

St. Michael Parish Funeral or Memorial Mass Planning

(Revised March 2026)

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

(choose one from this section)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every thing 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 that God has appointed for us to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into our hearts, without humanity ever discovering from the beginning to end, the work that God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

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 a splendor of the firmament,

And those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.”

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Book of Job

Job 19: 1,23-27

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not another’s shall behold him, And from my flesh I shall see God:

my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel 34: 11-16

For thus says the Lord God:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd tends his flock

when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so I will tend my sheep.

I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark.

I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the foreign lands;

I will bring them back to their own country

and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel.

In good pastures I will pasture them,

and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground.

There they shall lie down on good grazing ground, and in rich pastures shall they be pastured on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will pasture my sheep;

I myself will give them rest, says the Lord God. The lost I will seek out,

the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, shepherding them rightly.

The Word of the Lord

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A reading from the Book of Ruth

Ruth 1: 16-17

Ruth said, “Do not ask me to abandon or forsake you, for wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Wherever you die I will die, and there be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more besides, if even death separates me from you!”

The Word of the Lord

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A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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 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.

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A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 43: 2, 4, 10-11, 21

Thus says the Lord:
here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one with whom I am pleased; I have grasped you by the hand.

Do not be afraid,
for I have called you by name and you are mine. You are precious in my eyes,
you are honored, and, I love you.

You are my witness,
my servant whom I have chosen,
that people may know and believe me and understand that it is I.

I am the Lord, there is no savior but me. I have formed you for myself,
to sing my praises, and I am your God.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Book of Lamentations

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 hope 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 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 the 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

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A reading from the Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 15, 17, 20 28-31

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.

She obtains wool and flax

and makes cloths with skillful hands.

She rises while it is night,

and distributes food to her household.

She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms.

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.

Her children rise up and praise her; her husband too, extols her:

“Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.”

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;

the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her a reward for her labors,

and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Book of Sirach

Sirach 44: 1, 8-15

Now will I praise those godly men and women, our ancestors, each in his own time:
These were godly women and men whose virtues have not been forgotten;
Their wealth remains in their families, their heritage with their descendants;
Through God's covenant with them their family endures, their posterity for their sake.

And for all time their descendants will endure, their glory will never be blotted out;
Their bodies are peacefully laid away, but their name lives on and on.

At gatherings their wisdom is retold,
and the assembly proclaims their praise.

The Word of the Lord.

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A reading from the Book of Wisdom

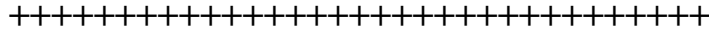
Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9

The souls of the just are in the hands 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 all, 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. 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.



A reading from the Book of Wisdom

Wisdom 4: 7-15

The just, though they die early, shall be at rest.
For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.
Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported—
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul;
For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

