

*Father will invite you to come forward for the readings. Go to the Altar, bow and then go to the lectern. Do reading.*

2 Maccabees 12:43-46\*

### **A reading from the second Book of Maccabees**

He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view;

for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought.

Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

### **The Word of the Lord**

*When finished go to bottom of step, turn and face the Altar, bow and go back to your seat.*