  
his mercies are not spent;  
They are renewed each morning,  
so great is his faithfulness.  
My portion is the LORD, says my soul;  
therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the LORD to one who waits for him,  
to the soul that seeks him;  
It is good to hope in silence  
for the saving help of the Lord.

### **Daniel 12: 1-3**

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.

## Funeral Readings

During Easter Time Only: New Testament

(Please Choose One)

### Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 long

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

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

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

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

## **Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 long (Cont'd)**

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.”

## **Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43 short**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying

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

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

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

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

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

## **Revelation 14:13**

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, 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."

## **Revelation 20:11–21:1**

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence  
and there was no place for them.

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

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

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

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

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.  
(This pool of fire is the second death.)

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

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

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

## **Revelation 21:1-5a,6b-7**

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.

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

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

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.  
He will dwell with them and they will be his people  
and God Himself will always be with them as their God.  
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,  
and there shall be no more death or mourning,  
wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said,  
“Behold, I make all things new.

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

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

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

## **Responsorial Psalm**

(Please Choose One)

### **Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6**

**R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

**R/. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil,  
for you are with me.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;

Beside restful waters he leads me;

he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths

for his name sake. **R/.**

Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side

With your rod and your staff

that give me courage. **R/.**

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows. **R/.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me

all the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

for years to come. **R/.**

**Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21**

**R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

or:

**R/. No one who waits for you, O Lord, will ever be put to shame.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,  
and your kindness are from of old.

In your kindness remember me,  
because of your goodness, O LORD. **R/.**

Relieve the troubles of my heart;  
And bring me out of my distress.

Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;  
and take away all my sins. **R/.**

Preserve my life and rescue me;  
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,  
Because I wait for you, O LORD. **R/.**

**Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14**

**R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

or:

**R/. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid? **R/.**

One thing I ask of the LORD;  
this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life.

That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD  
and contemplate his temple. **R/.**

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;  
have pity on me, and answer me.

Your presence, O LORD, I seek.  
Hide not your face from me. **R/.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. **R/.**

**Psalm 42:2, 3, 5cdef; 43:3, 4, 5**

**R/. My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?**

As the hind longs for the running waters,  
so my soul longs for you, O God. **R/.**

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.  
When shall I go and behold the face of God? **R/.**

I went with the throng and led them in procession  
to the house of God.

Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,  
with the multitude keeping festival. **R/.**

Send forth your light and your fidelity;  
they shall lead me on  
And bring me to your holy mountain,  
to your dwelling-place. **R/.**

Then will I go into the altar of God,  
the God of my gladness and joy;  
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,  
O God, my God! **R/.**

Why are you downcast, O my soul?  
Why do you sigh within me?  
Hope in God! For I shall again be thanking him,  
in the presence of my savior and my God. **R/.**

**Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9**

**R/. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

O God, you are my God whom I seek;  
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts  
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. **R/.**

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary  
to see your power and your glory,  
For your kindness is a greater good than life;  
my lips shall glorify you. **R/.**

Thus will I bless you while I live;  
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.  
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,  
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. **R/.**

You are my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.  
My soul clings fast to you;  
your right hand upholds me. **R/.**

**Psalm 103:8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18**

**R/. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

or:

**R/. The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.**

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,  
slow to anger, and abounding in kindness.  
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,  
nor does he requite us according to our crimes. **R/.**

As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.  
For he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust. **R/.**

Man's days are like those of grass;  
like a flower of the field he blooms;  
The wind sweeps over him and he is gone,  
and his place knows him no more. **R/.**

But the kindness of the LORD is from eternity,  
to eternity toward those who fear him,  
And his justice toward children's children  
among those who keep his covenant  
and remember to fulfill his precepts. **R/.**

**Psalm 116:5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac**

**R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

or:

