

SECOND READING OPTION # 3 [Romans 5:1, 5-11]

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 Letter of St. Paul to the Romans. // Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. // Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. // For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. // Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. // But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. // How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. // Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. // Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. // 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.