

Preparing a Funeral Mass During Covid-19

North American Martyrs Parish

St. Mary's and St. Rose Churches

East Hartford, CT

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The Order of Christian Funerals is composed of three movements: A Vigil Prayer Service at the (Funeral) Home or church, a Funeral Mass at church and a Committal at the final resting place. This order book concentrates on the Funeral Mass itself. The other two moments of prayer can be planned by the priest or presiding minister in consultation with the family of the deceased.

There are five parts to the liturgy at the Church.

1. INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting

Sprinkling with Holy Water [Placing of the Pall]

Entrance Procession

Opening Prayer

2. LITURGY OF THE WORD Readings From Scripture

Homily

General Intercessions

3. LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

4. FINAL COMMENDATION

5. PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

You have the possibility - in fact, you are encouraged - to help plan the Funeral Mass. You have options concerning the entrance procession, the readings, songs, etc. These are explained in this book. Please take a few moments to read these pages and then discuss your choices with the member of the parish consolation team who has been or will be in contact with you.

We will now review each of the five parts of the Funeral Rite and list the various choices you can make to help shape this liturgy to best reflect the faith of the deceased and the hope of the family and friends who pray for eternal rest and peace for the deceased.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

The priest greets the mourners at the entrance and blesses the body. The casket is covered with the pall. A procession up the main aisle takes place in this order:

Cross Server(s)

Deacon

Priest

Casket/Pall Bearers

Family and Friends of the Deceased

Family members or friends can assist in placing the pall on the casket after the priest has sprinkled it with holy water, a sign of the baptism of the deceased.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Church offers us the opportunity to hear three readings from Sacred Scripture. One reading is customarily from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament), one reading from the New Testament (the Epistles) and a Gospel selection.

It is not appropriate during Covid-19 to have members of the family or friends read from Sacred Scripture. You may select the readings that will be read by the priest or lector. The priest or deacon will select and proclaim the Gospel.

The homily follows the readings and is given by the priest or deacon. If you have any particular suggestions to offer in this regard, please share them with the member of the parish consolation team.

The homily focuses on God's compassionate love and on the Easter mystery of death leading to resurrection. It is personalized for the deceased, and brief remarks of a more personal nature may be conveyed to the consolation team, as a eulogy will not be permitted during Covid-19.

After the homily, we have the General Intercessions or Prayer of the Faithful.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The gifts of bread and wine will be prepared at the altar. The usual order of Mass is followed. After the Eucharistic Prayer, we recite the Lord's Prayer, and are offered Communion. Any Catholic in good standing with the Church is invited to receive Communion by coming up the center aisle.

While we cannot allow a family member to perform a eulogy in church, a dignified, brief memorial to the deceased could be offered at the Vigil Service in the Funeral Home or at a reception. Please review the next page of this book in regards to the words of remembrance at the funeral.

FINAL COMMENDATION

After a brief invitation to prayer there is a period of silence, the body is incensed and a prayer of commendation is offered. The priest and assisting ministers precede the casket; the family and friends follow. The pall and any Christian symbol are removed by the Funeral Director at the door.

MUSIC

The parish does have a Director of Music Ministries. During Covid-19 the musicians will have the final decision on the music selections. Singing has been linked to an increased spread of the virus, and therefore the choices must reflect songs that may be less familiar or not normally sung along to by the congregation. Our musicians are experts in this ministry and will always make respectful appropriate choices. For a veteran, the *Star Spangled Banner* may be played at the end of Mass before the recessional hymn. Any other requests must first be approved by the priest. Secular music is not appropriate for a Funeral Mass. Requests to bring in outside musicians or cantors will be at the discretion of our music director, and a customary seat fee will apply.

CREMATION

Out of great reverence for the body, the Church urges that it be present in church for the Funeral Mass. Therefore, it is recommended that cremation follow the funeral. If, however, cremation precedes the Mass, it is permitted that the cremated remains of the deceased be present in church during the Funeral Mass.

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

We sanitize the church prior to every Mass. Please use only the open pews on either side of the center aisle. Families of the same household may sit together, otherwise please maintain a six foot distance as marked by tape. Masks are required at all

times. There may be an attendance limit set by the State of Connecticut and the Archbishop of Hartford. The limit is subject to change and the consolation team will inform you.

Reflections on the Deceased-Omitted during Covid-19

In the Catholic funeral rite the focus is on Christ, his death and resurrection, and the promise we have of life after death. While we pray for the deceased, he or she is not the principal focus of the rite. Consequently, any remembrance of the deceased during Mass needs to be kept in perspective.

This note is intended to give some guidance to those offering reflections on the deceased during the Funeral Mass itself. There are, of course, other opportunities to offer reflections. One time that offers greater flexibility is at a reception or meal following the burial. At that time several persons can share reflections in this informal setting. One could also speak at the wake or at the cemetery.

If you are speaking in Church, we ask that the following guidelines be observed.

