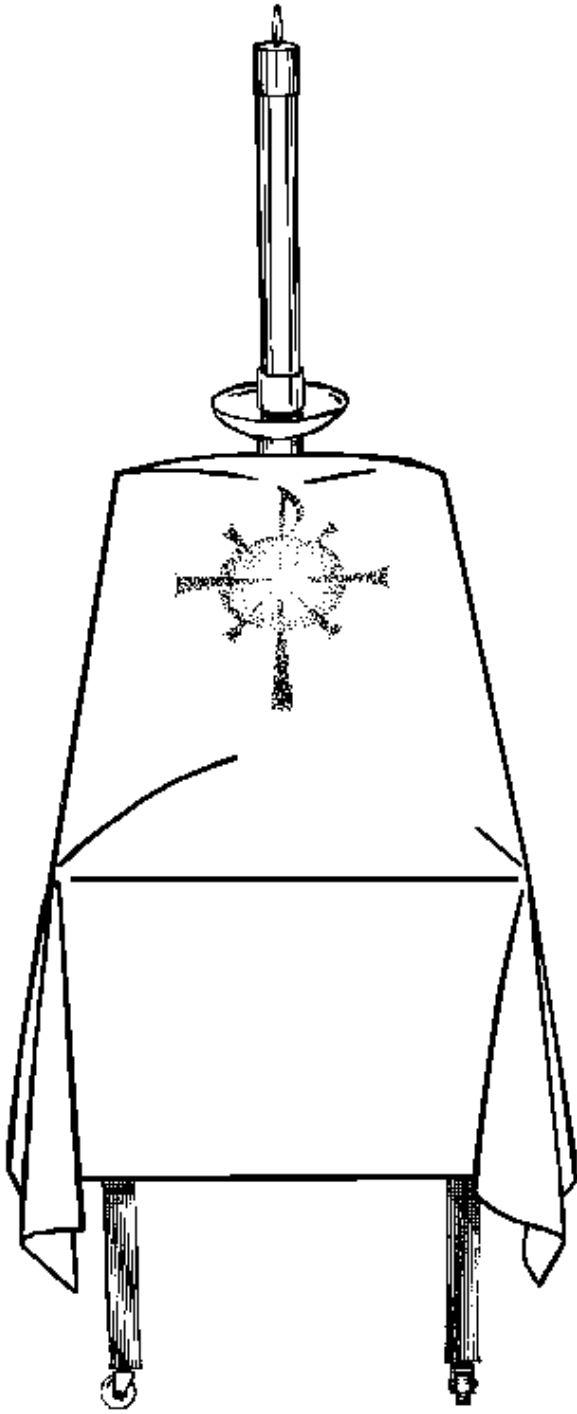


Planning Of The Funeral Rite



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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 Holy Angels Parish understand your wishes in regard to the Funeral Rites of the Church, please prayerfully consider the information and questions provided in this form. A representative from Holy Angels will be happy to meet with you and any family members to explain the rites and the choices that are available in preparing the liturgies.

“At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of baptism and strengthened at the Eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting work of God and the Sacraments of the Eucharist.”

Order of Christian Funerals, #4.

THREE PRINCIPAL RITUAL MOMENTS IN CHRISTIAN FUNERALS:

- The Vigil and Related Rites and Prayers
- The Funeral Liturgy
- The Rite of Committal

The vigil for the deceased is the principal rite celebrated by the Christian community in the time following death and before the funeral liturgy.

Order of Christian Funerals, #54

The first ritual, the *Vigil*, takes the form of a celebration of the Liturgy of the Word. The vigil is usually celebrated at the funeral home. Sometimes the family prefers to pray the Rosary at the vigil. It is possible, and recommended to have both the Liturgy of the Word and the Rosary. A priest or deacon usually presides at the vigil. A lay person may lead the Rosary. It is encouraged that family members or friends participate in leading the Rosary. Assistance with mysteries of the Rosary prayed and short meditations to accompany them can be suggested. Please talk to the priest or deacon.

The funeral liturgy is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased.

Order of Christian Funerals, #128

There are two forms of the second ritual, the *Funeral Liturgy*. They are the “Funeral Mass” and the “Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass.” The Church especially encourages the celebration of the Mass.

The rite of committal is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member.

Order of Christian Funeral, #204

The third ritual is the *Rite of Committal*. There are two forms of this rite. The first form, “Rite of Committal”, takes place at the end of the funeral liturgy. The second form, “Rite of Committal with Final commendation”, is used if the final commendation does not take place during the funeral liturgy. It may take place at the grave, tomb, or crematorium. A priest or deacon normally presides at the rite of committal.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Laywomen and laymen may serve as lay readers, musicians, ushers, pallbearers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Family members of the deceased are encouraged to fulfill these ministries unless it would be difficult for them, due to the circumstances. The parish representative can help with this.

THE WORD OF GOD

During the funeral liturgy biblical readings may not be replaced by non-biblical readings. Non-biblical readings may be used during prayer services in addition to readings from Scripture.

