

Name of Siblings and their Spouses, City of Residence (still living):

Sibling	Spouse	City of Residence
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Funeral Home (Company Name): _____

Do you have a Will? Yes:___ No:___

If "yes", what is the name of your Executor/Executrix: _____

Contact Number for Executor/Executrix: _____

Is your Executor/Executrix aware of your wishes for a Catholic funeral? Yes:___ No:___

Have you chosen burial or cremation? _____

Are you a member of any fraternal organization who would play a role in the Funeral Liturgy? (ie: Knights of Columbus, CWL, Canadian Legion etc): _____

Following the funeral, would you like to have a reception in the parish hall? Yes:___ No:___

If "yes" would you like the Catholic Women's League to prepare it? Yes:___ No:___

Have you considered a bequest to St. Peter's Parish? (for more information on this please contact the parish office. Yes:___ No:___

Burial: When the body is to be buried, it is customary to have the body present for the Funeral Liturgy in the Church and then proceed to the cemetery. It is possible to have a Prayer Service the night before the funeral either at the funeral home, or at the Church. Should you wish the body may reside overnight in the Church.

Cremation: When the body is to be cremated, it is customary to have the body present for the Funeral Liturgy in the Church and then to say a prayerful farewell at the doors of the Church. The Church prefers the option of having the cremation take place *after* the Funeral Liturgy in order to celebrate its principal funeral rites in the presence of the body; it can then show to the body the

reverence it always has through the signs that have long been part of the Church's tradition. If the body is present for the Liturgy, it is possible to have a Prayer Service the evening before the funeral. These prayers may be offered in the funeral home or in the Church and the body left overnight. If the body is NOT to be present for the Funeral Liturgy, prayers are not offered the night before.

Do you want to have a Prayer Service the evening before the funeral Liturgy? Yes:___ No:___

Where would you like the Prayer Service to take place? Yes:___ No:___

Do you want:

A) A Mass of Christian Burial on the day of the funeral? Yes:___ No:___

B) A Liturgy of the Word Service (without Communion) on the day of the funeral? Yes:___ No:___

Will your family/Executor arrange for pallbearers? Yes:___ No:___

OR

Would you like the Knights of Columbus to assist? Yes:___ No:___

Will there be an honour guard (KofC, CWL, Legion, etc)? If "yes" – Name:_____

Where will the Burial take place? (Name & Address of the cemetery):_____

Readings for Funeral or Memorial Mass or Liturgy of the Word

(A list of possible Readings will be provided by the Parish Office. One or Two Scripture Readings, from both the Old and New Testaments as well as a Psalm may be chosen to be proclaimed before the Gospel)

Old Testament Reading (optional):_____

Reader's Name (Readers can be provided if needed):_____

Responsorial Psalm (Normally sung by the choir):_____

New Testament Reading:_____

(If only one Reading is requested, it should be from the New Testament)

Gospel Acclamation (Always sung)

Gospel Reading (chosen by the priest): _____

Music Preferences:

Gathering Hymn: _____

Preparation of the Gifts: _____

Communion: _____

Recessional Hymn: _____

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CATHOLIC FUNERALS

1. **Does the Catholic Church allow cremation?**

Answer: Yes

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 the Church affirms in those rites.

2. **What should be done with cremated remains?**

Answer: The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they came. This 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, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not reverent disposition that the Church requires. Whenever possible, appropriate means of recording with dignity the memory of the deceased should be adopted, such as a plaque or stone which records the name of the deceased.

3. **Can non-Catholics receive Communion at a Catholic Mass?**

Answer: No

As Catholics, we believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of our oneness in faith, life and worship. Members of churches with whom we are not yet fully united are therefore not ordinarily invited to participate in Holy Communion.

We welcome our fellow Christians to the celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches (e.g. Protestants) with whom we are not yet fully united ordinarily are not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the Diocesan Bishop and the provisions of Canon Law. All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another. We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and unity of the human family.

4. **Can a national flag (or other insignia) or flowers be used during a Catholic funeral?**

Answer: No

A pall will be placed over the coffin when it is received at the Church. A reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased, the pall is a sign of the Christian dignity of the person. The use of the pall also signifies that all are equal before God. Only Christian symbols (a crucifix or Bible) may rest on or be placed near the coffin during the funeral liturgy. Any other symbols, for

example, national flags, or flags or insignia of associations, have no place in the funeral liturgy. Any national flags or the flags or insignia of associations to which the deceased belonged are to be removed from the coffin at the entrance of the church. They may be replaced after the coffin has been taken from the church. Banners may be displayed in the sanctuary at the discretion of the pastor. Flowers may be displayed on appropriate stands in the sanctuary. There are to be no flowers placed on top of the pall.

