





# A Word of Sympathy from our Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

We begin by extending to you our welcome to Saint Miriam. Even though we gather in grief and sorrow, there is hope for we are Christians. In the depths of our sorrow, our alleluias still rise from deepest recesses of our grave. We live in faith, always.

As pastor of this warm, wonderful, eclectic Franciscan community of people, who really care for others and themselves, I pray, and trust, that you find comfort here as we gather as one family to honor the soul of one so loved.

As part of our Holy Catholic Church, we believe that the Funeral Mass celebrates our belief that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the Love of God. This Missal has been prepared for you, the readings chosen, as well as the music heard, to enable us to help one another pray the Funeral Mass of Christian Burial most effectively.

Please accept our deepest sympathies and condolences and, above all, our prayers for you at this difficult time. By its nature, grief is certainly a private affair. The depth of love for the deceased is known to you alone. We all grieve in our unique ways. Yet, sorrow can be shared, as we will do together in the Mass of Christian Burial. When people share a common painful experience, they are united by a special bond. So we, the parish family of Saint Miriam, are united with you.

On behalf of all the People of this parish, myself as pastor, along with all our Church, please be assured that your other “family” at Saint Miriam is praying for you and for the happy repose of the soul of your loved one.

“...yet even at the grave we make our song alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim St. George', with a large, sweeping flourish above it.

Father Jim St. George

## Greeting of the Body - *Stand*

*As the funeral procession arrives at Saint Miriam, the Presiding Priest, and any assisting ministers, make their way up to the Entrance to greet the family and the body at the Narthex; they will remain standing with the Assembly throughout the Introductory Rites. If visitation occurred, or if the remains are cremated, the beginning rites may take place in front of the Altar.*

## Sign of the Cross & Greeting

**Priest:** In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** And with your spirit.

## Sprinkling with Holy Water

*After the family has gathered, the Celebrant will begin the prayers and then sprinkle the coffin, or cremation urn, with holy water as a reminder of the person's Baptism.*

**Priest:** In the waters of Baptism, N. died with Christ...

**All:** Amen.

## Placing of the Funeral Pall

*After the body is sprinkled with holy water, a white cloth, called a pall, is placed over the coffin [or urn] as a reminder of the baptismal garments given to the baptized upon their entrance into the Church on the day of their Baptism. The pall is usually placed on the coffin by the immediate family, or those most closely associated with the deceased's care, and the Celebrant.*

## Entrance Hymn

## Placing of the Christian Symbols

*After the Opening Song has finished, an option of the Funeral Rite invites the family to place a symbol of the Christian life (a cross, rosary, icon of a saint, or prayer book) on the coffin (or urn) . If this option is chosen, the object(s) is/are carried up in the procession and placed after all of the people have assembled at their seats.*

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ you loved us unto death, let this Cross be a sign of Your love for N., and for the People you have gathered here today.

**All: Amen.**

*The Celebrant, and any assisting ministers, make their way up to the Chancel, after reverencing the altar, the Celebrant incenses the Altar.*

## Collect

*All remain standing for the reading of the Opening Prayer.*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Priest: Let us pray...

*After the Opening Prayer, the People respond,*

**All: Amen.**

## *Liturgy of the Word*

### First Reading

*A reading from the Hebrew Testament, will be offered, except in Easter Season.*

*The Response from the Reader, or Lector, comes at the end of the reading and is followed by the acclamation of the Assembly :*

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

*A sung or read psalm is offered from the Hebrew Testament, Book of Psalms. The proper response is given by the Cantor and then repeated by the Assembly following each stanza of the psalm. The Cantor leads from the Ambo and will indicate the response time by raising his or her arm for the people of the Assembly to join in the refrain.*

## Second Reading

*A reading from the New Testament, or an Epistle from the New Testament will be offered.*

*The Response from the Reader, or Lector, comes at the end of the reading and is followed by the acclamation of the Assembly:*

Lector:     The Word of the Lord.

All:         **Thanks be to God.**

## Reading of the Gospel

Priest or Deacon:     The Lord be with you.

All:           **And with your spirit.**

Priest or Deacon:     A Reading from the Holy Gospel....

All:           **Glory to you, O Lord!**

*After the Gospel is Proclaimed*

Priest or Deacon:     The Gospel of the Lord!

All:           **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## Homily - Sit

*[after the sermon, a time of silence and reflection is honored]*

## Prayer of the Faithful - *Sit*

*The various prayers are read, and after each section of prayers, the Reader ends with the acclamation; the response of the assembly then follows.*

Reader: Let us pray for...

**All: Lord, hear us.**

## The Offertory Sentence

*[an Offertory sentence is proclaimed by the Priest]*

## Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts - *Sit*

## Offertory Anthem

*[the Altar is prepared as an Offertory hymn is played]*

## Prayer over the Gifts

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received ...

**All: Blessed be God forever.**

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received ...

**All: Blessed be God forever.**

## *Liturgy of the Eucharist*

## Orate, Fratres

Priest: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's holy Church.**

## Prayer Over the Offerings - *Stand*

### Preface Dialogue - *Remain Standing*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**All: It is right and just.**

### Sanctus

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer - *Kneel*

### Mystery of Faith

Priest: The mystery of faith.

