

# **Mass of Christian Burial**

## **FIRST READING OPTIONS (Outside of Easter Season)**

*Instructions:*

- 1. If it is not the Easter Season, select a First Reading from the following options.*
- 2. The family is invited to designate a person to read the selected option. Otherwise, a person will be chosen by the priest.*
- 3. Once you have selected your readings, please let the priest know the option number, as well as the name of the individual reading.*

## **Funeral Mass**

### **First Reading (Outside Easter Season)**

Option F1 - He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.

*2 Maccabees 12:43-46*

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 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 their sin.

The Word of the Lord.

**Funeral Mass**  
**First Reading (Outside Easter Season)**

Option F2 - I know that my Vindicator lives.

*Job 19:1, 23-27a*

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;  
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.

**Funeral Mass**  
**First Reading (Outside Easter Season)**

Option F3 - There is an appointed time for everything.

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-15*

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 give birth, 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 profit have workers from their toil?  
I have seen the business  
that God has given to mortals to be busied about.  
God has made everything appropriate to its time,  
but has put the timeless into their hearts  
so they cannot find out,  
from beginning to end,  
the work which God has done.  
I recognized that there is nothing better  
than to rejoice and to do well during life.

*(Continued on next page)*

## **Funeral Mass**

### **First Reading (Outside Easter Season)**

Moreover, that all can eat and drink  
and enjoy the good of all their toil—  
this is a gift of God.

I recognized that  
whatever God does will endure forever;  
there is no adding to it, or taking from it.  
Thus has God done that he may be revered.  
What now is  
has already been;  
what is to be,  
already is:  
God retrieves what has gone by.

The Word of the Lord

## **Funeral Mass**

### **First Reading (Outside Easter Season)**

Option F4 - As sacrificial offerings He took them to Himself.

*Wisdom 3:1-9 (long)*

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 people, 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 God shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:  
Because grace and mercy are with his Holy ones,  
and God's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

**Funeral Mass**  
**First Reading (Outside Easter Season)**

Option F5 - As sacrificial offerings He took them to Himself.

*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 if before people, 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 God shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:  
Because grace and mercy are with his Holy ones,  
and God's care is with the elect.

The Word of the Lord.

**Funeral Mass**  
**First Reading (Outside Easter Season)**

Option F6 - An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

*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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Funeral Mass**  
**First Reading (Outside Easter Season)**

Option F7 - He will destroy death forever.

*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!"

The Word of the Lord.

## **Funeral Mass**

### **First Reading (Outside Easter Season)**

Option F8 - It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

*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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Funeral Mass**  
**First Reading (Outside Easter Season)**

Option F9 - Man of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

*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.

The Word of the Lord.