

Guide for Planning Roman Catholic Funeral Rites



Ascension Catholic Parish

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Funeral Rites Information

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 personal preferences such as a funeral home/mortuary, 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.

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 the parish office or a funeral home.

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 on the evening before the funeral liturgy. This rite may include prayers, scripture, a homily, petitions, and eulogies. The rosary, or other devotionals may also be included.

The Funeral Liturgy is the principal celebration of the Christian Funeral. It is here that family and friends join together 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 since the 1960s. 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 as well as to express our faith in the resurrection of the dead on the last day. Cremated remains should be interred.

RITUALS & SYMBOLS

The Funeral Pall is a reminder of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ. We welcome 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 baptismal font reminds us of one's Baptism, which united us with Christ's death and resurrection.

Incense is used as a sign of respect for the body, which is 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 commend our loved one to God.

The Paschal Candle stands near the altar as a reminder of the presence 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.

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, or if pre-planning, our funeral facilitator will contact you with more 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 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 and/or friends to fill special roles.

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. A eulogy or sharing of words may be given. If desired, a Catholic may even lead the vigil for their family and the parish would be happy to provide you with the relevant texts.

For the Funeral Liturgy, Ascension can provide ministers (lector, altar server, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, cantor, accompanist, sacristan, and gift bearers). If you have family or friends who desire to minister, we encourage them to do so, but prefer them to have previous experience. Some roles do require one to be Catholic. There is also an opportunity to share words of remembrance following Communion within Mass.

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 Liturgy/Mass; you will want these selections to speak of your loved one and also bring the family comfort and consolation.

READINGS

In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the word of God. A careful selection and use of readings from Scripture for the funeral rites will provide the family and the community with an opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears, and hopes. In the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word at the funeral liturgy, the biblical readings may not be replaced by nonbiblical readings. Nonbiblical readings may be used in non-liturgical services with the family.

MUSIC

We have prepared a list of appropriate songs to use for the Funeral Liturgy/Mass. 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 they liked, it is most appropriate to have it played at the Visitation.

Gathering Song

Please select one song for the entrance procession.

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

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 **the following New Testament Readings**.

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 (Haugen)

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

25, To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. (La Rosa)

103, The Lord is kind and merciful. The Lord is kind and merciful. (La Rosa)

130, Out of the depths I cry to You Lord. I cry to You Lord. (Walther)

Second Reading

Please select a reading from the New Testament

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

A **Mass setting** is the “Mass Ordinary” texts set to music (the Holy, Holy, Holy, and the Lamb of God). Our ministers have already selected one beforehand, however you’re welcome to bring another suggestion if you desire.

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 (optional Post-Communion song)

Our **Song of Farewell** is Quietly, Peacefully. You’re welcome to bring another suggestion if you desire.

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 to a) appear on the worship aid: _____ b) be said by Father _____

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

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Family contact(s): _____

Relation(s): _____

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? _____

You are welcome to request a vigil during the visitation based on the availability of our ministers.

Funeral Liturgy (Mass) date and time: _____

Celebrant: _____ Concelebrant(s): _____

Deacon: _____ Homilist: _____

Homily 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.

Graveside Committal Date and Time: _____

If yes, where? _____

Presider: _____

If you have any particular needs, such as a meal for your family, please reach out to our bereavement ministry by calling 502-777-4850. The ministers might reach out to you first in order to discuss options and/or details. At this moment, do you believe your family would like a meal to be provided? Yes or No

Funeral Liturgy Selection Form

Print information clearly in order to help us eliminate spelling mistakes for the worship aid.

Introductory Rites

Prelude (*optional*): _____ #: _____

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

To honor your loved one, you may reserve pews for those in the procession: seven people fit comfortably per pew.

Estimated # of Pews: _____ Do you have a preferred side? Marian or Choir or Both

Roughly how many people would you estimate attending the liturgy: _____

Gathering Song: _____ #: _____

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: _____

First Reading during Easter (*optional when pre-planning*): _____

Read by Lector (*Catholic required, experience preferred*): _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____ #: _____

Second Reading: _____

Read by Lector (*Catholic required, experience preferred*): _____

Gospel: _____

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

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts Song: _____ #: _____

Gift Bearers (2-4): _____

Communion Song: _____ #: _____

Extraordinary Minister(s) of Holy Communion (*if no ordinary minister*): _____

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

Song of Farewell: *Quietly, Peacefully will be used unless stated otherwise.*

Closing Song: _____ #: _____