

Mass of

Christian Burial

Church of Saint Benedict
Throggs Neck

My dear friends in Christ,

Please be assured of my prayers for you at this difficult time.

There is so much to think about when planning the Funeral of someone we love and I hope this booklet will be a helpful guide when planning a Catholic Funeral Mass at St. Benedict's Church.

The Catholic Church prays the Funeral Mass for the soul of the person who has died and we hope that the celebration of the Funeral Mass will bring some comfort and strength to you and your entire family. The parish will continue to remember your loved one in our parish prayers, but we encourage you, and the members of your family, to contact the parish rectory at anytime, even after the Funeral Mass, for comfort, guidance or to set up Masses in the future to continue to pray for the souls of all your loved ones who have gone to their eternal rest.

We, the priests of St. Benedict's Parish, wish to pray a solemn, reverent and proper Roman Catholic Funeral Mass for your loved one. Every Catholic has the right to a proper Catholic Christian Funeral. Please look through this booklet and ask for any clarifications your family may need regarding the Funeral Mass for your loved one.

May you trust in the Mercy of Our Heavenly Father for you at this time and be assured of our prayers for the Eternal Rest of your loved one.

Respectfully in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Stephen P. Norton
Pastor

The Readings at Mass

The Church attaches great importance to the reading of the word of God. The readings give us the opportunity to listen as God speaks to His people in their needs, sorrows, fears and hopes.

We ask you to please pick an Old Testament Reading and a New Testament Reading. We invited family members to read the readings at Mass, but if this is not possible the readings will be read by the priest or deacon.

The Music at Mass

Music is integral to the Mass of Christian Burial. It allows us to express convictions and feelings that mere words alone may fail to convey. Music has the power to strengthen the unity of the people, uplift the mourners, console the sorrowful.

We will do our best to accommodate your music requests. The music chosen must be sacred hymns. Works composed for the sole purpose of the honor and glory of God and for exclusive use within the Liturgy.

If you would like guidance with your song selections, please feel free to reach out to our **Music Director, Anne Myers 917.282.3712**. If you prefer, in this most difficult time, appropriate hymns can be selected for your loved one by our Musical Director.

The Eulogy at the Funeral Home

For various reasons, the practice of a eulogy at a Mass of Christian Burial has gained popularity in the United States. It gives the opportunity for people to reflect on the life of the deceased. The eulogy is quite different than the homily. The eulogy is best given outside the context of the Mass. We strongly encourage the use of eulogy; however, it is more helpful within the setting of a home—the Funeral home. It is a more intimate setting with family and friends gathered around, supporting the speaker and allowing all to share in the life-stories. The wake is the time to remember the person's life and loves.

In light of this, the eulogy is not allowed within the Church of Saint Benedict. If one wishes to give the eulogy within the context of the wake prayer service, please let the priest know ahead of time.

Old Testament Options (Please Choose the 1st Reading from this list):

1. 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees:

Judas, the ruler of Israel,
took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an
expiatory sacrifice.
In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble
way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in
view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for
them in death.
But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone to rest in
godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.
Thus he made atonement for the dead
that they might be freed from this sin.

The word of the Lord.

2. Job 19:1, 23-27a

A reading from the Book of Job:

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:
Oh, would that my words were written down!
Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead
they were cut in the rock forever!
But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;
Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him;
And from my flesh I shall see God;
my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.

3. Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom:

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

The word of the Lord.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

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.

New Testament Options: (Please Choose the 2nd reading from this list):

9. Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint,

because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless,

died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,

though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves his love for us

in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,

will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies,

we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,

how much more, once reconciled,

will we be saved by his life.

Not only that,

but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

10. Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

If, by the transgression of the one,

death came to reign through that one,

how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace

and of the gift of justification

come to reign 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 the one man

the many were made sinners,

so through the obedience of the one

the many will be made righteous.

The law entered in so that transgression might increase

but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that,

as sin reigned in death,

grace also might reign through justification for eternal life

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

11. Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus

were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,

so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead

by the glory of the Father,

we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,

we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.
We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.
We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

12. Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:
Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you received a spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, Abba, "Father!"
The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.
For creation awaits with eager expectation
the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it,
in hope that creation itself
would be set free from slavery to corruption

and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;

and not only that, but we ourselves,
who have the 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.

13. Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:
If God is for us, who can be against us?
He did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for us all,
will he not also give us everything else along with him?
Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
It is God who acquits us.
Who will condemn?
It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,
who also is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.
What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

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

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor present things, nor future things,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

14. Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself,

and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,

and if we die, we die for the Lord;

so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,

that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why then do you judge your brother?

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

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;

for it is written:

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

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

The word of the Lord.

15. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,

the first fruits 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 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,

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.

16. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:

Behold, I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound,

the dead will be raised incorruptible,

and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility,

and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality.

And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility

and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,

then the word that is written shall come about:

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

The sting of death is sin,
and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

17. 2 Corinthians 4:14—5:1

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:
Knowing 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.

18. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians:

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

We are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in the
body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.
Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home
to the Lord.
Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of
Christ,
so that each may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body, whether
good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

19. Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the
Philippians:

Brothers and sisters:
Our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus
Christ.
He will change our lowly body
to conform with his glorified Body
by the power that enables him also
to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

20. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

21. 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

Beloved:
Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David:
such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering,

even to the point of chains, like a criminal.
But the word of God is not chained.
Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen,

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

This saying is trustworthy:
If we have died with him
we shall also live with him;
if we persevere
we shall also reign with him.
But if we deny him
he will deny us.
If we are unfaithful
he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

22. 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

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

The word of the Lord.

23. 1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

Beloved:
We know that we have passed from death to life

because we love our brothers.
Whoever does not love remains in death.
Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,
and you know that no murderer has eternal life
remaining in him.
The way we came to know love
was that he laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord.

24. Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation:

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed
away,
and the sea was no more.
I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,

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

The One who sat on the throne said,
"Behold, I make all things new."
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of life-giving water.
The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God,
and he will be my son."

The word of the Lord.

Name of Deceased: _____ **Nickname:** _____

Parishioner _____ Years(how many)___ Single___ Married___ Years_____

First Reading (Old Testament): # _____ Guest Reader:

Second Reading (New Testament): # _____ Guest Reader:

Presentation of the Gifts (Please choose **TWO** volunteers to bring up the bread & wine)

1) _____ 2) _____

Mass Hymn Requests: 1. _____; 2. _____

3. _____; 4. _____

Spouses' Name _____ (living/deceased/ divorced)

Parent's name (if Living) _____

Brothers/Sisters _____

Children _____

No. of Grandchildren ___ Great-Grandchildren ___ Great-Great Grandchildren _____

Veteran of _____ Branch of Service _____

Occupation _____

What were the circumstances of death(sickness, accident, sudden):

Special Interests or other information: _____

Please give this sheet to the priest at the wake or Fax to 718-829-1304.