

Guidance for Loved Ones

Catholic Funeral Rites Explained

The funeral rites evoke the soul's passage from this life to the next: "The funeral liturgy mirrors the journey of human life, the Christian pilgrimage to the heavenly Jerusalem" (Order of Christian Funerals, No. 42). **Along the funeral pilgrimage, there are three parts:** (1) the Vigil (wake) and its related rites and prayers; (2) the Funeral Liturgy: preferably the Funeral Mass or, if this is not possible, the Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass, and (3) the Rite of Committal. Each of these rites emphasizes a particular dimension of the Church's prayer for the deceased.

Other Sacraments and Prayers

Anointing of the Sick, Viaticum, and Reconciliation

Throughout the course of an illness, and especially as the condition worsens, it is important to contact a priest for sacramental care. This includes the Anointing of the Sick, which can be received periodically throughout the course of an illness, Reconciliation or Penance, which can be received as often as necessary, and Viaticum, which is Holy Communion for the dying or those near death.

Prayers after Death

These prayers, offered at the time of death or shortly thereafter, are led by a priest, deacon, or other minister of the Church. This rite usually takes place in a hospital, nursing home, hospice facility or home of the deceased.

Prayers in the Presence of the Body

These prayers are usually recited either privately or at the funeral home before the viewing of the body.

FUNERAL MASS PRE-PLANNING SHEET

Contact Information

Full Name for Worship Aid: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ City/State of Birth: _____

Funeral Home: _____ Cemetery: _____

Family Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Ministers: (Should be practicing Catholics with experience in ministry listed)

Celebrant Preference: _____

Lector for First Reading: _____

Lector for Second Reading: _____

Reader for Petitions / Prayers of the Faithful: (Should be a deacon if one is assisting)

Gift Bearers (1 to 3): _____

Servers: _____

Reading/Song Choices: (See listings attached)

1st Reading: _____

2nd Reading: _____

Processional Hymn: _____

Psalm: _____

Presentation of Gifts: _____

Communion: _____

Recessional: _____

FUNERAL MASS PRE-PLANNING

The Funeral Mass includes many options for readings from Sacred Scripture (see below). The parish will work with you on selecting those that are most appropriate for the occasion.

First Reading - Old Testament - choices:

___ 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

___ Job 19:1, 23-27a

___ Wisdom 3:1-9

or short form: ___ Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

___ Wisdom 4:7-15

___ Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

___ Lamentations 3:17-26

___ Daniel 12:1-3

During the Easter Season, one of the following 4 readings from the New Testament is used instead of a passage from the Old Testament:

___ Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

or short form: ___ Acts 10:34-36, 42-43

___ Revelation 14:13

___ Revelation 20:11-21:1

___ Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps. 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

Ps. 63:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9

Ps. 25:6,7b, 17,18, 20, 21

Ps. 103:8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15-18

Ps. 27:1, 4, 7, 8b, 9a, 13,14

Ps. 116:5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16ac

Ps. 42:2, 3, 5cdef

Ps. 122:1-2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Ps. 43:3, 4, 5

Ps. 130:1, 2, 3, 4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8

Ps. 143:1, 2, 5, 6, 7ab, 10

Second Reading - New Testament - choices:

___ Romans 5:5-11

___ 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

___ Romans 5:17-21

___ Philippians 3:20-21

___ Romans 6:3-9

or short form: ___ Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

___ Romans 8:14-23

___ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

___ Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

___ 2 Timothy 2:8-13

___ Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

___ 1 John 3:1-2

___ 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

or short form: ___ 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

FUNERAL MASS PRE-PLANNING

A sampling of selections for music during the Funeral Mass: All music for the Catholic Funeral Mass must be appropriate liturgical music that affirms our hope in the resurrection and accompanies the liturgical action. Secular or non-liturgical religious music is not permitted.

Amazing Grace

Be Not Afraid

On Eagle's Wings

One Love Released

Eat This Bread

Eye Has Not Seen

Gather the People

Gift of Finest Wheat

We Are Many Parts

Here I Am, Lord

How Great Thou Art

I Am the Bread of Life

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

In Every Age

Pie Jesu

Lord of All Hopefulness

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Panis Angelicus

In Paradisum

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Prayer of St. Francis

Shelter Me, O God

Softly and Tenderly

I know That My Redeemer Lives

We Walk By Faith

We Will Rise Again

We Remember

You Are Near

Let There Be Peace on Earth

We Are Many Parts