



## PLANNING A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

The Catholic funeral differs in many ways from a funeral in the secular world. While non-Catholics use funerals as opportunities to celebrate the life of the deceased, in a Catholic funeral the Church fulfills the spiritual work of mercy to pray for the dead. We know in faith that our earthly life is not the end, but is merely a preparation for eternal life — a life which we hope to share with Christ Jesus the Lord. For this reason, we have a duty to our deceased loved ones to pray for them and beg for the mercy of God, that all their sins will be forgiven and washed away, and that they will be raised to the eternal joy of heaven.

The elements chosen for a Catholic funeral reflect our belief and aid us by encouraging us to pray for our deceased loved one. The options given below are provided as a guide in selecting appropriate texts for the Catholic funeral Mass:

### RITE I: The Vigil for the Deceased (Wake) or Visitation

*Because funerals usually occur during work days when people are not always able to attend, we recommend a visitation take place the night before. This may occur at the Basilica, and in this situation the body or remains of the deceased may be left overnight in the Basilica which will be locked and secure. (This is to avoid any additional cost to transfer the body to and from the funeral home).*

*Alternatively, the family may choose to hold visitation before the funeral, or at the funeral home. In this case, a formal Vigil is not held, but the Priest is available to come and pray with the family or offer the Rosary.*

I would like an evening Vigil for the Deceased be held in the Basilica Church or the Funeral Home with the rosary and prayers.

At the Basilica Church

At the Funeral Home

I would like a eulogy to be given by \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to forego the Vigil for the Deceased, and instead to have simple Visitation before the Funeral Mass.

Visitation from \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_

## RITE II: The Funeral Mass

Sections made for the Funeral Mass are meant to highlight the Church's teaching about death and our hope for resurrection. They are not meant to reflect the particular features, tastes, or preferences of the deceased. Readings and Hymns may be chosen from the lists provided. Other recommendations for musical selections may be directed to the Organist, but not all recommendations may be accepted either because of their suitability to the Funeral Mass, or because of the capability of musicians.

### THE ORDER OF MASS:

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (is sung before a Hymn, or is sung by itself.)

*"Eternal rest, grant unto him (her), O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him (her)."*

ENTRANCE HYMN (is sung after the Entrance Antiphon, or omitted)

\_\_\_\_\_ or  [Omit]

#### FIRST READING

Option: \_\_\_\_\_ Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Option: \_\_\_\_\_ Sung by: The Choir

#### SECOND READING

Option: \_\_\_\_\_ Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

#### GOSPEL

Option: \_\_\_\_\_ Read by: The Priest or Deacon

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON (is sung before a Hymn)

*"Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, bear my voice.  
Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord."*

OFFERTORY HYMN (is sung after the Offertory Antiphon)

\_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (is sung before a Hymn)

*"Let perpetual light shine upon them, O Lord,  
with your Saints for ever, for you are merciful."*

COMMUNION HYMN (is sung after the Communion Antiphon)

\_\_\_\_\_

POST-COMMUNION MOTET (is sung after Communion, or omitted)

*\*depends on the availability of a soloist*

*Ave María*, Franz Schubert     *Panis Angélicus*, Cesar Frank     [Omit]

RESPONSORY AT THE COMMENDATION

*"Saints of God, come to his (her) aid, come to greet him (her) angels of the Lord:  
Receive his (her) soul, and present him (her) to God the Most High.*

*May Christ who called you, take you to Himself, may angels lead to Abraham's side:  
Receive his (her) soul, and present him (her) to God the Most High.*

*Give him (her) eternal rest, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon him (her):  
Receive his (her) soul, and present him (her) to God the Most High."*

AT THE OUTWARD PROCESSION

*"May flights of angels lead you on your way  
To paradise, and heaven's eternal day!  
May martyrs greet you after death's dark night,  
And bid you enter into Zion's light!  
May choirs of angels sing you to your rest  
With once poor Lazarus, now for ever blest!"*

OTHER DETAILS REGARDING THE MASS:

PALL BEARERS

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UNIVERSAL PRAYER (INTERCESSIONS)

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_ or  Read by the Priest

REMARKS FROM FAMILY/FRIENDS

*It is recommended that any remarks by Family or Friends be made at the Vigil or Visitation. Because many people who attend funerals take off from work, the Basilica does not allow lengthy remarks from Family or Friends before the Funeral Mass. One (1) person may provide brief (2-3 minutes) remarks prior to the Funeral Mass if this is desired.*

Made by: \_\_\_\_\_ or  [Omit]

### RITE III: The Burial Rite

*Options are not given for different forms of the Burial Rite. The priest will accompany the family to the cemetery to provide the rites of the Church. Any military honors will be arranged with the Funeral Home and communicated to the priest beforehand. These will be performed following the Burial ritual.*

#### BURIAL

\_\_\_\_\_ *Location*

PRIVATE BURIAL.

PRIVATE REPAST

*If the burial is delayed, when will it take place?* \_\_\_\_\_

#### REPAST

At the Family Life Center  
*(Food provided by the Church)*

At another location:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### INFORMATION REGARDING THE DECEASED

\_\_\_\_\_ *Full Name*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Date of Birth*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Date of Death*

#### COVER OF THE FUNERAL LEAFLET

*Families may submit a color photo of the deceased to be placed on the front cover of the Funeral Leaflet. Or, the following line drawing of the Basilica church will be used.*

