

# ST MEL

## Bereavement Ministry

The members of St. Mel Parish bereavement ministry offer our condolences on the death of your loved one and want to assist you in any way possible. We know that the time immediately following a death is difficult for family and friends and is filled with the need to make decisions and also to deal with a variety of emotional responses. This booklet is our attempt to assist you with some of the challenges you face in dealing with the practicalities of the funeral preparation.

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**The Vigil \*OCF #56** At the Vigil the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer. The Vigil may be celebrated in the mortuary, the home, or the parish church. The Vigil is led by a priest, deacon, or lay person. In the Vigil service the Word of God in scripture provides comfort and hope in the face of darkness and death. The Rosary, or a portion of it, may be included in the Vigil service, or may be recited by the family at another time. This is an optional celebration. **The Vigil service is the appropriate time for a member of the family or a friend of the deceased to speak in remembrance of the deceased. This sharing may take the form of a eulogy, sharing of memories, or reading of a poem or letter. In some instances, a brief eulogy of 3-5 minutes may be included at the Funeral Mass after the Closing Prayer.**

**Funeral Liturgy \*OCF #178** The Roman Catholic Church encourages the celebration of the Mass as the central celebration for the deceased. The priest presides at the Mass. A funeral mass can be held in the parish church or in a chapel of a Catholic mortuary/cemetery.

When Mass is not celebrated, the Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass is used. A deacon or layperson may lead this Rite. The Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass may be used for various reasons: (1) on certain Holy Days during the year when the Funeral Mass is not permitted, (2) when a priest is not available, (3) If the deceased him/herself was not Catholic and/or if those participating in the funeral would be more comfortable with a simple liturgy without a Mass, the Catholic Church provides a funeral service without a Mass. This can be conducted in our parish church or in a mortuary chapel.

## Stipends

At St. Mel Parish, we are well aware of the many costs entailed with funerals. We do our best to minimize additional costs for our parishioners. Stipends are as follows:

Donation to St. Mel Parish	<b>\$500 minimum</b>
Stipend for musicians Organist/pianist	<b>\$150</b>
Soloist	<b>\$150</b>
Reception room rental (if available)	<b>\$250-\$500</b>

If you request a particular priest who is not currently a St. Mel Parish priest, it is customary to give him a donation, in addition to the church donation.

Please feel free to discuss any financial concerns with the bereavement minister. Please make one check payable to: St. Mel Parish

## FAQS

**What about viewing?** Usually, viewing is arranged as part of the Vigil Service. If a viewing is to be part of the funeral services it is concluded before the Funeral Mass begins. The final closing of the casket takes place before the Funeral Mass. The casket is not reopened after the Mass or in the cemetery.

**Where do we get the guest book and memorial cards?** Ordinarily the mortuary with which you are making arrangements will have options for remembrance materials including guest books, memorial cards, and sometimes even multi-media options.

**How do we go about preparing a program?** Some mortuaries do provide this service, but usually a family will put together a simple program and have it printed at a local shop. The bereavement minister can provide sample programs, and can also email the readings and song titles as inserts for the program.

**Are there any special directions about receiving Communion at the funeral mass?** Those family members who are practicing Catholics and wish to receive communion will be invited to go forward before the rest of the congregation. Family members/others who are not practicing Catholics can also go forward to receive a blessing if they wish.

**What about flower delivery?** It is suggested that florists be asked to deliver flowers to the church about an hour before the beginning of the service.

## **Preparation of the funeral liturgy**

### **—celebration of life and our belief in eternal life**

If a family has a special relationship with a priest, the family may wish to have that priest celebrate the funeral. If you have no preference or if the preferred priest is not available, the bereavement minister will help to schedule a priest for you. The bereavement minister will also help if you would like a parish minister for a vigil service and/or burial in addition to the funeral liturgy.

**Readings** In every celebration, the Liturgy of the Word is very meaningful. When planning a funeral, you will need to select scripture readings that console those present and remind us that life is eternal. These usually will consist of one reading from the Hebrew Scriptures (also known as the Old Testament), one from the Epistles of the New Testament, and one Gospel. Samples are included in this booklet. Secular readings, depending on the specific content, can sometimes be given as a reflection after the mass (sometimes in lieu of a eulogy).

