**FUNERAL READINGS : FIRST READING OPTIONS**

FIRST READING #1 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

A reading from the second book of Maccabees

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 might be freed from

this sin.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING #2 Job 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

Then 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

FIRST READING #3. Wisdom 3:1-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But 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.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING #4. Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the book of Wisdom

But 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. Because grace and mercy

are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING #5. Isaiah 25: 6. 7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

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 #6. Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations

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.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING #7 Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

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