

## SECOND READING OPTION # 5 [Revelation 21:1-5, 6-7]

**Instructions for Reader:** *Please 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 Revelation. I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. // The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. // I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. // I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. // He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. // He will wipe every tear from their eyes, // and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." // The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." // I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. // To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. // The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son. // 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. Genuflect. Return to your seat.*