

16. (1 Jn. 3:14-16)

A reading from the first letter of John.

We know that we have passed from death to life because we know our brothers and sisters. 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 Jesus laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

The Word of the Lord.

17. (Rev. 14:13)

A reading from the book of Revelation.

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

The Word of the Lord.

18. (Rev. 21:1-5a, 6b-7)

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away."

The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new. 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.

THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS IN THE Roman Catholic Church of Saint Denis

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At Saint Denis, we encourage and assist families in planning and participating in the Funeral Mass of their loved ones. This booklet offers the selections for liturgical music and Scripture readings. You may choose people to place the pall and/or crucifix on the casket, to read the Scriptures, and/or to bring forward the gifts at the Offertory. Please know we will help the people who participate by announcing/inviting them to take their part at the proper time. Assisting your family at a time of grief is a major role of our parish community.

*"Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them."*

On behalf of the entire parish community of Saint Denis, I wish to extend sincere and prayerful condolences on your loss.

Knowing that this time is difficult for you, we would like to assist you in preparing for the celebration of your loved one's Funeral Mass.

In this booklet, we have placed our guidelines regarding all aspects of the Funeral Liturgy, together with various readings from the Old and New Testaments and appropriate hymns that come from our Roman Catholic Tradition and Liturgical customs. Please review these selections so that when you meet with our Pastoral Associate you can finalize the liturgy. You can also ask any questions that you may have at that meeting, or phone our parish office for assistance. If, for any reason, you feel that you cannot make selections, or that you prefer to have us prepare the Liturgy, please contact the Pastoral Associate for assistance and support.

It is the prayer of our entire parish community that God will continue to strengthen you and fill you with His blessings of peace and comfort.

On behalf of the clergy, sisters and staff of Saint Denis, may the Blessings of Christ, Crucified and Resurrected, be with you and all who mourn with you, all of your days.

*Fr. William Lago
Pastor*

**“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”
(John 11:25-26)**

14. (2 Tim. 2:8-13)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Timothy.

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

But the word of God is not chained.

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

This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him

We shall also live with him

If we persevere

We shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him

He will deny us.

If we are unfaithful

He remains faithful

for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

15. (1 Jn. 3:1-2)

A reading from the first letter of John.

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called 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 also know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

12. (2 Cor. 5:1,6-10)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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

He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The Word of the Lord.

13. (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

A reading from the first letter of 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.

Name of Deceased _____

Date & Time of Funeral _____

Family Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Funeral Home _____

Date/Time of viewing _____

Mass:

Sprinkling Rite

Pall (2-4people) _____

Entrance Hymn: _____

First Reading (alpha) _____

Read by: _____

Second Reading (num) _____

Read by: _____

Presentation Hymn: _____

Gift Bearers (2) _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Recessional Hymn: _____

Place of Committal: _____

Mass time: Funeral Masses are celebrated at St. Denis Church at 9:30 or 10 a.m. No Funeral Masses are held on Thursday, Sunday, Holy Days of Obligation nor during the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday through Easter.) Masses may be held at Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel, with permission, outside the summer season, as there is no parking lot.

The Church Offering: We ask for a donation of \$250 for parishioners and \$350 for those not from our parish. (If you cannot afford the donation, please speak to the priest. The donation helps the church run, but does not determine having a funeral here.)

Music Fees: The fee for music is currently: \$200 for the organist and \$150 for the cantor. Outside musicians or cantors must be approved liturgical musicians.

The Pall: A white cloth is placed over the casket upon entering the church and before processing up the aisle to remind us of our Baptismal garment. Two to four friends, family members or the pallbearers may be chosen to assist the funeral director with the placement of the pall on the casket at the start of the Mass.

Offertory Gifts: Two family members or friends may bring up the gifts of bread and wine at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Altar Servers: Please let us know if there are any members of your family who are practicing servers in their parish and who may want to assist at the liturgy.

Music: Roman Catholic Liturgical music is to be chosen for the funeral. Please consult the list found in this booklet. Other Christian music must receive permission from the priest/organist. The Office of Worship in the Diocese of

10. (2 Cor. 4:13-5:1)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

11. (2 Cor. 5:1,6-10)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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

So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

9. (1 Cor. 15:51-57)

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

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

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

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

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

“Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

Trenton has a policy which prohibits the use of popular music and show tunes during liturgies.