**Music for the Funeral Rite \*OCF #30-33, #157** Live music and singing are encouraged for the Vigil and Funeral. The responsorial psalm, acclamations of the Mass and appropriate Christian hymns will be sung. You may also wish to select hymns for certain parts of the liturgy. Our Catholic tradition has many beautiful hymns, old and new, which enhance the celebration of Mass. Our St. Mel Parish music ministry is available to provide music for funeral services. If non-religious/secular songs are desired, depending on the specific content, these may be considered for use as a prelude or recessional. If you have no specific preferences for music, our parish music ministers would be happy to help with appropriate selections. A list of hymns is also included in this booklet. Our parish church has copies of the BREAKING BREAD hymnal in the pews.

**Participation of family members and/or friends** Perhaps the most important type of participation is simple presence! Sometimes however family/friends want to know if they can *do* something during the funeral itself.

■ The family may select readers for the First and Second readings chosen by the family. The presider or deacon will always read the Gospel.

■ The prayer of the faithful provides an opportunity for all present to pray for the needs of the family, the Church, and the world. The bereavement team will assist by providing a selection of appropriate petitions, which can be personalized for each family. The family may also choose one or two people to read these petitions.

■ The family may select 2-4 persons to carry up the bread and wine at the presentation of the gifts portion of Mass.

■ If a eulogy is to be given, only one person is chosen to speak on behalf of the family for about 5 minutes at the time of the eulogy.

■ If a casket is present for the funeral service, pallbearers may be assigned to assist with the casket during the services. They will be directed by the mortuary staff.

■ The parish can provide easels to display pictures. You may display special photos or collages in the vestibule.

■ There is room for one portrait in the sanctuary area.

*[On the day of the funeral, a bereavement minister will meet with all participants and cue them as needed.]*

## **Funeral Pall, Casket Spray, and National Flag**

It is customary to place a pall over the casket during the funeral mass. The pall is a white cloth, which is a reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased and is a sign of the Christian dignity of the person. Christian symbols (e.g. a crucifix) may rest on or be placed near the casket during the funeral liturgy. If there is a casket spray of flowers or a national flag it is removed for the funeral liturgy. The casket spray or flag may be replaced when the casket leaves the chapel and the funeral pall has been removed.

**Cremation** Since 1963 the Church has permitted cremation. The Church prefers that cremation take place after the full funeral liturgy with the body. However, when this is not possible, it is appropriate that the cremated remains be present for the funeral rites. An appropriate worthy container is used for the cremated remains which are to be buried in a grave or entombed in a niche at the cemetery. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air or on the ground or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not in keeping with current Church teaching.

**The Committal** The Rite of Committal is the conclusion of the funeral rites. It is led by a priest, deacon or trained layperson. Whenever possible, it is celebrated at the site of committal, that is, beside the grave, crypt or niche. If there is no public graveside service, the committal may be done at the conclusion of the funeral liturgy. In committing the body or cremated remains to its resting place, the community expresses hope that the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection. Please inform the bereavement minister of the desire for a graveside service so it can be scheduled with the deacon or lay minister.

## Sample funeral readings

Options for the First Reading:

### A reading from the Book of Wisdom. (3:1-9)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. 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.

### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel (12: 1-3)

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and heard this word of the Lord: A 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.

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.

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.

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah (43: 1-3b)

But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you. For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior.

### A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-11)

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

### 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!”

### A reading from the Book of Revelation (21:1-5a, 6b-7)

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.”

## Options for the Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (14:7-9, 10b-12)

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.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:14-5:1)

Brothers and sisters: 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.

### A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-9)

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.

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)

Brothers and sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has 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 than, 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

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians (5:1, 6-10)

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.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. (8:14-23)

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 to 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

A reading from the first letter of John (3:1-2)

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.

A reading from the first Letter of St. 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 work 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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. (8:31b, 37-39)

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over to 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, not present things, nor future things, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians. (3:20-21)

Brothers and sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, 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.

