

FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDELINES

1. There are **THREE SCRIPTURE READINGS** used in the Funeral Liturgy: the first is chosen from the **OLD TESTAMENT**, which is the first group of Readings; the second is chosen from the **EPISTLES**, the second group of Readings; the third is chosen from the **GOSPELS**, the third group of Readings. At the end of the planning book there are three sets of **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**. One of these may be chosen. The person reading these intentions may be one of the Scripture readers, or a separate individual.
2. The priest proclaims the Gospel. One reader may proclaim both the first and the second Readings, or there may be one reader for each.
3. Both readers come to the pulpit on the Tabernacle side of the sanctuary when the celebrant sits after the opening prayer. Both stay in the sanctuary until both readings are finished. Then, together, they return to their places.
4. The Prayers of the Faithful, or General Intercessions, are proclaimed after the homily from the pulpit on the Blessed Mother side of the sanctuary. The person reading them waits for the celebrant's introduction, then reads the petitions, then waits for the celebrant's concluding prayer before returning to the pew.
5. After the Prayers of the Faithful, two or three members of the congregation present the gifts of bread and wine (and water) to the celebrant.
6. If there is to be a eulogy, it occurs after Communion. Only one person speaks, and the eulogy is limited to five minutes. If members of the congregation have not proclaimed the readings, but have left this to the celebrant, then there is no eulogy.