

Scripture Readings for a Funeral



The Roman Catholic Churches of
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Our Condolences

On behalf of the entire Parish Community of Holy Name of Jesus and St. Alphonsus Liguori, I take this opportunity to offer our sincere sympathy and condolences at this time of the death of your loved one.

As you journey through this difficult experience, we would like you to have the opportunity of selecting the Scripture readings for the Funeral Mass or Service.

Please make your choices from this revised booklet, which includes a selection of readings from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Gospels. Please also choose a member of the family, a relative, or a family friend who would be comfortable to read these Scripture readings at the Mass or Service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact myself or the parish office for assistance. We are here to help you at this time, and wish that the Funeral liturgy will be as meaningful as possible for you and your family.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones during this difficult time.

Fr. Daniele Muscolino, Pastor

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

OT [1] *The Call of Abram.*

Genesis 12:1-2,4

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram,
"Go from your country
and your kindred and your father's house
to the land that I will show you.
I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you, and make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

The word of the Lord.

OT [2] *Everything Has Its Time.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8,11

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones,
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace,
and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
He has made everything suitable for its time;
moreover he has put a sense of past and future
into their minds,
yet they cannot find out what God has done
from the beginning to the end.

The word of the Lord.

OT [3] *God accepted the virtuous as a holocaust.* **Wisdom 3:1-9**

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
For though in the sight of others
they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
Having been disciplined a little,
they will receive great good,
because God tested them
and found them worthy of himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering
he accepted them.
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever.
Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

The word of the Lord.

OT [4] *Duties toward God.*

Sirach 2:1-9

A reading from the book of Sirach.

My child, when you come to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for testing.
Set your heart right and be steadfast,
and do not be impetuous in time of calamity.
Cling to him and do not depart,
so that your last days may be prosperous.
Accept whatever befalls you,
and in times of humiliation be patient.
For gold is tested in the fire,
and those found acceptable,
in the furnace of humiliation.
Trust in him, and he will help you;
make your ways straight, and hope in him.
You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy;
do not stray, or else you may fall.
You who fear the Lord, trust in him,
and your reward will not be lost.
You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.

The word of the Lord.

OT [5] *The Lord God will swallow up death forever.* Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain
the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow,
of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears
from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people
he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God;
we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

The word of the Lord.

OT [6] *The Return of the Redeemed.*

Isaiah 35:3-6,10

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

OT [7] *Israel Assured of God's Help.*

Isaiah 41:9-11,13-14

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

You, Israel, my servant, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, "You are my servant,
I have chosen you and not cast you off;"
do not fear for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
Yes, all who are incensed against you
shall be ashamed and disgraced;
those who strive against you
shall be as nothing and shall perish.
For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you,
"Do not fear, I will help you."
your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

The word of the Lord.

OT [8] *Zion's Children to be brought home.* **Isaiah 49:8,14-16**

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

In a time of favour I have answered you,
on a day of salvation I have helped you;
I have kept you
and given you as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages.
Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me,
my Lord has forgotten me."
Can a woman forget her nursing child,
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.
See, I have inscribed you
on the palms of my hands;
your walls are continually before me.

The word of the Lord.

OT [9] *It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.* **Lamentations 3:17-26**

A reading from the book of Lamentations.

My soul is deprived of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, "Gone is my glory,
and all that I had hoped for from the Lord."
The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

NT [1] *Christ will never die again.*

Romans 6:3-5,8-11

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Do you not know that all of us
who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
Therefore we have been buried with him
by baptism into death, so that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
so we too might walk in newness of life.
For if we have been united with him
in a death like his,
we will certainly be united with him
in a resurrection like his.

But if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we will also live with him.
We know that Christ, being raised from the dead,
will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death he died, he died to sin, once for all;
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

NT [2] *God did not withhold his own Son. Romans 8:31-35, 37-39*

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.
Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died,
yes, who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God,
who intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
No, in all these things
we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

NT [3] *Christ has been raised from the dead.* 1 Cor. 15: 20-26

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 has also come
through a man;

for as all die in Adam,
so all will be made alive in Christ.

But each in his own 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 God the Father,
after he has destroyed every ruler
and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his
enemies under his feet.

The word of the Lord.

NT [4] *Death has been swallowed up in victory.* 1 Cor. 15: 51-57

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

Brothers and sisters:

Listen, I will tell you a mystery!

We will not all die, but we will all be changed,
in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,
at the last trumpet.

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

For this perishable body
must put on imperishability,
and this mortal body must put on immortality.

When this perishable body puts on imperishability,
and this mortal body puts on immortality,
then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been 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.

