

FIRST READING OPTION # 1 [Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9]

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 Wisdom. // 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. // 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.

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.