

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

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 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! // As for me, I know that my vindicator lives, // and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust. // This will happen when my skin has been stripped off, // and from my flesh I will see God: I will see for myself, // my own eyes, not another's, will behold him: // my inmost being is consumed with longing. // 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.