Readings: Only readings from the Bible, whose translation is approved by the Roman Catholic Church are permitted. There are two readings before the proclamation of the Gospel: one taken from the Old Testament (*alphabetic* designation) and the second taken from the New Testament (*numeric* designation). This booklet contains the readings that are available to choose. You may choose the reader, who should be old enough and comfortable in proclaiming God’s Word with the dignity that it deserves. A copy of the readings selected will be provided and when it is time to read, the person will be invited to come.

Eulogies: Eulogies are not part of the Roman Catholic Funeral Liturgy. The family is invited to share about their loved one, so that the priest/deacon can share these aspects of the person’s life as part of the homily, while connecting it to the readings and the purpose of the Funeral Liturgy. The ritual for the Catholic Funeral Mass is quite specific in saying that “a brief homily ... should always be given at the funeral liturgy, but never any kind of eulogy.”¹ The integrity of the mass and the teachings of the Catholic Church must be protected. Again, we encourage the family to provide Faith memories or remarks about the person’s virtue beforehand that they would like to have included with the homily at Mass.

Burial/Internment: The human body is buried/interred with the Resurrection of the dead in mind and heart; therefore we treat the body or cremains with the same dignity and respect. It is contrary to Catholic Tradition and abhorrent to throw away ashes in some location other than a cemetery. We do not take part in funerals where ashes are not respected.

¹ OCF, 141.

Possible Music Selections:
(Please select up to four)

All I ask of you
All that is hidden
All will be well
Alleluia sing to Jesus
Alleluia! Alleluia
Alleluia! Let the holy anthem rise
Amazing Grace
Ave Maria
Be not afraid
Be with me, Lord
Behold the Lamb of God
Blest are they
Center of my life
Christ be beside me
City of God
Come to me
Come to the Water
Come, All you blessed ones
Eat this Bread
Eye has not seen
For all the saints
Gift of finest wheat
Give me Jesus
Hail Mary, full of grace
Here I am Lord
Hosea (Come back to me)
How great Thou art
How lovely is your dwelling
I am the Bread of Life
I have loved you
I heard the voice of Jesus
I know that my Redeemer lives
In the arms of the Shepherd
In You, O Lord, I have found my peace
Jerusalem, my happy home
Just a closer walk with Thee
Lead me, Lord
Lead, kindly Light
Let there be peace
Like a Shepherd

Loving and Forgiving
On eagles wings
One Bread, One Body
Out of darkness
Prayer of St. Francis
Precious Lord
Remember Your love
Shelter me, O Lord
Shepherd me, O God
Take and eat
Taste and see
The hand of God
The Lord is my Light
The supper of the Lord
There is a longing
There is a place
To You, O Lord
Turn to Me
Unless a grain of wheat
We remember
We shall rise again
Whatsoever you do
Wherever you go

You are near
You are the light

8. (1 Cor. 15:20-23)

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

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

**For since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.**

**For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to
life, but each one in proper order:**

**Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to
Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to
his God and Father.**

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, the Son
himself will also be subjected to the One who subjected
everything to him, so that God may be all in all.**

The Word of the Lord.

6. (Rom. 8:31b-35, 37-39)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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

He who did not spare his own Son but handed over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

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

It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

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

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

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor power, 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.

7. (Rom. 14:7-12)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

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; for it is written:

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament Scripture Readings

(Please select only one "alpha" reading)

A. (Job 19: 23-27)

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

And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him,

The Word of the Lord.

B. (Wis. 3:1-9)

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

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.

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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

C. (*Wis. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

D. (*Is. 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!"

The Word of the Lord.

4. (*Rom. 6:3-9*)

A reading from the letter of 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.

5. (*Rom. 8:14-23*)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

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

Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

3. (*Rom. 5:17-21*)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

E. (*Lam. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

F. (*Daniel 12: 1-3*)

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel.

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.

G. (2 Mac. 12:43-45)

A reading from the second book of Maccabees.

Judas (the ruler of Israel) 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 so 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 from 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.

H. (Ecc. 3:2-11)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

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 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 has the worker from his toil? I have considered
the task that God has appointed for the sons of men to be busied
about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has
put the timeless into their hearts, without man's ever discovering,
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

New Testament Scripture Readings

(Please select only one "numeric" reading)

1. (Acts 10:34-43)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.

The Word of the Lord.

2. (Rom. 5:5-11)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,
yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners
Christ died for us.