

## CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES

**"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 Word of God and the Sacrament of the Eucharist."**

(Order of Christian Funerals, no. 4)

The Catholic funeral rite is divided into several stations, or parts, each with its own purpose. For this reason, we recommend following the complete structure and making use of each station.

### **Vigil Service (Wake)**

"At the vigil, the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ's presence" (Order of Christian Funerals, no. 56). The Vigil Service usually takes place during the period of visitation and viewing at the funeral home. It is a time to remember the life of the deceased and to commend him/her to God. In prayer, we ask God to console us in our grief and give us strength to support one another.

The Vigil Service can take the form of a Service of the Word with readings from Sacred Scripture accompanied by reflection and prayers. It can also take the form of one of the prayers of the Office for the Dead from the *Liturgy of the Hours*. The clergy and your funeral director can assist in planning such service.

It is most appropriate, when family and friends are gathered together for visitation, to offer time for recalling the life of the deceased. For this reason, eulogies are to be done at the funeral home during visitation or at the Vigil Service and not at the Funeral Mass

## THE MASS, FUNERAL LITURGY

The focus of the Catholic Funeral Liturgy is God. The funeral liturgy is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased. When one of its members dies, the Church encourages the celebration of the funeral liturgy at a Mass. When Mass cannot be celebrated, a funeral liturgy outside Mass can be celebrated at the church or in the funeral home.

The Church praises God for His goodness and for the gifts of life and love, which He bestows and are experienced by the deceased at the funeral liturgy. The Church gathers with the family and friends of the deceased to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, to commend the deceased to God's tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery. *The funeral liturgy, therefore, is an act of worship, and not merely an expression of grief.*

The Funeral Mass is always celebrated in the church. A Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass may be celebrated at the funeral home-the rite remains the same with the exception that the Liturgy of the Eucharist is omitted.

We would like to kindly remind that we as Catholic believe in the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, Holy Communion, therefore communion is for Catholics in good standing.

We encourage a modest proper attire to attend the Funeral Mass.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD (Scripture Readings at funeral liturgies)**

There is a reading from the Old Testament followed by a Responsorial Psalm, which always is to be sung by the cantor followed, by a reading from the New Testament as well as the Gospel. The family is invited to choose from among the designated selections of readings (See readings File) for the First and Second Reading as well as the psalm.

The family may appoint a person to do the First and Second Reading. We strongly encourage that the persons who will be reading not only read but Proclaim the Word Of God by reading slow, clear and with purpose. The Gospel is normally chosen by the Presider and is proclaimed by the Priest or Deacon.

## **FUNERAL LITURGICAL MUSIC.**

The Sacred Mass from beginning to end is a prayer. That is why the Church says that all music used in its liturgy (The work of Jesus done by the people through prayer, ritual and sacrifice within the Mass) should be easily identifiable as prayer. Liturgical music is defined as church music or sacred music that complements and enhances The Mass and aids to prayer, meditation and offering

"Sacred music must be holy, and must therefore exclude all profanity and secularism (Popular Music), not only from itself but also from the manner in which those who execute it present it. Each Music Selection must come from a Christian Catholic Composer (Other music selection could be open for approval)

Music plays an important part in the funeral liturgy and adds great beauty and solemnity to the prayers of the Church. San Fernando Cathedral will provide the musician and cantor. The family may bring their own musicians but these need to be approved by The Director of Music Ministries, Juan Carlos Paz, before the funeral day

The family may choose four hymns (gathering, preparation, communion, and departure) and a responsorial psalm. A list of hymns and responsorial psalms will be provided.

## Approved liturgical Funeral Music

Once you choose the four hymns needed for the Mass we can place them in their proper liturgical sections.

- I Know that my Redeemer Lives (Soper)
- I am the Bread of Life (Toolan)
- Be not Afraid (Dufford)
- You satisfy the Hungry Heart (Westendorf)
- Pastures of the Lord (Stephan)
- We will rise Again (Haas)
- You are Mine (Haas)
- Bread of Life (Cooney)
- Song of the Body of Christ (Haas)
- Eye Has not Seen (Haugen)
- You are near (Schutte)
- Blest are They (Haas)
- Amazing Grace
- Make me a Channel of your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis)
- Salve Regina
- Hail Mary Gentle Woman
- Ave Maria
- Because the Lord is my Shepherd (Walker)
- Ye Watchers And Ye Holy Ones (Riley)
- Jesus Remember Me
- Hosea (Norbet)
- The Summons (Bell)
- The Supper of the Lord (Rosania)
- The King of Love my Shepherd is (Baker)
- Lord of all Hopefulness (Slane)
- Deep Within (Haas)
- Carry Me Home (Alstott)
- Only This I Want (Schutte)
- Shelter me o God (Hurd)
- Sheoherd me o God (Haugen)
- This Alone (Manion)
- Panis Angelicus (Sacred Solemnis)
- I am the Living Bread (Haas)
- One Bread One Body (Foley)
- Sacred Silence (Booth)
- Seed, Scattered and Sown (Feiten)