

# Guide for Planning Roman Catholic Funeral Rites



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# Funeral Rites Information

Thank you for considering Ascension to help plan your loved ones, or, your own funeral needs. The loss of a family member or friend is a very difficult time for those left behind who are presented with many different choices. We have compiled this guide in order to assist you in understanding and planning the Funeral Rites.

This guide can be used at any time. You can refer to it when you are faced with these decisions because your loved one just passed away or you can make your wishes clear to your family ahead of your death by choosing preferences such as a funeral home/mortuary, if you want a Vigil, a Funeral Liturgy and Committal, what readings and music, and where you want your final resting place to be.

In this guide, you will find an overview of the rites, actionable steps, and references. We invite you to read this guide in order to help you make your choices and complete the forms at the end. Please bring them with you to the meeting with our funeral facilitator, who is here to assist you. They are available to answer any questions you may have regarding the Church guidelines for Funeral Rites.

If you are using this information to pre-plan your own funeral, please give a copy of the completed forms to a trusted family member. You may also leave a copy of the completed form with a funeral facilitator or the parish office.

## THE THREE COMPONENTS OF FUNERAL RITES

**The Vigil Service (Wake)** begins the Funeral Rites and is the time when family and friends of the deceased gather to reflect upon that person's life and express their own feelings. The Vigil is usually held at the funeral home/mortuary during visitation, either the evening before or the morning prior to the funeral liturgy. This rite may include prayers, scripture, a homily, petitions, and eulogies. The rosary, or other devotionals may also be included in this service. If you would like this to be hosted by Ascension, please ask for more information.

**The Funeral Liturgy** is the principal celebration of the Christian Funeral. It is here that family and friends join to reaffirm the belief that life has not ended and that we are one with Christ in life, death, and Resurrection. The family has a choice of Scripture readings and a selection of appropriate hymns. Our facilitators will suggest ways for family and friends to participate in the celebration.

**The Rite of Committal (Burial)** concludes the Funeral Rites and consists of Scripture and short prayers. It takes place near the final resting place of the deceased person, such as the gravesite, mausoleum, or cemetery chapel.

**Note about Cremation:** While there is a preference for traditional burial, the Church has permitted cremation for over 40 years. The Church teaches that the cremated remains should be kept together (not scattered or divided) to respect the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit and buried in the grounds of a Catholic cemetery.

## RITUALS & SYMBOLS

**The Funeral Pall** is a reminder of our Baptism into the Christian Community and now of our Baptism into our new life with Christ. We encourage family members to take part in placing the pall on the casket at the beginning of the Funeral Liturgy and assist in its removal as the body is about to be removed from the Church.

**Holy Water** sprinkled at the Funeral reminds us not only of our Baptismal call but that in death, we also share in Christ's Resurrection and new life.

**Incense** is used as a sign of respect for the body, a temple of the Holy Spirit, and of our prayers rising to the throne of God. It is used during our final farewell as we send our loved one home to God.

**The Paschal Candle** stands near the altar as a reminder of the Risen Christ who has conquered sin and death and lives among us. This candle also reminds us that our loved ones share in the victory of Jesus over the powers of darkness and now shares the new life offered by Jesus Christ.

# Making Arrangements

## FIRST STEP – SET THE DATE

Your first step in planning a Funeral is to call a local funeral home/mortuary, preferably one familiar with our parish (eg. Ratterman, Highlands, Bosse, etc.) During your meeting with the Mortuary, they will ask for information that you can also fill in on our attached “Funeral Rites Planning Form”. Most importantly, they will need to contact our Parish Office to confirm the day and time for the “Funeral Liturgy”.

You should provide a “Contact Person” for your family. Our funeral facilitator may reach out to them to assist with further planning and to answer any questions.

## SECOND STEP – SELECT READINGS, MUSIC, & MINISTERS

Once the Funeral Liturgy is scheduled, our funeral facilitator will contact you with information, or to schedule a time to meet. At that meeting, the facilitator will walk you through the Funeral Liturgy as well as other ways Ascension may be able to accommodate your needs. If you would like to pre-plan selections, use this guide. If anything seems unclear in the guide, contact the facilitator or complete the forms to the best of your knowledge and prepare any questions you might have.

## THIRD STEP – PARTICIPATE IN THE FUNERAL RITES

Although optional, we encourage family or friends to participate in the Funeral Rites.

