

Our Lady of Lourdes

Funeral Planning and Guidelines

1. Wake

1. The visitation may take place at the funeral home or the Church. If in the Church, it may take place either the evening before or directly before the funeral.

2. Burial or Cremation

Witnessed by simple men and women, the Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth confirmed the hope deep in the human heart that we will not be extinguished after death, that there is an eternal future for both our body and our soul.

Jesus' unique human claim about the resurrection of the body is the truth that underlies all of the Church's teachings on cremation. Because Christ has shown us this human destiny in Him, it is fitting that the Church requires that the deceased body be treated with prayerful reverence and great dignity in recognition of its glorious future.

Holy Mother Church, while allowing cremation, encourages this to take place after the funeral Mass so that all the rites of the Catholic funeral liturgy may take place with the body present.

To this day, the Catholic Church Law forbids cremation when it is chosen for reasons that are contrary to Christian teaching. These are:

- a. Cremation is implemented for the purpose of denying the resurrection of the body.
- b. The ashes of cremated Catholics are to be preserved afterwards as a body would be preserved, either in a mausoleum or buried in a Catholic cemetery which is holy grounds.
- c. Ashes are not to be scattered.
- d. Anything that is contrary to # b above, it is forbidden by the Catholic Church. You cannot decorate your living room with the ashes/urn of the dead. Nor can you keep the ashes in your basement, buried in your yard or in the yard at the cottage, and the list goes on.

3. Planning the funeral Mass

This guide is provided so that your family may choose from the options that are available at the funeral Mass and understand particular guidelines of our parish.

A. Music

At our parish, the approved instrument for liturgical music is the organ. The parish organist plays all funerals. It is also the norm for the parish cantor to sing at all funerals. If there is a desire for another cantor, this must be approved by the pastor and director of sacred music.

Choosing music for the funeral Mass can be difficult at times and the director of sacred music would be more than happy to help with selections.

Usually four hymns are used in the funeral liturgy (processional, offertory, communion, and recessional)

The selection of hymns is limited to the hymnal that we use at the current time in the parish. One main reason for this is the legal aspect, that we do not have the rights to reproduce music that is not paid for to be used in the parish. A copy of the hymnal may be picked up at the office for your use.

Hymns not found in the parish hymnal or other favorite songs can most certainly be used during the visitation or even at the reception.

B. Sacred Scripture

In choosing the readings for the funeral Mass, the Church gives approved options (listed below). Our parish provides a trained lector for each funeral. If a member of the family wishes to read at Mass, they must be an actively practicing and confirmed Catholic in good standing.

You may pick one Old Testament and one New Testament reading or simply one New Testament reading. In the Easter Season, if two readings are chosen, they both come from the New Testament. You may also choose a Gospel reading, or leave this up to the priest who will also be preaching.

Old Testament

2 Maccabees 12:43-46 "...he made atonement for the dead..."
Job 19: 1, 23-27 "...I know that my vindicator lives...."
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 "...A time to be born, a time to die..."
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 "...A time to be born, a time to die..."
Wisdom 3:1-9 "...The souls of the just are in the hand of God..."
Wisdom 3:1-6,9 "...The souls of the just are in the hand of God..."
Wisdom 4:7-14 "The Righteous One, though he die early, shall be at rest..."
Sirach 2:1-11 "...in fire gold is tested....Compassionate is the Lord..."
Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 "...he will destroy death forever..."
Isaiah 26:7-19 "...your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise..."
Isaiah 35:1-10 "...Here is your God, he comes with vindication..."
Isaiah 40:1-11 "...Here is your God, Here comes with power..."
Lamentations 3:17-26 "...My portion is the Lord, says my soul..."
Ezekiel 37:12-14 "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise..."
Daniel 12:1-3 "...the wise shall shine brightly..."
Micah 7:7-9 "...though I sit in darkness, the Lord is my light..."

New Testament

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43 "Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins"
Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36,42-43 "Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins"
Romans 5:1,5-11 "...We were reconciled to God through the death of his Son..."
Romans 5:17-21 "...through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all..."
Romans 6:3-9 "...if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall live with him..."
Romans 6:3-4,8-9 "...if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall live with him..."
Romans 8:1-11 "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ..."
Romans 8:14-23 "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are Children of God"
Romans 8:31-35,37-39 "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
Romans 14:7-9,10-12 "This is why Christ died and came to life"
1 Corinthians 2:6-10 "Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard..."
1 Corinthians 15:12-20 "If there is no resurrection of the dead..."
1 Corinthians 15:20-28 "In Adam all die, so too if Christ shall all be brought to life."
1 Corinthians 15:51-57 "Death where is your victory?"
2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1 "The one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us..."
2 Corinthians 5:1,6-10 "We would rather leave the body and go home..."
Philippians 3:7-14 "...I run toward the prize to which God calls me..."
Philippians 3:20-21 "He will change our lowly body..."
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 "If we believe that Jesus died and rose..."

2 Timothy 2:8-13 "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead..."
2 Timothy 4:1-2,6-8 "I have competed well, I have finished the race..."
1 John 3:1-2 "Beloved, we are God's children now..."
1 John 3:14-16 "We know that we have passed from death to life..."
Revelation 14:13 "...Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."
Revelation 20:11-12:1 "...The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades..."
Revelation 21:1-5a,6b-7 "...I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem..."

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12a "The Eight Beatitudes"
Matthew 11:25-30 "come to me . . . and I will give you rest."
Matthew 25:1-13 "Look. The bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him"
Matthew 25:31-46 "Come, you whom my Father has blessed"
Mark 15:33-39 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
Mark 15:33 ---16:6 "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last"
Luke 7:11-17 "Young man, I say to you, arise."
Luke 12:35-40 "Be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect,..."
Luke 23:33-43 "Today you will be with me in paradise."
Luke 23:44 ---24:6a "Father, I put my life in your hands."
Luke 23:44-49 "Father into your hands I commend my spirit"
Luke 24:13-35 "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer..."
Luke 24:13-16,28-35 "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer..."
John 5:24-29 "Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from..."
John 6:37-40 "All who believe in the Son will have eternal life..."
John 6:51-58 "All who eat this bread will live for ever...."
John 11:17-27 "I am the resurrection and the life."
John 11:21-27 "I am the resurrection and the life."
John 11:32-45 "Lazarus, come out."
John 12:23-28 "If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies..."
John 12:23-26 "If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies..."
John 14:1-6 "There are many rooms in my Father's house."
John 17:24-26 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me..."
John 19:17-30 "Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirits."

4. Words of Remembrance (Eulogies)

According to the Order of Christian Funerals, there is never to be a eulogy at a funeral Mass (OCF 27). If a family member would like to speak, this may take place at the visitation or even at the funeral luncheon provided by the parish. This provides an opportunity for all family and friends speak as desired while respecting the particular nature of the Catholic funeral rites.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the parish office.