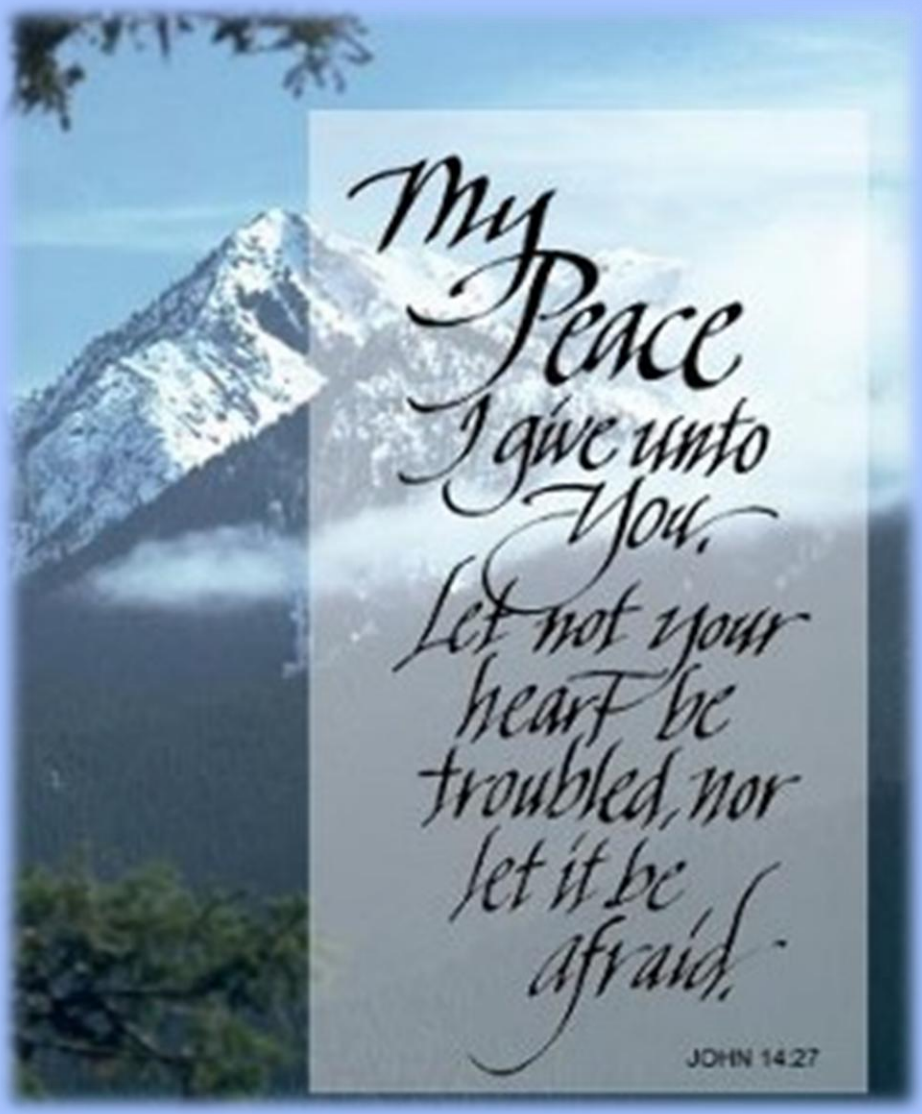
Funeral Planning



Saint Aloysius Parish
223 Beech Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
610-326-5877
www.saintaloysius.net

Version 2026

The Funeral Liturgy

Death for the Christian is a time of fulfillment. The victory of sin and destruction which was won for us by Christ becomes reality for a member of His body. Born again of water and the Spirit, Christians share in this triumph by their share in the sacramental life of the community, the Church.

The hope of resurrection which we celebrate at the death of our brothers and sisters is touched painfully with the sorrow of loss and separation from our loved one. Just as the joy of Easter was preceded by the sorrow of Good Friday, so our lives are a mixture of joy and sorrow, promise and fulfillment.

In the Funeral liturgy, we as Christians gather to celebrate the promises made to us in Baptism, and pray for our loved one for whom those promises are nearing fulfillment.

It is appropriate that members of that family or friends of the deceased participate in the ministries of the liturgy in order to witness our faith in the midst of the assembly.

