



Ministry of Consolation



General Guidelines

The parish family of Our Lady of Lourdes R. C. Church in Massapequa Park , NY extends it's prayers and condolences to your family at this time. This booklet is offered to assist you in planning the Funeral Liturgy for your loved one.

Please bear in mind some of these basic points regarding our Catholic Masses:

- The Mass is the memorial of the Lord Jesus' Passion and resurrection.
- The Scripture readings are meant to be proclaimed, not just read. Therefore it is necessary to chose people who know how to proclaim the readings rather than just read them.
- There are certain guidelines for the reception of Holy Communion that must be followed since the Eucharist is the real presence of Jesus Christ (*and not just a symbol*).

Please see page 33 which lists these guidelines.

The Parish offers a Bereavement Seminar led by professionals for those who would find their services helpful. Please contact the parish office for more information. Feel free to contact one of the parish priests as well, should you prefer help as an individual, as opposed to a group basis.

Regarding Cremation:

When cremation has been chosen for a acceptable reasons, the various elements of the funeral rite the vigil, the funeral liturgy and the final commendation and farewell—should be celebrated with the body present. Cremation occurs after the Funeral Mass. However, In the United States, if the body has been cremated prior to the funeral liturgy, the cremated remains may be brought into the Church for the funeral liturgy. Also, cremated remains are treated with the same respect as the body. Therefore, they must be interred in a crypt or buried at a cemetery. They may not be scattered, nor divided among family members; nor kept in one's home.



General Guidelines

Regarding Speaking at the Church:

Because the Mass has its own structure that needs to be respected, we strongly encourage the “Eulogies” be done after the wake service in the Funeral Home or at the place of the internment. These settings allow for a more informal environment where people may be encouraged to share stories about the deceased person’s life. If for some reason, someone requests to speak at mass, the guidelines must be respected

- The reflection must deal with the person’s faith life and not be a time for jokes, stories or individual memories.
- The reflection must not exceed three minutes in length.
- The reflection must be prepared and be submitted to the priest one day before the funeral for his approval.
- The reflection must be delivered by one person only.
- The reflection will take place immediately after the Processional (opening) Song.

Memorializations

One thoughtful way to remember your loved one is to honor their memory with a gift. Your gift will enable us as a parish to continue to lift our hearts and voices to God and at the same time, remember your intentions, and your loved one.

Contact the Rectory at (516)541-3270 for further information. We thank you for your consideration.

Donation List:

\$1,000 Vestments • \$5,000 Ambry • \$1,500 Funeral Pall • \$750 Chalices • \$200 Patens
\$400 Ciborium • \$500 other Liturgical Items • \$50 for Missalette Memorialization
\$1,000 Hymn Board • \$250 Cruet Set • \$100 Purificator Linens • \$600 Yearly Piano Tuning
\$160 Small Grotto Bricks • \$300 Large Grotto Bricks • Any Amount to St. Cecilia Music Fund

The memorial plate will have the following inscription:

Please choose only one & write clearly.

In memory of _____

For a Living Person _____

Gift of _____



Funeral Planner

The selection of passages from the Bible is an important part of planning a funeral ceremony, as we want to turn to God's word for wisdom and comfort in this time of loss. The Word of God is at the heart of our Christian celebration of faith in this funeral rite in anticipation of the resurrection of the body. To make this easier for the family, the Catholic Church has pre-selected a number of Biblical passages which are appropriate for the occasion of a funeral. Please look over these passages as part of your funeral preparations, and find those words which speak to your heart.

Instructions:

1. The first reading is taken from the Old Testament and may be read by a family member
(during Easter Season, second reading the New Testament)
1, 17, 18, or 19 is used as a first reading instead of a reading from first readings
(the Old Testament)
2. The responsorial Psalm is chosen by the music director.
3. The second reading is taken from the New Testament. It is optional, and may be read by a family member.
4. The gospel reading is also taken from the New Testament, and is chosen and read by the priest or deacon.
5. The family is invited to designate two persons to read the first two readings, one reading each.



