

FIRST READING OPTION # 4 [Ecclesiastes 3:1-8]

Instructions for Reader: *It is good to sit next to the center aisle so that it is not necessary for you to pass awkwardly through a row of people on your way up to do the reading. In the beginning of the funeral Mass, after the casket is placed in the sanctuary by the Altar and the musicians have stopped playing and singing, the priest will pray the opening prayer and the congregation will respond, "Amen." Immediately, as all the people sit down you should walk up the center aisle until you reach the step up into the sanctuary. Stop. Genuflect (bend the right knee to the ground). Step up. Go over to the pulpit to your left (the big wooden 'booth' with the microphone), adjust the microphone to be close to your lips and read slowly and clearly. Pause at the // symbol (which is also a good time to catch your breath in the course of your reading.).*

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.
// There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. // A time to give birth, 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. // The Word of the Lord.

After you finish the reading and the congregation responds, "Thanks be to God," be careful stepping down from the pulpit. Please return to that very spot in front of the sanctuary, where you initially proceeded toward the pulpit, facing the Tabernacle and Crucifix. Bow. Return to your seat.