Saint Aloysius Parish

223 Beech Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
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Clergy
Rev. Wesly Taveras, Parochial Administrator
Deacon Geoorge Harmansky

Bereavement Minister
Mrs. Apryll Ware
610-326-5877, ext. 427
aware@saintaloysius.net

Participation in Ministry

The Church encourages participation in the various ministries of the Liturgy by members of the community. Some of the opportunities for the family and friends to take part in the ministry are outlined below.

Family members may participate in ***placing the pall*** on the casket at the beginning of the Funeral Mass.

Members of the family or friends of the deceased may wish to ***proclaim the Scriptures***.

Readers at the Liturgy should be Catholic and should be familiar with the readings.

Readers may sit with the assembly and approach the Ambo (Pulpit) following the Opening Prayer.

Following the proclamation they may return to their place. If no one of the family or friends wishes to do this, the parish will provide readers.

The ***First Reading, from the Old Testament***, is proclaimed from the Ambo following the Opening Prayer (after everyone is seated). They will read from the Lectionary Book.

The ***Responsorial Psalm*** will be led by the Cantor at Mass. The Psalm follows the first reading.

The ***Second Reading, from the New Testament***, is proclaimed from the Ambo following the responsorial Psalm.

At Mass, ***the Universal Prayer*** (Prayer of the Faithful) is prayed after the Homily (following a period of silence).

The ***Universal Prayer is*** led from the lectern opposite the Ambo (Pulpit). The leader of the Intercessions may approach the lectern following the period of silent reflection.

At a Funeral Mass, Catholic family members may also participate by ***presenting the bread and wine for the Eucharist*** during the Preparation of the Altar. Two gifts are brought forward.

Musical selections for the Liturgy may be discussed with the *Bereavement Minister*.

Please keep in mind that only approved **Liturgical music** may be used at the Liturgy.

Cantor and organists are assigned by the church.

No other arrangements should be made

prior to speaking with Apryll Ware.

You may choose from among the following selections, the Scripture passages and Universal Prayer for the Funeral Liturgy, or select another approved reading. Readings other than those provided in this booklet must be typed by the family and emailed to aware@saintaloysius.net 3 days prior to the Funeral Mass and approved by the Pastor.

Please select:

- One Scripture passage from the **Old Testament** (The First Reading)
- One from the **New Testament** (The Second Reading)
- One of the forms of the **Universal Prayer**

You are also welcome to compose your own Universal Prayer - following the format of those presented here. It must be emailed to Apryll Ware at least 48 hours before the funeral.

The ***Responsorial Psalm*** will be selected and lead by the Cantor or organist at Mass.

The ***Gospel*** will be chosen by the Presider.

Father Wesly, the Staff of Saint Aloysius Parish and our entire Faith Community pray that you may know the peace of our Risen Lord during this difficult time. As we go forward on our journey of life, may we comfort one another through our faith.

PARTICIPATION

First Reader

Note: *Both First Reader and Second Reader may walk up together.*
Bow to the Altar and proceed to the Lectern in front of the Saint Aloysius Statue.
Second Reader may take a seat until his / her turn.

The family member / friend who has agreed to read the first reading [Old Testament] will walk to the Altar bow and proceed to the lectern next to the Saint Aloysius Statue.

The Old Testament reading (1st Reading) is there in a plastic sleeve. Please adjust the microphone to your height so you can be heard. After you read, please put the second reading on top of yours and have a seat and wait for the completion of the second reading.

The Cantor will stand at the same lectern to sing the Responsorial Psalm.

Second Reader

The family member / friend who has agreed to read the second reading [New Testament] will already be seated on the altar with the first reader.

After the Responsorial Psalm is sung, and the Cantor has returned to her place – please stand and read the second reading.

Once completed both readers walk to the center of the Altar – bow and proceed to your original pews.

ORDER

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm (sung by Cantor)
Second Reading

Universal Prayer / Intercessions

The Universal Prayer is prayed following the Gospel and Father's Homily. Father may sit for a brief moment after his homily. Then he stands for the Universal Prayer. The person assigned to read is to walk to the altar, bow and proceed to the lectern where the other readings took place. Father will read the beginning prayer and you read all the petitions – Father prays the closing prayer – you walk to the center of the Altar – bow and return to your pew.