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

Not that we are competent of ourselves
to claim anything as coming from us;
our competence is from God,
who has made us competent to be ministers
of a new covenant;
not of letter but of spirit;
for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
Now if the ministry of death,
chiseled in letters on stone tablets,
came in glory
so that the people of Israel could not gaze
at Moses' face
because of the glory of his face,
a glory now set aside,
how much more will the ministry of the Spirit
come in glory?
For if there was glory
in the ministry of condemnation,
much more does the ministry of justification
abound in glory!
Indeed, what once had glory has lost its glory
because of the greater glory.

The word of the Lord.

NT [6] *Whether in the body or away from it we make it our aim to
please the Lord.* **2 Cor. 5:1, 6-10**

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

Brothers and sisters:

We know

that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,
we have a building from God,
a house not made with hands,
eternal in the heavens.

We are always confident;

even though 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.

Yes, we do have confidence,

and we would rather be away from the body
and at home with the Lord.

So whether we are at home or away,
we make it our aim to please him.

For all of us must appear

before the judgement seat of Christ,

so that each may receive recompense

for what he or she has been done in the body,
whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

NT [7] *Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.*

1 Thess. 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed,
brothers and sisters,
about those who have died,
so that you may not grieve as others do
who have no hope.
For since we believe
that Jesus died and rose again,
even so, through Jesus,
God will bring with him those who have died.
For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will by no means precede those who have died.
For the Lord himself, with a cry of command,
with the archangel's call and with the sound
of God's trumpet,
will descend from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up in the clouds
together with them to meet the Lord in the air;
and so we will be with the Lord forever.
Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

NT [8] *If we endure, we will also reign with Christ.* 2 Tim. 2:8-13

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

Remember Jesus Christ,
raised from the dead, a descendant of David -
that is my Gospel,
for which I suffer hardship,
even to the point of being chained like a criminal.
But the word of God is not chained.
Therefore I endure everything
for the sake of the elect,
so that they may also obtain the salvation
that is in Christ Jesus,
with eternal glory.
The saying is sure:
If we have died with him,
we will also live with him:
if we endure,
we will also reign with him;
if we deny him,
he will also deny us;
if we are faithless,
he remains faithful -
for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

NT [9] *If we endure, we will also reign with Christ.* 2 Tim. 4:6-8

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

Beloved:

I am already being poured out as a libation
(sacrifice),
and the time of my departure has come.
I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.
From now on there is reserved for me
the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge,
will give me on that day,
and not only to me
but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The word of the Lord.

THE GOSPELS

G [1] *The Beatitudes.*

Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds,
he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
Then he began to speak,
and he taught them, saying:
“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you
and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely
on my account.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the Prophets
who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

G [2] *Jesus thanks the Father.*

Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

At that time Jesus said,
“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things
from the wise and the intelligent
and have revealed them to infants;
yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.”
He continued:
“All things have been handed over to me
by my Father;
and no one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son chooses
to reveal him.
Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

G [3] *I am gentle and humble in heart.* **Matthew 11:28-30**

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said:

"Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel of the Lord.

G [4] *Young man, I say to you, rise!*

Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus went to a town called Nain,
and his disciples and a large crowd went with him.
As he approached the gate of the town,
a man who had died was being carried out.
He was his mother's only son,
and she was a widow;
and with her was a large crowd from the town.
When the Lord saw her,
he had compassion for her and said to her,
"Do not weep."
Then he came forward and touched the pallet,
and the bearers stood still.
And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!"
The dead man sat up and began to speak,
and Jesus gave him to his mother.
Fear seized all of them;
and they glorified God, saying,
"A great Prophet has risen among us!"
and "God has looked favourably on his people!"
This word about Jesus spread throughout Judea
and all the surrounding country.

The gospel of the Lord.

G [5] *The disciples recognised the Lord.*

Luke 24:13-31

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about eleven kilometres from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognising him.

And Jesus said to them,

“What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?”

They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,

“Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”

Jesus asked them, “What things?”

They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over

to be condemned to death and crucified him.

But we had hoped

that he was the one to redeem Israel.

Yes, and besides all this,

it is now the third day

since these things took place.

Moreover, some women of our group
astounded us.
They were at the tomb early this morning,
and when they did not find his body there,
they came back
and told us that they had indeed seen a vision
of Angels who said that he was alive.
Some of those who were with us went to the tomb
and found it just as the women had said;
but they did not see him.”
Then he said to them,
“Oh, how foolish you are,
and how slow of heart
to believe all that the Prophets have declared!
Was it not necessary that the Messiah
should suffer these things
and then enter into his glory?”
Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets,
he interpreted to them the things about himself in
all the scriptures.
As they came near the village to which they were
going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.
But they urged him strongly, saying,
“Stay with us, because it is almost evening
and the day is now nearly over.”
So he went in to stay with them.
When he was at the table with them,
he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized
Jesus; and he vanished from their sight.

