



# Funeral Pre-Planning Workshop

October 2019

# The Obituary

Kindly use the Church's terminology, such as "**Funeral Mass,**" instead of "Mass of Resurrection," "Memorial Mass," or "Mass of Christian Burial."

# Flowers

Fresh flowers, used in moderation, can enhance the setting of the funeral rites.

# Flowers

Flowers arranged near the altar should not impede the celebrant's ability to incense the altar by walking closely around it.

# Flowers

Flowers are not used to decorate the altar during Lent.

# Rosary and Other Devotionals

If the deceased held a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary or the Sacred Heart, etc., it is most fitting that the rosary or other devotional prayers or litanies be recited prior to the Funeral Mass.

# Rosary and Other Devotionals

Examples: Rosary, Divine  
Mercy Chaplet, Litany to the  
Sacred Heart

Note: Visitation before Mass

# Words of Remembrance

It is suggested that words of remembrance be offered at the funeral home

- During visitation
- Following the Vigil
- At the gravesite following the Rite of Committal
- At the funeral luncheon

# Words of Remembrance Continued...

## The Diocesan preference:

- ▶ Prior to the beginning of the Funeral Mass
- ▶ No longer than three minutes in duration
- ▶ Shared with the pastor at least the day before the Funeral Mass.

# Words of Remembrance continued...

- The Order of Christian Funerals does allow the option for a family member or friend to speak in remembrance of the deceased.
- The ritual permits that this may be done following the Prayer after Communion and before the Final Commendation.

# Christian Symbol

- Only Christian symbols may rest on or be placed near the casket during the funeral liturgy.
- Any national flags or the flags or insignia of associations to which the deceased belonged are to be removed from the casket at the entrance of the church.

# Christian Symbol

## **For your consideration...**

- Use a crucifix that hangs in your home.
- A prayer book that is particularly meaningful to you, etc.

## Choice of Day

A funeral Mass may be celebrated on any day except:

- Holy Days of Obligation
- Thursday of Holy Week
- The Triduum
- The Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter

# Music

- Music at funeral liturgies should strive to express the hope we have in faith.
- It should also possess a quality worthy of the worship of God.

# **Music: Liturgical Seasons**

In the privileged liturgical seasons such as Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, the music should primarily reflect the liturgical season as well as the celebration of the funeral rites.

# Music

Popular/secular music, including recorded music, is not permitted.

# Family and Friends as Liturgical Ministers

The parish may provide liturgical ministers for the Funeral Mass:

- Lectors
- Cantor
- Altar servers
- EMoHCs

# **Family and Friends as Liturgical Ministers**

Family members or friends who are trained in these roles may function provided they are emotionally able to carry out their liturgical ministry.

# Preparation of Gifts

- It is most appropriate for family members to present the gifts.
- Only the bread, wine, or other gifts that have been collected for the Church or the poor are to be brought forward.

# Regarding the Body and Cremation

Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body.

# Regarding the Body and Cremation

The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values, which the Church affirms in those rites.

# Disposition of the Ashes

The ashes of the faithful “must be laid to rest” in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery, or in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose.

# Disposition of the Ashes

The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come.

# Disposition of the Ashes

This [respect] includes:

- The use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes
- The manner in which they are carried
- The care and attention to appropriate placement and transport
- The final disposition.

# Disposition of the Ashes Continued...

It is not permitted for the ashes of the deceased to be:

- Separated and distributed or conserved in a domestic residence
- Nor be scattered in the “air, on land, at sea” or in some other way,
- Nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects.

# **Donation of the Body for Scientific Purposes**

There is no objection to Catholics making prior arrangements to donate their bodies or parts of them to advance medical science.

# **Donation of the Body for Scientific Purposes**

The only limitation is that, upon eventual disposition of the body or its parts, there is some reasonable assurance that the remains will be interred in a proper, reverential manner.

# Funeral Luncheons

- It is customary that a luncheon is provided following the funeral liturgy.
- At New Riegel, Kathy Tiell arranges funeral luncheons.
- At Bascom, Angie Tiell arranges funeral luncheons.

# Funeral Planning Sheet

## Liturgical Ministers

- Altar Servers (family or adult servers from parish)
- Lectors
- Gift Bearers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

# Funeral Planning Sheet

## Universal Prayer

- Typically begin with prayers focusing on baptism, Eucharist, and family.
- Other Possibilities
  - Father/Mother
  - Doctors and nurses, therapists, and all health care professionals
  - All those who care for the sick, the infirmed, and the elderly, especially at a particular care facility

# Funeral Planning Sheet

## Universal Prayer

- Medical researchers to discover new therapies for Parkinson's, etc.
- Veterans/Military/Armed Forces
- Occupations: Teachers, farmers, health care workers, firefighters, etc.
- Goodness in life through hobbies/values
- Marriage/Wedding Anniversary

# Funeral Planning Sheet

## Music Suggestions

### Music Suggestions Handout

#### Seasonal Music

- Advent/Christmas
- Lent/Easter

# Funeral Planning Sheet

## Scripture Readings

- **First Reading: Old Testament (Easter season readings)**
- **Second Reading: New Testament**
- **Gospel**
  
- **Of note, there are special readings for children.**

# OPTIONS

- Visitation in the church
- Tribute Videos
- Possibility of live streaming and recording
- Programs
- Keeping your plans on file at parish

- Folders: Scripture Readings and sign-out sheet
- Powerpoint handout
- Music suggestions
- Planning sheet

## Planning Resources

- Take time to make plans and discuss with your family
- Keep plans on file at home and parish
- Contact if questions arise

NEXT STEPS