PARTICIPATION

Offertory Gift Bearers

Choose family members or friends of the deceased to bring the gifts of bread and wine to the altar. (2-4 persons is recommended). Two will carry and two may lead behind the Altar Server.

After the Universal Prayer - Gift Bearers are to go to the table (located at the break in the pews near the Gathering Center entrance) to take up the wine and bread for Eucharist. The Altar Server will lead you in procession to Father who will take the gifts from you. Then all should bow slightly to the Altar and return to your pews.

Other Considerations

Memorial Gifts

You may wish to encourage family and friends to make Memorial contributions to Saint Aloysius Church. These gifts are received in the name of the one who has died, and the immediate family is notified of these gifts. Memorial gifts may be used for the general needs of the church, or may be designated for a specific purpose, such as church restoration, or a specific item which Father is in need of for the Mass or Church.

Financial Considerations

All Church fees are payable through the Funeral Home which you have chosen.

Memorial Mass Fees

All Church fees must be paid by the family at least 48 hours in advance of the Mass. The organist and cantor fees are to be made payable directly to the assigned Cantor and Organist. Apryll Ware will provide you with the names.

When arrangments are being made weeks or months in advance the fees must be paid at the time of arrangement and made payable to the Saint Aloysius.

Church Fee –

$150.00 (current registered parishioner)
$250.00 (non-parishioner)

Viewing / Receiving Friends in the Gathering Center (45 minutes-1 Hour before Mass) –
more time will require additional fee.

$200.00

Priest Fee

$50.00

Cantor Fee

$150.00

Organist Fee

$150.00

Two (2) Altar Servers receive $20.00 / each – CASH

Service at the Funeral Home / Graveside with Father Wilson, Father Wesly or Deacon George

$100.00 (current registered parishioner)
$200.00 (non-parishioner)

Other fees are applicable if burial is in the Saint Aloysius / Holy Trinity Cemeteries.

FIRST READING

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

I know that my Redeemer lives.

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.

FIRST READING

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

He accepted them as a holocaust.

2 **A reading from the Book of Wisdom 3:1-9** (*Long Form*)

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.

The Word of the Lord.

FIRST READING

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

He accepted them as a holocaust.

2 **A reading from the Book of Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (***Short Form***)**

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 in the eyes of men, indeed, they be punished,
Yet is their hope full of immortality;
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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.

FIRST READING

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

A blameless life is a ripe old age.

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.

FIRST READING

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Lord God will destroy death for ever.

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.

FIRST READING

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

It is good to wait in silence for the saving help 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 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.

FIRST READING

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.

6 **A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel 12:1-3**

[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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.

1 **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43** (*Long Form*)

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 the 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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.

1 **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42, 43** (*Short Form*)

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. 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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.

2 **A reading from the letter of 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 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. 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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.

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

If, by the transgression of the 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 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Let us walk in newness of life.

4 **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 6:3-9** *(Long Form)*

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.

SECOND READING

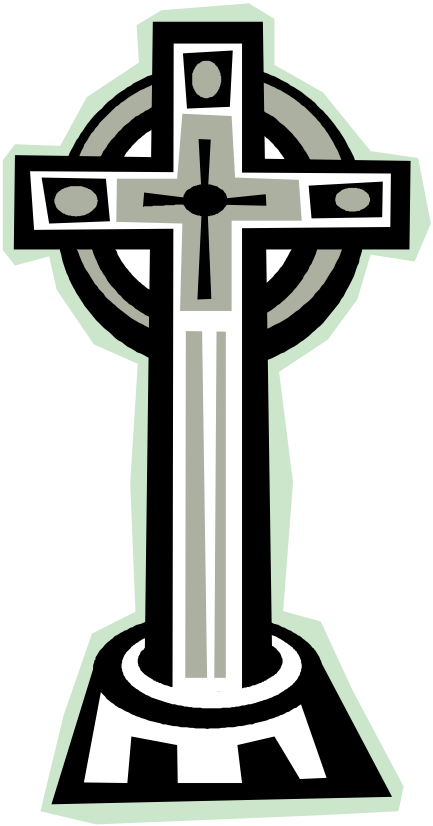
READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Let us walk in the newness of life.

4 **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 6:3-4, 8-9** *(Short Form)*

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.



SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.

5 **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 8:14-23**

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, 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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?