**R/. Alleluia.**

Gracious is the LORD and just;  
yes, our God is merciful. **R/.**

The LORD keeps the little ones;  
I was brought low, and he saved me. **R/.**

I believed, even when I said,  
"I am greatly afflicted";  
I said in my alarm,  
"No man is dependable." **R/.**

Precious in the eyes of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful ones.  
O LORD, I am your servant,  
you have loosed my bonds. **R/.**

**Psalm 122:1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9**

**R/. I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.**

or:

**R/. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

I rejoiced because they said to me,  
"We will go up to the house of the LORD."  
And now we have set foot  
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R/.**

To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD,  
According to the decree for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.  
In it are set up judgment seats,  
seats for the house of David. **R/.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
May those who love you prosper!  
May peace be within your walls,  
prosperity in your buildings. **R/.**

Because of my relatives and friends  
I will say "Peace be within you!"  
Because of the house of the LORD, our God,  
I will pray for your good. **R/.**

**Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8**

**R/. Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.**

or:

**R/. I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to my voice in supplication. **R/.**

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,

LORD, who can stand?

But with you is forgiveness,

that you may be revered. **R/.**

I trust in the LORD;

my soul trusts in his word.

My soul waits for the LORD

more than the sentinels wait for the dawn. **R/.**

More than the sentinels wait for the dawn,

let Israel wait for the LORD,

For with the LORD is kindness

and with him is plenteous redemption. **R/.**

And he will redeem Israel

from all their iniquities. **R/.**

**Psalm 143:1-2, 5-6, 7ab and 8ab, 10**

**R/. O Lord, hear my prayer.**

O LORD, hear my prayer;  
hearken to my pleading in your faithfulness;  
in your justice answer me.

And enter not into judgment with your servant,  
for before you no living man is just. **R/.**

I remember the days of old;  
I meditate on all your doings;  
the works of your hands I ponder.  
I stretch out my hands to you;  
my soul thirsts for you like parched land. **R/.**

Hasten to answer me, O LORD;  
for my spirit fails me.  
At dawn let me hear of your mercy,  
for in you I trust. **R/.**

Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.  
May your good spirit guide me  
on level ground. **R/.**

Funeral Readings  
(Please Choose One)

**Second Readings:**

**Romans 5:5-11**

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 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.

## **Romans 5:17-21**

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of the one,  
death came to reign through that one,  
how much more will those who receive the  
abundance of grace  
and of the gift of justification  
come to reign through the one 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 the one man  
the many were made sinners,  
so through the obedience of the 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.

## **Romans 6:3-9 long**

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

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

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

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

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

## **Romans 6:3-4, 8-9 short**

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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.

## Romans 8:14-23

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.  
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,  
but you received a spirit of adoption,  
through which we cry, *Abba*, “Father!”

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit  
that we are children of God,  
and if children, then heirs,  
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,  
if only we suffer with him  
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing  
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation  
the revelation of the children of God;  
for creation was made subject to futility,  
not of its own accord but because of the one who  
subjected it, in hope that creation itself  
would be set free from slavery to corruption  
and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until  
now; and not only that, but we ourselves,  
who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,  
we also groan within ourselves  
as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

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

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

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

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

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

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

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

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

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12**

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 brother?

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

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;  
for it is written:

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

So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God

## **1 Corinthians 15:20-28 long**

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,  
the resurrection of the dead came also through  
man.

For just as in Adam all die,  
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,  
but each one in proper order;  
Christ the firstfruits;  
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;  
then comes the end,  
when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and  
Father.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under  
his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death,  
for "he subjected everything under his feet."

But when it says that everything has been subjected,  
it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected  
everything to him.

When everything is subjected to him,  
then the Son himself will also be subjected  
to the one who subjected everything to him,  
so that God may be all in all.

## **1 Corinthians 15:20-23 short**

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man,  
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die,  
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,  
but each one in proper order;  
Christ the firstfruits;  
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

## 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

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.