- Only one person is to speak at the Funeral Mass itself. As noted above, if more wish to speak they can do so at the funeral home or at the collation. Of course, the speaker is free to make reference to what others said about the deceased in his/her remarks.
- Remarks in Church are made at the lectern or pulpit.
- **Reflections are to be no longer than 3 to 5 minutes.** That is about 2 pages double spaced or 1 page single spaced. Again, if more needs to be said, you can do this at the funeral home or at the collation.
- It would be appreciated if you would email or fax a copy of your remarks to the parish as soon as prepared, no later than the night before the funeral (info@namct.org or fax: 860-289-3224). This will help to assure that the celebrant's homily will not contain the same things you have in your remarks.
- There is no need to give a full obituary of the deceased. This can be printed in a program if you have one.
- Please remember that your remarks should reflect the fact that they are being delivered in a church.

Thanks for honoring these guidelines.

Old Testament Readings

1 A Reading from the book of Job 19:1, 23-27

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.

2 A Reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

3 A Reading from the book of Wisdom 4:7-15

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.

4 A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

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.

5 A Reading from the book of Lamentations 3:17-26

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the Lord. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this 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.

6 A Reading from the Book of the prophet Daniel 12:1-3

**I, Daniel, mourned and I 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.

7 A Reading from the second book of Maccabees 12:43-46

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 this sin.

The Word of the Lord.

8 A Reading from the Book of Ezekial 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord God:

O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you risen from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

9 A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to 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 toll? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

Happy the husband of a good wife, twice-lengthened are his days; a worthy wife brings joy to her husband, peaceful and full is his life. A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the Lord; be He rich or poor, his heart is content, and a smile is ever on his face. A gracious wife delights her husband, her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones; a gift from the Lord is her governed speech, and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth. Choicest of blessings is a modest wife, priceless her chaste person. Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The Word of the Lord.

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

The Responsorial Psalm will be recited after the First Reading.

Please choose one:

Psalm 23 --Shepherd Me, O God

Psalm 42 – As the Deer Longs...

Psalm 27 – The Lord is my light...

Psalm 90 – In every age...

Psalm 100 – We are God's people

Psalm 25 – To you, O Lord...

Psalm 103 – Loving and forgiving...

New Testament Readings

1 A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

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 the 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 A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 5:5-11

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.

The Word of the Lord.

3 A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 5:17-21

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.

4 A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

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.

The Word of the Lord.

5 A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 8:14-23

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.

The Word of the Lord.

6 A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

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 Word? 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.

7 A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12

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.

The Word of the Lord.

8 A Reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-23

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.

The Word of the Lord.

9 A Reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 15:51-57

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

10 A Reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 4:14—5:1

We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. 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 A Reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

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.

The Word of the Lord.

12 A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 3:20-21

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 A Reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a Word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these Words.

The Word of the Lord.

14 A Reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

2:8-13

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 A Reading from the first letter of John

3:1-2

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

16 A Reading from the first letter of John

3:14-16

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love 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 he 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 A reading from the book of Revelation 14:13

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

The Word of the Lord.

18 A Reading from the book of Revelation

20:11-21:1

I 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.

The Word of the Lord.

19 A Reading from the book of Revelation

21:1-5a,6b-7

I saw a new heavens 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

20 A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 12, 31-13, 8

Set your hearts on the greater gifts. I will show you the way which surpasses all the others. If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything, I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind. Love

is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord

21 The beginning of the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians 2 Cor 1, 1-7

Paul, by God's will an apostle of Jesus Christ, and Timothy his brother, to the church of God that is at Corinth and. to all the holy ones of the church who live in Achaia. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation! He comforts us in all our afflictions and thus enables us to comfort those who are in any trouble; with the same consolation we have received from him. As we have shared much in the suffering of Christ, so through Christ do we share abundantly in his consolation. If we are afflicted it is for your encouragement and salvation, and when we are consoled it is for your consolation so that you may endure patiently the same sufferings we endure. Our hope for you is firm because we know that just as you share in the sufferings, so you share in the consolation.

The Word of the Lord.

22 A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians 3, 12-17

Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect. Christ's peace must reign in your hearts, since as members of the One Body you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. In wisdom made perfect, instruct and admonish one another. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns, and inspired songs. Whatever you do whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

23 A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Phil 1, 8-11

God himself can testify how much I long for each of you with the affection of Christ Jesus! My prayer is that your love may more and more abound, both in understanding and wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ. It is my wish that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

24 A Reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy

2 Tm 4, 1-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is coming to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power, I charge you to preach the word, to stay with this task, whether convenient or inconvenient—correcting, reproving, appealing—constantly teaching and never losing patience. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine, but, following their own desires, will surround themselves with teachers who tickle their ears. They will stop listening to the truth and will wander off to fables. As for you, be steady and self-possessed; put up with hardship, perform your work as an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For my part I am already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on a merited crown awaits me; on that Day the Lord, just judge that he is, will award it to me—and not only to me but to all who have looked for his appearing with eager longing.

The Word of the Lord

LAZARUS MINISTRY NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS PARISH

The Funeral Liturgy

Church _____
Sacristan Notified _____
Date/Time of Mass: _____

Deceased: _____

1st Reading: _____
Old Testament

Responsorial _____

2nd Reading: _____
New Testament

Special Requests: _____