6 **A reading from the letter of 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, 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 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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

7 **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 14:7-9, 10B-12**

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. For we shall all stand before the judgement 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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

All people will be brought to life in Christ.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-23, 24b-28
(Long Form)

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

All people will be brought to life in Christ.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-23
(Short Form)

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits 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 firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Death is swallowed up in victory.

9 **A reading from the first letter of 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 immortatily. And when that which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that 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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.

10 A reading from the second letter of 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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

We have an everlasting home in heaven.

1 1 A reading from the second letter of 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.

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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours to be like his glorious body.

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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

We shall stay with the Lord for ever.

13 **A reading from the first letter of 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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

If we have died with him, we shall live with him.

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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

We shall see God as he really is.

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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.

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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT (EASTER TIME)

Happy are those who die in 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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

The dead have been judged according to their works.

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.

SECOND READING

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

There will be no more death.

19 A reading from the book of Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

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.

Universal Prayer (1)

Introduction by Presider. . .

Assisting Minister: **Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer**

In baptism **N.** received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead **him/her** over the waters of death. We Pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Our **brother/sister** was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome **him/her** into the halls of the heavenly banquet. We Pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. We Pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Many people die by violence, war and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. We Pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone. We Pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer

The family and friends of **N.** seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We Pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our **brother/sister N.** Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. We Pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Closing Prayer by Presider. . .

Universal Prayer (2)

Introduction by Presider. . .

Assisting Minister: **Our response is:** ***Lord, hear our prayer***

For **N.** who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that **he/she** may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

For our **brother/sister** who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that **he/she** may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

For the family and friends of our **brother/sister N.**, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Closing Prayer by Presider.

Universal Prayer (3)

Introduction by Presider. . .

Assisting Minister: **Our response is:** ***Lord, hear our prayer***

For all who minister to the people of God, that they may have the courage to live the Word they proclaim and that their witness might draw all people to the kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who serve us in public office, that they may promote peace and justice for all people by their decisions and by their lives. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who experience pain in mind or body, especially the poor, the abandoned and the outcast, that they will experience the love of God through the compassion of their brothers and sisters. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we who continue our journey in this life, may be consoled by the promises of God and work to make the kingdom a reality in our lives. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may welcome our **brother/sister N.** into the light and peace of the kingdom, where there is no more darkness or pain. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer by Presider.

Universal Prayer (4)

Introduction by Presider. . .

Assisting Minister: **Our response is:** ***Lord, hear our prayer***

That the community of the Church may always stand as a living witness to Christ's victory over death. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

That all members of the Church remember death not as an end but as a step to eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

That our **brother/sister N.** and all our loved ones who have died may enter God's gracious peace and light. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

For the family and friends of **N.**, that they may receive comfort and healing through God's love and the love of their friends. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

That all of us present here may one day enjoy eternal life in the company of our departed brothers and sisters and all the saints. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Closing Prayer by Presider…

Universal Prayer (5)

Introduction by Presider. . .

Assisting Minister: **Our response is:** ***Lord, hear our prayer***

For **N.**, that **his/her** faith in God may be fulfilled as **he/she** now experiences His loving embrace. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For **N.'s** family who **he/she** has preceded into the presence of God, that they may have the faith and the courage to go on living meaningful lives without **his/her** presence. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us who were associated with this good person, that we may now, because of **him/her** death be even more closely associated with one another, and that we may always be deeply conscious of God's promise to be faithful to us, even in death. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those whose illness has cut them off from other people, those who cannot work or are denied all freedom of movement and are alone with themselves We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who died by violence, war, terrorism or hunger each day, that God will have mercy on those who suffer so unjustly these sins against His love and bring them to His eternal Kingdom of peace. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have died, especially: **N.** that the life which is now theirs, the life which only death can give, will be the fulfillment of their faith, their hope and their love. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer by Presider…

Universal Prayer (6)

Introduction by Presider. . .