## **2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

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

Everything indeed is for you,

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

Therefore, we are not discouraged;

rather, although our outer self is wasting away,  
our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this momentary light affliction

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

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,

should be destroyed,  
we have a building from God,  
a dwelling not made with hands,  
eternal in heaven.

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

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 him,  
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 he did in the body,  
whether good or evil.

## **Philippians 3:20-21**

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Our citizenship is in heaven,  
and from it we also await a savior,  
the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body  
to conform to His glorified Body  
by the power that enables Him also  
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

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.

## **2 Timothy 2:8-13**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a  
descendant of David:

such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering,  
even to the point of chains, like a criminal.

But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who  
are chosen,

so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ  
Jesus, together with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy:

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

But if we deny him  
he will deny us.

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

**1 John 3:1-2**

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 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.

**1 John 3:14-16**

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

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.

-----

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Eulogies: Do they belong in Catholic Funerals?**

*By James Hitchcock, history Professor at St. Louis University  
and Catholic Author. Edited version.*

Official liturgical directives allow for brief personal remarks following Mass. A eulogy is different. Eulogies distract from the Mass itself and are often seen as the real center of the liturgy. In the process the Christian meaning of death is obscured.

The main problem with eulogies is that they must be unreservedly positive—no one wants to hear anything critical about the deceased. Sometimes this creates an unreal situation, as in the film, whose title I forget, where three men attending the funeral of a friend reject everything the rabbi says about the deceased, insisting that “*that ain’t Hymie*”, finally discovering that indeed it is not—they are at the wrong funeral!

This compulsory praise includes a compulsory insistence that the deceased is already in heaven, indeed has always been one of God’s favorite people, probably now sitting in that privileged place that Jesus rebuked his apostles for coveting.

Since the Second Vatican Council, the emphasis of the service changed to hope, and white vestments, symbolic of the Resurrection, are now precisely what some funerals now are.

Once when I was “channel-surfing” I saw a Catholic funeral on television and stopped to see who it was. It turned out to be a figure from the sports world, a man famous for his prodigious drinking and multiple marriages. The eulogies seemed to be vying with one another in talking about the deceased’s drinking capacity, which elicited loud guffaws from the congregation, all this interspersed with sentimental assurances that the deceased was now in heaven, the only logical inference being that God rewards drunkenness.

This kind of abuse is built into the nature of a eulogy. Even if the eulogist is aware of the deceased’s perhaps considerable faults, he dare not hint that the dearly departed is not in heaven. **An unfortunate result is that it forestalls people’s praying for the dead, which used to be regarded as solemn duty.**

Many Catholics no longer practice their faith, and no longer believe in it. They are Catholics only in the social sense. Funerals are one of the few times when they attend church, and the eulogy now often caters to this secular understanding of the faith, a ceremony in which people participate out of a sense of tradition or family solidarity, with no significance beyond that.

Dr. Hitchcock’s article was published in *Adoremus Bulletin*,  
June-July 2000.

## **Respect for the Cremated Remains of a Body**

The Catholic Church commends its deceased members to the mercy of God by means of its funeral rites. It likewise asks that the Christian faithful continue to offer prayer for deceased family member and friends. The annual commemoration of all the faithful departed (All Souls Day) on November 2 attests to this salutary practice. Masses celebrated for the deceased on the anniversaries of death or other significant times continue the Church's prayer and remembrance. For Catholic Christians, cemeteries—especially Catholic cemeteries—are “prepared in the sure hope of the resurrection, (and) never cease to remind us of the life we are to share in Christ, who will transform our bodies to be like his in glory. “

The remains of cremated bodies should be created with the same respect given to the corporeal remains of a human body. This includes the way they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. The cremated remains of a body should be entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium; they may also be buried in a common grave in a cemetery.

The practices of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. Whenever possible, appropriate means for memorializing the deceased should be utilized, such as a plaque or stone that records the name of the deceased.

Page 7, REFLECTIONS – On The Body, Cremation, and Catholic Funeral Rites —Committee on Divine Worship, USCCB, 2001.