5. **Can scripture readings be replaced by non-biblical readings in a Catholic funeral?**

Answer: No

In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the Word of God. The readings proclaim to the assembly the paschal mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourages the witness of Christian life. Above all, the readings tell of God's design for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called his own. In the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word at the Funeral Liturgy, the biblical readings may NOT be replaced by non-biblical readings. But during the prayer services with the family non-biblical readings may be used in addition to readings from Scripture (this is at the pastor's discretion) If the family wishes, mandated Readers will be provided by the Parish in order to ensure that readings are done reverently and in keeping with Catholic liturgy.

Music Guidelines for Catholic Funerals

Music is an important part of Catholic funeral rites. Music allows convictions and feelings to be expressed that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to strengthen the faith and hope of those present. The Hymns chosen should express the mystery of our salvation in Christ, namely, the saving power of the Lord's suffering, death and resurrection.

Funeral music should support, console, and uplift those present and help create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in the victory. Secular songs (popular/non-religious songs), even though they may have been meaningful to the deceased or the family, do not capture the Gospel message of hope nor the sacred quality of Christian worship, and so secular songs are not appropriate for funeral services. Secular songs can be more appropriate to funeral receptions. Below are some hymn titles offered for your consideration. Other appropriate selections can be made from the parish worship books which will be provided by the Parish Office. Please work with the music director in making your selections. If you have any questions please contact the parish office.

Suggested Hymns

Amazing Grace

Ave Maria

Be Not Afraid

Blest Are They
Bread of Life
Christ, Be Our Light
Come to the Water
Death Will Be No More
Eat This Bread
Eye Has Not Seen
From All That Dwells Below the Skies

Hail Mary; Gentle Woman

Hosea
How Great Thou Art
I Am The Bread of Life
I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Immaculate Mary

Isaiah 49
Jesus, Come to Us
Lead Me, Lord
Like a Shepherd
Lord of All Hopefulness
On Eagle's Wing
Only in God
Prayer to St. Francis
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Shelter Me, Oh God
Speak, Lord
The Lord in My Light
There is A Longing
This Alone
Unless a Grain of Wheat
We Will Rise Again
Yes, I Shall Arise
You Are Mine
You Are Near

Bolded Marian hymns should only be used for the closing hymn or as special music

A Note to Non-Catholics

In our society, it sometimes happens that the surviving family members of a deceased Catholic are not Catholics themselves or practice no religion at all. Our experience is that sometimes these non-Catholics come to us assuming they are free to “create” their own funeral service. When this is the case, family members need to understand some basic things about what a Catholic funeral is and how a Catholic funeral must proceed.

A Catholic funeral is an act of worship offered by the local Catholic community in union with the universal Church. Catholic funerals normally take place within a Catholic church building, since it is set aside for prayer and worship.

Our non-Catholic friends should be aware of the following: Since a Catholic funeral is an act of worship, God is always the central focus of our actions. We always listen to God’s word in the Bible. We always pray to God through his Son, Jesus Christ, who is Lord and Saviour. We always use sacred music. We always try to use musicians and singers (rather than cd’s), because the funeral, like all forms of Catholic worship, is a “work” of the Catholic community. The service is always lead by a priest or deacon. We always pray for God’s help and blessing. We always pray for the deceased person. These actions and dispositions are proper marks of true worship.

Since a Catholic funeral is an act of worship, it goes without saying that the funeral is not meant to be a form of entertainment. It is not meant to be a vehicle for the expression of personal interests. It is not meant to provide a “stage” for friends and family members. It is not meant to be a vehicle for the expression of personalized religious beliefs.

The Catholic Church has a two thousand year history. Truth, wisdom, and tradition are aspects of the great treasure of the Catholic Faith. From her great storehouse of wisdom and experience, the Church provides directions about how funerals are to be conducted. The Church directs what is to take place during a funeral service. The Church provides the texts and prayers that are to be used. These directives and texts are mandatory. It is always the duty of the priest or deacon to see to it that the Church’s norms are followed. For Catholic funerals, the priest or deacon has authority to determine what is acceptable and what is not, and he will be happy to offer guidance and suggestions.

One more thing should be noted. Catholics know that there are Christians who are not Catholic. We view baptized Christians as our brothers and sisters, and we respect them as such, but we have not yet achieved the unity of faith that all Christians hope for. Non-Catholic Christians have beliefs and practices that differ from those of the Catholic Christians. It is important to understand that at Catholic funerals, it is the Catholic faith that will be celebrated, expressed, and vocalized. Of course, non-Catholics are always welcome at Catholic funeral services. They simply need to be aware that the funeral will take place in a Catholic setting and follow a rritual based on Catholic beliefs.

When Catholic clergy are called upon to provide funeral services, they will assume that the person making the request seeks to have a funeral that is celebrated according to the Catholic beliefs and norms. They will also assume that, even if friends and family members of the deceased do not hold the Catholic Faith, they are willing to give due respect to Catholic practices and authority.