First Readings

(OLD TESTAMENT)

(during Easter Season, second reading the New Testament)

1, 17, 18, or 19 is used as a first reading instead of a reading from first readings *(the Old Testament)*



First Reading 1

A reading from the book of Job (19:1, 23-27)

Job answered and said,

“O, 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 2

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 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 and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offering 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 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 souls;
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 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 5

A reading from the book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.
The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
remembering it over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.
But I will call this mind, as my reason to have hope:
The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent ;
they are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.
Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;
It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.



First Reading 6

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel (12:1-3)

(I, Daniel, mourned and I heard this word of the lord;)
“At that time there shall arise Michael,
the great prince, guardian of your people;
it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began
until that time.

At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.
Many of those who sleep in the dust of the
earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.
But the wise shall shine brightly like the
splendor of the firmament,
and those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.”

The Word of the Lord.



First Reading 7

A reading from the second book of Maccabees (12:43-46)

Judas (the ruler of Israel) then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;

For if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they may be freed from this sin.

The Word of the Lord.



Second Readings *

(OLD TESTAMENT)

(during Easter Season, second reading the New Testament)

1, 17, 18, or 19 is used as a first reading instead of a reading from first readings *(the Old Testament)*

**optional*



Second Reading 1

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (10:34-43)

Peter proceeded to address the people in these words:

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what had 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 who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all 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 to 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 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 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 still were 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 3

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans (5:17-21)

If, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person, Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in, so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace might also reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.



Second Reading 4

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

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

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 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 have 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 the creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God;

for the creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that the 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.



Second Reading 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 who 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 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 to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

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 account of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.



Second Reading 8

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

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 first fruits; then, at his coming those who belong to Christ, then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God the 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 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 a 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 incorruptible, must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which is incorruptible 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 10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians
(4:13–5:1)

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 11

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 be 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 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 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 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 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 will see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.



Second Reading 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 brother (and sisters).

The Word of the Lord.



Second Reading 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,” says the Spirit,

“Let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord.



Second Reading 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 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 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 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.



Funeral Music

Please choose one from each category. If there is a piece that you don't see listed here, you may suggest it but the final selections are up to the music director J. C. Laws.

Email: OLLMPmusic@gmail.com.

Opening Hymn

Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid
Christ Be Beside Me
Christ Be Our Light
Come To Me
*For All The Saints
Here I Am Lord
How Great Thou Art
Lift High The Cross
Lord Of All Hopefulness
O God Our Help In Ages Past
Praise The Lord Ye Heavens (Ode To Joy)
*The Strife Is O'er

Preparation Hymn

Ave Maria (Schubert)
Be Not Afraid
Be With Me Lord
Christ Be Beside Me
Come To Me
Hosea
How Great Thou Art
I Have Loved You
Loving And Forgiving
O Loving God (tune of Danny boy)
Prayer of Saint Francis
Shelter Me, O God
Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
With the Lord
You Are Mine

Communion Hymn

Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart)
Be Not Afraid
Be With Me Lord
Blest Are They
Come To Me
Eat This Bread
Eye Has Not Seen
Gift Of Finest Wheat
How Great Thou Art
I Am The Bread Of Life
I Have Loved You
Loving and Forgiving
On Eagles Wings
One Bread, One Body
Panis Angelicus (Franck)
Shepherd Me, O God
Taste And See
We Will Rise Again
You Are Mine

Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace
Blest Are They
*For All The Saints
How Great Thou Art
Let There Be Peace On Earth
Lift High The Cross
Lord Of All Hopefulness
O God Our Help In Ages Past
O Loving God (tune of Danny boy)
On Eagles Wings
Praise The Lord Ye Heavens (Ode To Joy)
*The Strife is O'er

**May not be used during Lent*



Guidelines for the Reception of Communion

On November 14, 1996, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the following guidelines on the reception of communion. These guidelines replace the guidelines approved by the Administrative Committee of the NCCB in November 1986. The guidelines, which are to be included in missalettes and other participation aids published in the United States, seek to remind all those who may attend Catholic liturgies of the present discipline of the Church with regard to the sharing of eucharistic communion.

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For Our Fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

For Those Not Receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For Non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.



Our Lady of Lourdes

At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of baptism and strengthened at the Eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The Church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting word of God and the Sacrament of the Eucharist.