The psalms are designated for use in many places in the funeral rites and, whenever possible, should be sung.

A homily based on the scripture readings is always given after the gospel reading at a funeral liturgy. The homily is never to be a eulogy. If a family member or friend of the deceased would like to say a few words in memory or tribute, this should occur after the post-communion prayer of the funeral Mass and before the final commendation. Eulogies are also most appropriate during visitation hours at the funeral home or at the grave site after the committal service.

MUSIC

The music at funerals should support, console, and uplift the participants and should help to create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory.

Order of Christian Funerals, #31

Music will be provided at all funeral liturgies celebrated at the church. A cantor, who will assist with leading the assembly in song, will be provided. Other instruments and vocalists may be used with prior approval of the choirmaster.

Because music occupies a preeminent place within the liturgy of the church, the test of the songs used within the funeral liturgy should be based upon the readings from Scripture and other liturgical sources; therefore, secular music is not appropriate during the funeral liturgy.

The live performance of music, as well as that of all other actions, is essential within the liturgy and, for that reason, the use of pre-recorded music is discouraged.

SYMBOLS

It is customary for a *pall* to be placed over the coffin as a reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased. It also signifies that "all are equal in the eyes of God" (James 2:1-9). Family members, if they wish, may assist in placing the pall over the coffin at the beginning of the funeral liturgy.

Only Christian symbols may rest on or be placed near the coffin during the funeral liturgy. A book of the Gospels, a Bible or a cross may be used.

CREMATION

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

Order of Christian Funerals, #413

Cremation is permitted in the Catholic Church, but it is preferred that cremation takes place after the funeral rites with the body. It may be necessary to cremate a body before the funeral rites can be celebrated. The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to a human body. **A worthy vessel should be used to contain the cremated remains. The vessel must be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The Church does not permit scattering of cremated remains or keeping them in a home of a friend or relative.**

Funeral and Burial Instructions

Please take time to consider the options outlined in this form. You may wish to fill out the form yourself, but if you would like some assistance, please contact a parish representative. Once you have completed the form, be sure to share the information with your family and/or friends, especially those you have chosen to carry out a ministerial role in the rites. Schedule an appointment with a parish representative to discuss the information on the form and to make sure the parish office has a copy. Also make sure to give a copy to your Funeral Home, as well.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I am a parishioner at: _____

I have received the following Sacraments: _____

<i>If you are planning a Funeral for Someone Else</i>	
Name:	_____
Date:	_____
Address:	_____
Phone:	_____

Contact person at time of death: Family member or friend who understands your wishes regarding your funeral and will help coordinate details with the parish) _____

Contact phone#: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Relationship of contact person to you: _____

Have you made arrangements with a particular funeral home? If so, which one?

Have you made arrangements with a particular cemetery? If so, which one?

If your preference is cremation, please indicate that here and, if yes, speak with your parish priest or deacon for more details. Yes: _____ No: _____

Family Members (names and addresses):

Spouse: _____

Son(s): _____

Daughter(s): _____

Grandchildren _____

Brother(s)/Sister(s) _____

Others: _____

THE VIGIL AND RELATED RITES AND PRAYERS

The Vigil

Place: _____

Liturgy of the Word: _____ Rosary: _____

Who would you prefer to preside at the vigil? Please give name.

Priest: _____ Deacon: _____

(If clergy is not available, a family member or friend may preside. Please give name and contact information.)

Music Preferences: _____

THE FUNERAL MASS

Place (your parish church): _____

Celebrant: _____

Concelebrating Priest/s (other priests you would like to invite to celebrate the Funeral Mass):

Music preferences (additional instruments, choir, cantor, specific hymns - *again, discuss with choir master:*

If you do not know trained liturgical ministers to fill the roles of lay readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion or servers, contact the Parish Secretary for assistance.

Servers (names and contact information): _____

Readings from Scripture - Family members or friends may serve as lay readers.
A copy of readings from the *Order of Christian Funerals* is provided.

Old Testament: _____ Psalm: _____

New Testament: _____ Gospel: _____

Lay Readers (please include contact information):

Homily Notes for the priest (Is there anything you would like the priest to mention during his homily pertaining to your life in Christ?)

Gift Bearers (two or more, these ministers should be Catholic): _____

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (names and contact information):

A family member or friend may say a few words after the post-communion prayer and before the Final Commendation. Do you wish to have someone speak?

No _____ Yes _____

If so, indicate a name and contact information: _____

RITE OR COMMITAL

If the Final Commendation takes place at the end of the Funeral Mass, the Rite of Committal is used at the graveside.

Please share this with your family and/or friends, and leave a copy in the parish office and at the funeral home. Be sure to update the form with the parish staff and /or family and friends when necessary.

Theses are guidelines. If you have questions that have not been address speak to the priest, deacon, or parish representative.

I have given this information to (please indicate family members or friends who have a copy of this document and their contact information:

The stipends are:

Celebrant:	(Family decision)
Organist/guitarist:	\$100
Cantor:	\$50

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parish Representative: _____ Date: _____