

The sadness of death should give way in our liturgy to the promise of resurrected life. It does so through prayers and blessings, through songs and readings, through ceremonies and symbols. Our celebration of a person's life should reflect our conviction that in Jesus Christ we have life beyond life.

The Rite of Christian Burial is threefold:

- **Rite of Reception and Vigil for the Deceased**

The Vigil generally takes place at the funeral home. Usually there is a brief service during the visitation period during normal circumstances. The Vigil is usually presided over by a priest or deacon or commissioned, trained lay person when available. This is a place for family members to share their remarks of remembrance or a eulogy. **During the Covid-19 pandemic no clergy will attend the vigil at the funeral home.**

- **The Funeral Mass**

At the Funeral Liturgy the community gathers with the family and friends of the deceased to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death and to commend the deceased to God's tender mercy and compassion. The church is the place where the community of faith gathers for worship. Therefore, it is best that the funeral rites take place in the church. In the act of bringing the body or cremains to the church, the members of the community acknowledge the deceased as one of their own, as one who was welcomed in Baptism and who held a place in the assembly.

- **Rite of Committal**

In committing the body to its resting place, the community expresses the hope that, with "all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith," the deceased awaits the glory of the Resurrection. The Rite of Committal is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of the deceased. It may be celebrated at the grave, tomb, mausoleum, or church. This Rite includes prayers offered for the disposition of the body and for the consolation of those gathered.

OUTLINE OF A FUNERAL MASS

Part I: Introductory Rites

Greeting

Entrance Procession

Placing of the Pall

Sprinkling with Holy Water

Opening Prayer

During the procession a hymn or song is sung. When the procession reaches the front of the church the remains are sprinkled with holy water and covered with a pall, a reminder of baptism.

Part II: Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (Old Testament)

Responsorial Psalm (sung)

Second Reading (New Testament)

Gospel Reading

Homily

General Intercessions/Prayer of the Faithful

Non-biblical texts may not replace scriptural readings at Mass.

We encourage family members and friends to take part in the Liturgy of the Word by reading the First Reading, the Second Reading, and the General Intercessions/Prayer of the Faithful.

A list of appropriate readings follows.

Old Testament Readings:

Isaiah 25: 6-9

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Isaiah 41: 8-10, 13

Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11

(Other appropriate Old Testament Readings)

New Testament Readings:

2 Timothy 4: 6-8

Romans 6: 3-9

2 Corinthians 4: 14-5:1

Revelation 21: 1-7

(Other appropriate New Testament Readings)

Part III: Liturgy of the Eucharist

*Presentation of Gifts (Bread and wine are brought to the altar. Members of the family or friends of the deceased may bring the gifts to the altar. A hymn is sung at this time. The altar and the remains of the deceased are incensed at this time also.) **During the Covid-19 pandemic gifts are not brought forward.***

Holy, Holy, Holy

Mystery of Faith

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Communion

Part IV: Final Commendation and Farewell

Prayers are said and a song of farewell is sung.

Part V: Procession to the Place of Committal

A suitable hymn is sung during the Recessional out of the church. The priest and assisting ministers precede the coffin while the family and mourners follow. The pall is removed.

Eulogies

There is no eulogy in the Catholic Funeral Mass. Friends and family who wish to say a few words about their loved one should plan to do so at the wake or at a reception after the funeral.

Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass

This is a simpler Liturgy of the Word service which primarily takes place at the funeral home with a priest or deacon presiding.

Military Honors

When one has served in the active military, he or she is entitled to military honors at their funeral. After the funeral itself, there will probably be "Taps" and a rifle salute along with the folding and presentation of the flag to the family. This may take place outside of the church before the casket is placed in the hearse, or may take place at the cemetery. Usually the funeral home will take care of contacting the proper organization.

Music

From the moment we gather in the church, until departing, we must be mindful of the solemn Rites and Liturgy that are taking place. As such, all music should be selected to enhance the solemnity and dignity of the occasion.

For the Funeral Liturgy, 4 hymns are chosen: Opening/Processional, Presentation of Gifts, Communion, and Recessional. The Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, the Holy, Holy, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen, and Lamb of God are also sung.

A list of suitable hymns and songs follow. (This list is just a sampling. Other hymns may be chosen.)

Processional Hymns:

Here I Am Lord

Be Not Afraid

I Am the Bread of Life

Amazing Grace

How Great Thou Art
On Eagle's Wings

Preparation of Gifts:
On Eagle's Wings
Only in God
You Are Mine
Like a Shepherd
Ave Maria
As the Deer Longs
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
I Am the Bread of Life

Communion:
You Are Near
We Will Rise Again
We Remember
Panis Angelicus
Gift of Finest Wheat
One Bread, One Body
Taste and See
Eat This Bread

Recessional:
On Eagle's Wings
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Irish Blessing
How Great Thou Art
Prayer of St. Francis
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
The Strife is O'er
Amazing Grace
Be Not Afraid

**RESURRECTION PARISH
FUNERAL LITURGY GUIDE**

Placing of the Pall

_____ Funeral Director _____ Family or Friends

First Reading (Old Testament) _____

Proclaimed by _____
(name and relation to the deceased)

Responsorial Psalm (sung by organist)

Second Reading (New Testament) _____

Proclaimed by _____
(name and relation to the deceased)

Gospel (Chosen by priest generally)

Prayer of the Faithful

_____ by Assistant Minister _____ by family member or friend

Presentation of Gifts (DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC GIFTS ARE NOT PRESENTED)

Brought forward
by _____

Hymns:

Processional _____

Presentation of
Gifts _____

Communion _____

Recessional _____

_____ I would like the organist to choose the hymns