

Message From The Pastor

March 15, 2021

The Great Importance of the Funeral Mass

“For “having been strengthened at the table of God’s word, the community calls to mind God’s saving deeds and offers the Father in the Spirit the Eucharistic sacrifice of Christ’s Passover from death to life.”

The aforementioned quote is from the Roman Ritual, *The Order of Christian Funerals*, (#154). It is the official liturgical book utilized for funeral rites in the Catholic Church. That singular sentence is worthy of some consideration.

First and foremost, when one of its members dies, the Church encourages the celebration of the Mass. “The Funerall Mass is the preferred manner for our Church “to commend the dead to God and raise high the hope of its children and to give witness to one’s own faith in the future resurrection of the baptized with Christ” (Bruno Cardinal Gut).

Second, indeed public prayers offered in the form of a funeral service at the funeral home and/or at the gravesite of the deceased are worthwhile ways of praying for the eternal rest of a loved one. However, when the choice is yours to either select them or the holy sacrifice of a funeral mass, unquestionably the latter should be selected.

Finally, if for an extraordinary reason a funeral mass cannot be celebrated for your beloved dead, (Examples: severe inclement weather; pandemic; emergency occurrence in the family), the best thing to do is reschedule the funeral mass as soon as possible, rather than simply just intern the deceased at the cemetery. Although the directors of our local funeral homes can “hold” a deceased body for at least two weeks, it is best to schedule a new funeral mass, quickly after the first was to happen. Don’t select another type of prayer service out of convenience.

Peace,
Fr. Marc