

From Death to Life



Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Planning Workbook

There are occasions when a Catholic person dies before they share with family members or friends their wishes concerning a funeral and burial. In such a case, the person may be buried without a Catholic funeral or even before the parish knows of the death. In order that family, friends, and your parish understand your wishes in regard to the Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church, please prayerfully consider the information and questions provided in this planning workbook. A representative from your parish will be happy to meet with you and any family members to explain the rites and the choices that are available.

Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church:

Vigil (Wake)

Funeral Liturgy

Rite of Committal (Burial or Interment)

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General Information

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please complete and retain this document, sharing copies with your loved ones—especially those who will carry out ministerial roles in the rites—and your parish.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parish: _____

Spouse: _____

Child(ren): _____

Grandchild(ren): _____

Sibling(s): _____

Parent(s): _____

Contact Person at Time of Death:

Contact person should notify parish before making arrangements with funeral home.

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Where would you like donations to be made? _____

Preferred flowers and/or florist _____

Items for burial (clothing, jewelry, rosary, shoes, etc.) _____

Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church: Vigil

VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED

The vigil is a time to remember the life of the deceased and commend him/her to God. Mourners ask God for consolation and strength to support one another. Celebrated between the time of death and the funeral liturgy, the vigil service is conducted at the funeral home or church. A priest or deacon usually leads the vigil, but a lay person may preside if necessary.

Prayers after Death:

Occurs when minister first meets with the family after death.

Yes

No

Gathering in the Presence of the Body:

Occurs when family first gathers in the presence of the body.

Yes

No

Location of Vigil: _____
Church or Funeral Home

Presider: _____

Prayer(s):

Choose at least one.

Liturgy of the Word

Office for the Dead

Rosary

Music preferences:

(Instrument, cantor, specific hymns/psalms)

FUNERAL LITURGY

The Funeral Liturgy, or the Mass of Christian Burial, is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased. The funeral liturgy commends the deceased to God, united to the one sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and offers mourners Holy Communion as a foretaste of the banquet feast of Heaven.

Location: _____

Celebrant: _____

Concelebrant(s): _____

Other priests you would like to celebrate Funeral Mass

Placing of pall by family:

Yes

No

If yes, please list:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Altar Servers:

Family will provide

Parish will provide

If provided by family, please list:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Lector(s):

Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church: Funeral Liturgy

Family will provide

Parish will provide

If provided by family, please list:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

First Reading

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Second Reading

Readings (See Appendix A):

Please indicate your choices from Appendix A by number and/or passage.

At all times of the year, you may select *at minimum*:

• Reading from the Old or New Testament _____

• Responsorial Psalm _____

• Gospel Reading _____

OR

• Old Testament Reading _____

• Responsorial Psalm _____

• New Testament Reading _____

• Gospel Reading _____

During the Easter Season (Easter Sunday through Pentecost), you have the option to select:

• Reading from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation _____

• Responsorial Psalm _____

• New Testament Reading _____

• Gospel Reading _____

Reader of the Universal Prayer/General Intercessions:

Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church: Funeral Liturgy

May be one of the Lectors

Family will provide

Parish will provide

If provided by family, please list:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Musician(s):

Family will provide

Parish will provide

If provided by family, please list:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Musical Selections (See Appendix B):

Please indicate your choices from Appendix B by number and/or title:

Processional Hymn: _____

Offertory Hymn: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Procession to the Place of Committal Hymn: _____

Offertory Gift Bearers:

Family will provide

Parish will provide

If provided by family, please list:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church: Funeral Liturgy

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Extraordinary Ministers:

Family will provide

Parish will provide

If provided by family, please list:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Pall Bearers:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Words of Remembrance:

If one member or friend of the family wishes to speak words of remembrance, this should be done before the Final Commendation begins. Guidelines for such words are:

- Should enhance the liturgy, not detract from the ritual, describing how the deceased lived their Christian faith
- Should be written and approved by pastor/presider
- Limited to 3-4 minutes

Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church: Funeral Liturgy

Will there be words of remembrance?

Yes

No

If yes, please list:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Signs of Christian Remembrance:

e.g. Book of Gospels, a Bible, a Cross, etc.

Will there be placing of sign(s) of Christian remembrance?

Yes

No

If yes, please list:

Sign(s): _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

RITE OF COMMITTAL

The third ritual, the rite of committal, is the final act of a faith community in caring for the body of its deceased member, who passes with farewell prayers in to the company of those already with God. The Rite of Committal is normally celebrated beside the place of interment and is ideally conducted by a priest or deacon, though a lay person may preside if necessary.

Preparation Worksheet for Rite of Committal

Presider: _____

Leader of Intercessions:

Would you like intercessions to be led by family member or friend?

Yes

No

If yes, please list:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Disposition of the Body

DISPOSITION OF THE BODY

The disposition of the body is the placement of human remains in the final resting place.

Type of Disposition:

- Casket Burial/Entombment
- Cremation Burial/Entombment
- Anatomical Donation

Family members cannot sign donation documents after your death; you must sign prior.

Type of Interment:

- Grave
- Crypt
- Niche (for cremated remains only)

Funeral Home/Mortuary/Cremation Center/Medical Institution:

I have made pre-arrangements with the funeral home/mortuary/cremation center/medical institution.

- Yes
- No

If yes, please list funeral home/mortuary/cremation center/medical institution contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Cemetery: _____

I have made pre-arrangements with the cemetery.

- Yes
- No

If yes, please list cemetery contact:

Disposition of the Body

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Pre-arranged cemetery location:

Section: _____ Lot/Bank: _____ Grave/Tier: _____

Certification

CERTIFICATON

I have provided a copies of these documents to the following individuals:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Pastor: _____ Mobile: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____