At the Vigil, family, friends and colleagues gather to console one another and remember the deceased, both formally and informally. In this setting, leading a rosary is an option. More than one remembrance may be made, and a eulogy may be given.

For the Funeral Liturgy, Ascension can provide ministers (lector, altar server, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, cantor, accompanist, and sacristan). If you have family or friends who desire to minister liturgically, we encourage and would appreciate their contribution(s).

At the Rite of Committal, the deceased passes with the community’s farewell prayers into the welcoming company of those who need faith no longer, but see God face-to-face. Similarly, to the Vigil, more than one remembrance may be made, and a eulogy may be given.

# Funeral Liturgy

The Mass is the highest point of the Funeral Rites and is a final tribute to your loved one. Great care should be taken in planning the Funeral Mass; you will want these selections to speak of your loved one and also bring the family comfort and consolation. Our recommended selections are both appropriate for funerals and beautiful passages of peace and hope. May God's strength be with you.

## MUSIC

We have prepared a list of appropriate songs to use for the Funeral Liturgy. We will try to accommodate for favorite hymns you already have in mind, however, please note the use of pre-recorded or secular (non-liturgical) music is not permitted in the Mass. If your loved one had a secular song that he/she liked, it is most appropriate to have played at the Visitation.

Regarding music composed by David Haas: At this time, we will not perform music composed by David Haas. The publishers we use have communicated [their position](#) on the use of his music, and while we recognize the art is separate from the individual, Ascension currently supports GIA's position.

### Gathering Rite

Please select one song for the entrance processional.

Be Not Afraid #754  
Here I Am, Lord #844  
On Eagle's Wings #749  
God of Love, Whose Mercies Daily #1078  
O God, Beyond All Praising #674

## First Reading

Please select a reading from the Old Testament **From the *Lectionary for Mass*, no. 1011**

### **2 Maccabees 12:43-46**

*He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.*

### **Job 19:1, 23-27a**

*I know that my Vindicator lives.*

### **Wisdom 3:1-9 (short form, 3:1-6, 9)**

*As sacrificial offerings He took them to Himself.*

### **Wisdom 4:7-15**

*An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.*

### **Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

*He will destroy death forever.*

### **Lamentations 3:17-26**

*It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.*

### **Daniel 12:1-3**

*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.*

During ***Easter Time***, the First Reading is selected from among **the following New Testament Readings**. From the *Lectionary for Mass*, no. 1012

### **Acts 10:34-43 (short form, 10:34-36, 42-43)**

*He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.*

### **Revelation 14:13**

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*

### **Revelation 20:11—21:1**

*The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

### **Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7**

*There shall be no more death.*

## Responsorial Psalm

Please select a psalm to be sung.

23, Shepherd Me O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears... #39

23, The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. #40

25, To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul. #43

27, The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom should I fear?... #44

## Second Reading

Please select a reading from the New Testament **From the *Lectionary for Mass*, no. 1014**

### **Romans 5:5-11**

*Since we are now justified by His Blood, we will be saved through Him from the wrath.*

### **Romans 5:17-21**

*Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.*

### **Romans 6:3-9 (short form, 6:3-4, 8-9)**

*We too might live in newness of life.*

### **Romans 8:14-23**

*We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*

### **Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39**

*What will separate us from the love of Christ?*

### **Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12**

*Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (short form, 15:20-23)**

*So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.*

### **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

*Death is swallowed up in victory.*

### **2 Corinthians 4:14—5:1**

*What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.*

### **2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

*We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.*

### **Philippians 3:20-21**

*He will change our lowly bodies to conform to His glory.*

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*Thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

### **2 Timothy 2:8-13**

*If we have died with Him we shall also live with Him.*

### **1 John 3:1-2**

*We shall see Him as He is.*

### **1 John 3:14-16**

*We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.*



## Gospel

Please select a reading from the Gospels **From the *Lectionary for Mass*, no. 1016**