**☐ All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

**☐ All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

**☐ All: Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

## Our Father - *Stand*

Priest: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

## Sign of Peace

*The exchange of a sign of peace is a welcomed tradition at Saint Miriam, even at times of sorrow as it brings us together. Please greet one another in the name of Christ. If you wish to not embrace, just put out your hand and everyone will simply shake your hand in return to greet you.*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Priest or Deacon: Let us offer each other the sign of peace!

*(The Assembled exchange a sign of God's peace with one another)*

## Lamb of God

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

*The fraction rite is the breaking of the bread that has become the Body of Christ. In offering His life for us on the Cross, Jesus has become the Lamb of God that is offered for our sins. As the celebrant breaks the bread, the people follow the Cantor's lead as they sing the Lamb of God, acknowledging Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that takes away our sins.*

## Communion

*In receiving Communion, we profess faith in Jesus. In coming forth to receive Communion, we are agreeing to strive to do God's will in all things. If we don't agree to strive to do God's will, then Communion is not something we seek.*

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Saint Miriam. As Catholics, the reception of Holy Communion is a sign of our unity in faith and life in the Catholic Church. We believe in the real Presence of Christ at the Table. Therefore, when you receive the consecrated Bread or Wine, please respond with your affirmation, "Amen!" You may receive the Bread on your tongue, or in your hands crossed over one another; the Wine should come from the Chalice, but please do not intinct (dip your Bread into the Cup). If, for any reason, you do not wish to drink from the Cup, please simply fold your arms across your chest and receive a blessing as you pass.*

## Communion Hymn

### Period of Silence

*When the distribution of Holy Communion is completed, the Presider retires to the Presidium, and we honor a period of silence for prayer. A meditation hymn may also be offered. We end the Communion Rite with a prayer that we will be strengthened and transformed by the Holy Communion we have just received as a community of faith.*

### Prayer after Communion - Sit

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Let us pray.

*[All pray in silence. The celebrant then says a Prayer after communion and all say,]*

**All: Amen.**

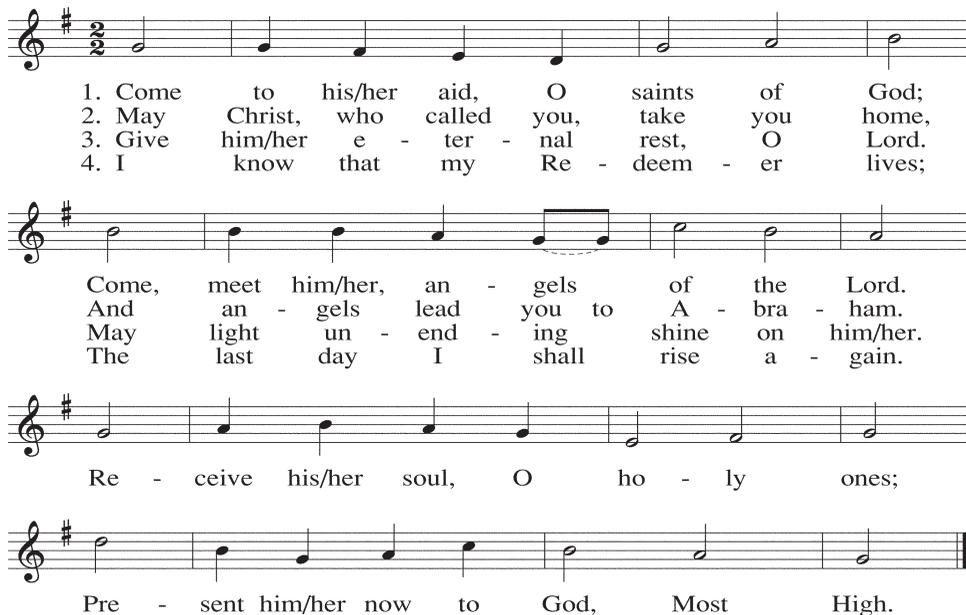
## Invitation to Prayer

Priest: Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our *brother/sister N*. May our farewell express our affection for *him/her*; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet *him/her* again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

*[all pray in silence for a time]*

## Song of Farewell - Stand

*[the Celebrant sprinkles and incenses the coffin while the Song of Farewell is sang by the Assembly]*



1. Come to his/her aid, O saints of God;  
2. May Christ, who called you, take you home,  
3. Give him/her e - ter - nal rest, O Lord.  
4. I know that my Re - deem - er lives;

Come, meet him/her, an - gels of the Lord.  
And an - gels lead you to A - bra - ham.  
May light un - end - ing shine on him/her.  
The last day I shall rise a - gain.

Re - ceive his/her soul, O ho - ly ones;

Pre - sent him/her now to God, Most High.

Text: Based on Subvenite and Job 19:25-27; Dennis C. Smolarski, © 1981  
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, LM; Louis Bourgeois, c.1510-1561, alt.

# *Concluding Rites*

## **Prayer of Commendation**

Priest: Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our *brother/sister, N.*, in the care and certain hope...We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

## **Procession to the Place of Committal**

Priest: In peace let us take our *brother/sister* to *his/her* place of rest.

*[the cross, or other symbol, is removed from the coffin [or urn], the pall is folded, and the procession begins; the family and friends follow the clergy to the place of rest.]*

## **Recessional Hymn**



Saint Miriam Pro Cathedral  
Parish, Friary, Cemetery, School  
[www.mySaintMiriam.org](http://www.mySaintMiriam.org)