The gospel of the Lord.

G [6] *I will raise them up on the last day.*

John 6:37-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowds,
“Everything that the Father gives me
will come to me,
and anyone who comes to me
I will never drive away;
for I have come down from heaven,
not to do my own will,
but the will of him who sent me.
And this is the will of him who sent me,
that I should lose nothing
of all that he has given me,
but raise it up on the last day.
This is indeed the will of my Father,
that all who see the Son and believe in him
may have eternal life;
and I will raise them up on the last day.”

The gospel of the Lord.

G [7] *I am the Bread of Life.*

John 6:44-51

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the people:

"No one can come to me
unless the Father who sent me draws them;
and I will raise that person up on the last day.

It is written in the Prophets,
'And they shall all be taught by God.'
Everyone who has heard and learned
from the Father comes to me.

Not that anyone has seen the Father
except the one who is from God;
he has seen the Father.

Very truly, I tell you,
whoever believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life.

Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness,
and they died.

This is the bread that comes down from heaven,
so that one may eat of it and not die.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

Whoever eats of this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give
for the life of the world
is my flesh."

The gospel of the Lord.

G [8] *I am the resurrection and the life.*

John 11:17-27

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When Jesus arrived at Bethany,
he found that Lazarus had already been
in the tomb four days.
Now Bethany was near Jerusalem,
some two miles away,
and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary
to console them about their brother.
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming,
she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.
Martha said to Jesus,
“Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would not have died.
But even now I know that God will give you
whatever you ask of him.”
Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”
Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again
in the resurrection on the last day.”
Jesus said to her,
“I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me,
even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me
will never die.
Do you believe this?”
She said to him,
“Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,
the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

The gospel of the Lord.

G [9] *If a grain of wheat falls dies, it bears much fruit.* **John 12:23-27**

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“The hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Very truly, I tell you,
unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

The person who loves their life loses it,
and the person who hates their life in this world
will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also.
Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

Now my soul is troubled.
And what should I say –
‘Father, save me from this hour?’
No, it is for this reason
that I have come to this hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

G [10] *The New Commandment.* John 13:34-35;14:27-28;16:28

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another."

"Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you,
'I am going away, and I am coming to you.'

If you loved me,
you would rejoice that I am going to the Father,
because the Father is greater than I."

And now I have told this before it occurs,
So that when it does occur, you may believe.

"I came from the Father
and have come into the world;
again, I am leaving the world
and am going to the Father."

The gospel of the Lord.

G [11] *I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*

John 14:1-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father’s house

there are many dwelling places.

If it were not so, would I have told you

that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come again and will take you to myself,

so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place

where I am going.”

Thomas said to him,

“Lord, we do not know where you are going.

How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him,

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

G [12] *Jesus prays for his disciples.*

John 17:1-5

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said:

"Father, the hour has come;
glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,
since you have given him authority over all flesh,
to give eternal life to all
whom you have given him.
And this is eternal life,
that they may know you,
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
I glorified you on earth
by finishing the work that you gave me to do.
So now, Father,
glorify me in your own presence
with the glory that I had in your presence
before the world existed."

The gospel of the Lord.

More Information

When the parish is contacted about a death in your family, our parish staff will record some information given to us either by the family or the Funeral Home.

Following this, you will be contacted by the parish priest to set up a time when you can come together to discuss details about the funeral. These details include funeral dates and times, what takes place during the funeral liturgy, options the family has in terms of sharing words of remembrance and selecting Scripture readings, and an opportunity to share with our parish priest some details of the life of the deceased.

The parish staff will also contact the parish musicians to provide music for the liturgy if the funeral is being held inside one of our churches. If the funeral is being held at a local funeral home, please discuss music selections with the staff at the Funeral Home.

If our parish staff can be of any assistance to you during this time, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are present for you during this difficult time.

Remember that during the Funeral Rites of the Church, we celebrate Christ's victory over death. We remind ourselves during the difficult time we face that all those who have become one with Christ through baptism have been promised the gift of eternal life in the company of the saints in heaven. We also express our longing for Christ's second coming and the resurrection of the dead. This is our hope that we find strength in during this difficult time, and in the knowledge that Christ is with us and our loved ones at this time of sorrow.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

For the Funeral of: _____

1. Old Testament Reading: OT # _____

Read by: _____

2. New Testament Reading: NT # _____

Read by: _____

3. Gospel Reading: G # _____

Read by: Priest or Deacon

4. Prayers of the Faithful

Read by: _____

Once you have made your choices, please phone the parish office at 705-495-1501 and leave your choices with the pastor or the parish secretary, or email them to the parish office at holynamestalphonusus@ssmd.ca