### **Matthew 5:1-12a**

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

### **Matthew 11:25-30**

*Come to me and I will give you rest.*

### **Matthew 25:1-13**

*Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!*

### **Matthew 25:31-46**

*Come, you who are blessed by my Father.*

### **Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 (short form, 15:33-39)**

*Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed His last.*

### **Luke 7:11-17**

*Young man, I tell you, arise!*

### **Luke 12:35-40**

*You also must be prepared.*

### **Luke 23:33, 39-43**

*Today you will be with me in Paradise.*

### **Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a (short form, 23:44-46, 50, 52-53)**

*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

### **Luke 24:13-35 (short form, 24:13-16, 28-35)**

*Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?*

### **John 5:24-29**

*Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.*

### **John 6:37-40**

*Everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day.*

### **John 6:51-58**

*Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.*

### **John 11:17-27 (short form, 11:21-27)**

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

### **John 11:32-45**

*Lazarus, come out!*

### **John 12:23-28 (short form, 12:23-26)**

*If it dies, it produces much fruit.*

### **John 14:1-6**

*In my Father's house there are many dwellings.*

### **John 17:24-26**

*I wish that where I am they also may be with me.*

### **John 19:17-18, 25-39**

*And bowing His head He handed over His Spirit.*

## Liturgy of the Eucharist Preparation of the Gifts & Communion

**Gift Bearers:** Two to four people selected to carry the gifts and present them before the Priest.

Please select one song for Preparation of the Gifts

Eye Has Not Seen #785  
Hosea #514  
I Know That My Redeemer Lives #1074  
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace #893  
These Alone Are Enough #723  
Here I Am, Lord #844  
A Place Called Home #891  
Amazing Grace #701

The **Mass Setting** is the Mass of Love and Mercy. You're welcome to bring another suggestion if desired!

Please select one song for Communion

I Am the Bread of Life #1008  
One Bread, One Body #1042  
Take and Eat #1009  
Taste and See #1006  
We Remember #1005  
You Are Near #751  
Here I Am, Lord #844  
On Eagle's Wings #749  
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Our **Song of Farewell** is Quietly, Peacefully. You're welcome to bring another suggestion if desired!

### Closing Song

Please select one song for the recessional

Canticle of the Sun #631  
City of God #857  
Go in Peace #1082  
How Great Thou Art #630  
We Shall Rise Again #948  
O God, Beyond All Praising #674

# Funeral Rites Planning Form

Name as it should appear on the worship aid: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a picture you would like to provide for the worship aid? Yes or No

Family Contact(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to the deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home / Services: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Will the Body Be Cremated? Yes or No

Family Meeting with Ascension Facilitator Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Visitation Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Vigil Date and Time (5 or 6 PM is preferred): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Presider: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Liturgy (Mass) Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_ Ascension Catholic Parish

Celebrant: Father Adam, unless unavailable Concelebrant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Deacon(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Homilist: \_\_\_\_\_

Graveside Committal Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Presider: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you desire Words of Remembrance to be shared? Yes or No

If yes, when? End of the Vigil During Mass, Before Readings End of the Committal

Do you desire a Eulogy to be shared? Yes or No

If yes, when? End of the Vigil End of the Committal

If you have any other particular needs such as a meal for your family, please let us know and our bereavement ministry will be in touch with you. Feel free to reach out to them sooner to discuss options or more details by calling 502-777-4850.

# Funeral Liturgy Selection Form

When filling in the spaces provided, please print information clearly in order to help us eliminate spelling mistakes when the worship aid is printed for use at the liturgy. Thank you!

## Introductory Rites

Prelude (*optional*): \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement of the pall, or if cremated, ashes are processed by: \_\_\_\_\_

*To honor your loved one, you may reserve pews on the side they normally sat. Seven people fit comfortably in each pew.*

Estimated # of Pews: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a side preference? Left or Right or Both

Gathering Song: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Read by Lector: \_\_\_\_\_

Responsorial Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Read by Lector: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer of the Faithful Lector (*if no Deacon*): \_\_\_\_\_

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts Song: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Song: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

Closing Song: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Ministers: (*Ministers can be provided by the Parish as needed*)

Altar Server(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (*if no ordinary minister*): \_\_\_\_\_

Cantor: \_\_\_\_\_ Accompanist: \_\_\_\_\_

Sacristan: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Media (Streamer): \_\_\_\_\_

Hospitality: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Bearers (2-4): \_\_\_\_\_

\*We do not have enough trained ministers to provide one. If you have a willing family member that is a parishioner, we would be happy to train them.

# Homily Notes

Notes on faith: family stories as a child, parent, or grandparent; favorite prayers, devotions, or saints; or ways in which they exemplified virtues may be given to the priest or deacon as support for their homily.

Obituary Link: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]