Assisting Minister: **Our response is:** ***Lord, hear our prayer***

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our **brother/sister**, **N.** Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Our **brother / sister N.** was nourished at the table of the Lord. Welcome **him / her** into your kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For each of us with whom **N.** so generously shared **his/ her** many gifts, may we, too, grow in the ability to share our gifts and lighten the burdens of others. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who loved and were loved by **N.**, that we may find comfort in our belief in the Lord's promise to us of eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For each of us here present that God will bless us richly with the gifts He knows we need to fully celebrate life and recognize the new beginning which he offers us each day. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For a moment, let us be with our own memories of **N.** . We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of **N.**; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer by Presider…

Music Selections

Gathering/ Entrance Song

The Gathering Song is the first element of the funeral liturgy in which the entire assembly participates. The purpose of the Gathering Song is "to open the celebration, [and] foster unity of those who have been gathered."

We encourage you to select a song that "consoles and uplifts" mourners, but is well known and familiar so that all may join in the singing.

Be Not Afraid	Morning Has Broken
Enter the Journey	Our God is Here
Gather Us In	Table of Plenty
Here I am, Lord	

Music Selections

Preparation of the Gifts

The procession with gifts of bread and wine, and their preparation, is accompanied by a congregational song.

All Is Well With My Soul	Holy Darkness
All My Days	Hosea
Amazing Grace	How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place
Be Not Afraid	I Have Loved You
Come to Me	Prayer of Saint Francis
Eye Has Not Seen	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Fly Like a Bird	Softly and Tenderly
Go In Peace	This Alone
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman	You Are Near

Music Selections

Communion

While the assembly receives communion, the communion song is sung. This should be simple and not demand great effort. The more simple and well-known a song is, the easier it is for the assembly to sing during a procession.

All My Days	On Eagles Wings
Amazing Grace	One Bread, One Body
Be Not Afraid	Remember Your Love
Because the Lord is My Shepherd	Taste and See
Bread of Angels	The Supper of the Lord
Eat This Bread	Unless a Grain of Wheat
Gifts of Finest Wheat	We Remember
I am the Bread of Life	You Are Near
Isaiah 49	

Music Selections

Meditation / Post Communion (Optional)

Following Communion there is a moment for a Meditation song. This song choice is optional. It would be a song sung solely by the Cantor.

Ave Maria
Bathe Him/Her in Your Love
Irish Blessing/May the Lord Rise to Meet you
Panis Angelicus
Salve Regina

Song of Farewell

After Communion, we come to the final farewell. "There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see [our loved one] again and enjoy his/her friendship. Although this congregation will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of His kingdom, therefore let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ."

~from the Final Commendation (Invitation to Prayer), Order of Christian Funerals

Music Selections

Song of Sending Forth / Recessional

Once the Song of Farewell is finished, the Presider offers the Prayer of Commendation, the liturgy ends, and the song of sending forth is sung by the assembly.

Be Not Afraid	Let there Be Peace on Earth
Blest Be the Lord	On Eagle's Wings
City of God	Sing to the Mountains
Holy God We Praise Thy Name	Sing with All the Saints in Glory
How Great Thou Art	10,000 Reasons
I Am the Bread of Life	Though the Mountains May Fall
Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee	

Pre-Recorded Music:

The playing of pre-recorded music (CD's, tapes, ipods, etc) may take place during the visitation in the Gathering Center. The family must provide their own player in order for music to take place. Pre-Recorded music is not permitted during Mass.

Secular / Popular Music:

Secular or popular music can sometimes be meaningful, and may be included during the visitation or at a family luncheon. It may not be included at the Funeral Mass.

Words of Remembrance / Eulogies

The Rite of Christian Funerals ***does not*** include the addition of personal eulogies at a Funeral Mass.

For pastoral reasons, we do allow a brief personal reflection to be given before Mass begins. The Words of Remembrance about the deceased will take place after we process into church and before the Sprinkling Rite. It should **only be 3-5 minutes long**. We ask that the appointed person stand at the microphone in front of the family (*where the cantor sings*).

The family member / friend who will be saying the Words of Remembrance is asked:

- ***to bear in mind that we are in a church setting and the Words of Remembrance should reflect such.***
- ***must be brief: no more than 3-5 minutes***
- ***should be well-prepared in advance so that it is focused and stays with the time limit.***

Memorial Gifts

You may wish to encourage family and friends to make Memorial contributions to Saint Aloysius Church. These gifts are received in the name of the one who has died, and the immediate family is notified of these gifts. Memorial gifts may be used for the general needs of the church, or may be designated for a specific purpose, such as church restoration, or a specific item which Father is in need of for the Mass or Church.