**You may indicate a preference for the Gospel reading;**

**The Gospel is always read by the priest or deacon.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew(11:25-30)

At that time Jesus answered: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (14:1-6):

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him. "Master, 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."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (12:23-26)

Jesus said to his disciples: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life will lose it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.”

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (11:17-27)

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him: but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise, in the resurrection of the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (23:33, 39-43)

When the soldiers came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus saying, "Are you not the Christ! Save yourself and us." The other man, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man had done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom. He replied to him, "Amen I say to you today you will be with me in Paradise."

# Funeral Liturgy Music

St. Mel Parish

**Select 4 hymns for the mass.**

Amazing Grace (New Britain)  
Ave Maria (Schubert)  
Be Not Afraid (Dufford)  
Blest Are They (Haas)  
Eye Has Not Seen (Haugen)  
Fly Like a Bird (Canedo)  
Go In Peace (Hart/Liles)  
Here I Am (Booth)  
Here I Am, Lord (Schutte)  
How Great Thou Art (O Store Gud)  
I Know That My Redeemer Lives (Soper)  
I, the Lord (Kendzia)  
Irish Blessing (Fabing)  
O Loving God (Londonderry Air)  
On Eagles' Wings (Joncas)  
Only in God (Talbot)  
Panis Angelicus (Franck) Parable (Ridge)  
Restless Is the Heart (Farrell)  
We Will Rise Again (Haas)  
You Are Mine (Haas)  
You Are Near (Schutte)

**Select 4-5 of the Petitions. These may be read by a friend  
or family member during the mass.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

1.

In baptism \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

2.

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**

3.

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**

4.

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**

5.

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**

6

The family and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that comes from grief. We pray to the Lord:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer**

7

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister, \_\_\_\_\_. 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**

8

For \_\_\_\_\_, 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**

9

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**

10

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**

11

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**

12

For the family and friends of our brother/sister, \_\_\_\_\_, 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**

13

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**

14

We celebrate the life of \_\_\_\_\_ and pray for all those whose lives she touched. We ask that our compassionate God may comfort all those who mourn, especially \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We pray to the Lord:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer**

15

We remember all those who suffer in any way, all those who may need our prayers at this time, and all those who care for the sick and suffering, especially \_\_\_\_\_

We pray to the Lord:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer**

16

We bring our personal intentions to our loving Father, asking Jesus, our brother, to intercede for us, and entrusting all our needs to the Spirit, who embraces us with love. We pray to the Lord:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer**

17

God, our Father, you raised Jesus, your Son, from the dead. With confidence we ask you to receive \_\_\_\_\_ into the light of your holy presence. We pray to the Lord:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer**

## Summary of Family Participation

- Three readers (friends or family)
- Two people to bring up the Gifts at the Offertory  
(friends or family)
- Three readings selected: First reading, Second Reading, Gospel
- Prayers of the Faithful, select four or five from the list
- Four hymns selected
- Stipends: Payable to St. Mel Parish
  - St. Mel Church
  - Musicians
  - Priest (if he is not on St. Mel staff)

# NOTES

Reader 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Reader 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Reader for Prayers of the Faithful \_\_\_\_\_

First (Old Testament ) reading \_\_\_\_\_

Second (New Testament) reading \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

Prayers of the Faithful (Petitions), choose 4 or 5

# \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum two people for Presentation of gifts

\_\_\_\_\_

Hymns, (choose four)

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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### **Bereavement Support Group**

“Letting go (death) and coming to new life (rising) is process that occupies the center of every ministry. When we experience the physical death of someone close—a spouse, child, parent, or anyone who is a significant part of our lives—the core of our being and our faith often seems under assault. Such difficult times become an opportunity for the parish to offer bereavement ministry.” (Joan Gunzelman).

St Mel Parish offers support to those who are mourning the loss of loved ones:

**Bereavement Support Group** for adults ... If someone close to you has died and your heart is hurting, there is a place for you at St. Mel. Each **Tuesday** evening at **7:00 pm** in the school faculty lounge, a group of people come together to support one another through this difficult time and for as long as you need.