

St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish

www.st-cyril.org • 818.986.8234 • parish+funeral@st-cyril.org

FUNERAL PLANNING AND PREPARATIONS

A CATHOLIC FUNERAL, LIKE ALL FUNERALS, IS A TIME OF SADNESS AND MOURNING. HOWEVER, IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH THERE IS JOY IN THE BELIEF THAT A FUNERAL REPRESENTS THE PASSING OF THE BELOVED INTO ETERNAL LIFE. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS MANY TRADITIONS CONCERNING FUNERALS AND FUNERAL PREPARATION.

THE THREE COMPONENTS OF THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL

THE VIGIL/ROSARY

The Catholic Vigil is a prayer service, usually held the evening before the funeral. The Vigil is led by a priest, deacon or lay person. The community of friends and family will gather for a service at the funeral home or the church. The vigil includes scriptures and prayer for both the deceased and the grieving family in comfort and hope in the face of darkness and death. The Rosary or a portion of it may be included in the Vigil Service. Also, a eulogy may be read at the Vigil instead of at the funeral service.

THE FUNERAL LITURGY/ FUNERAL MASS

The centerpiece of the Catholic Funeral is the Funeral Mass. It consists of several elements. The Eucharist is almost always performed. This is the ceremony at the center of the Catholic faith - the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Sacrifice of the Mass is offered for the deceased person. Prayer also plays a prominent role in the Catholic Funeral Mass, along with songs, hymns and a brief message.

RITE OF COMMITTAL/ INTERMENT

The Rite of Committal is the conclusion of the funeral. It is led by a Priest, Deacon or lay person. It is celebrated beside the grave, crypt or niche. In committing the body or cremated remains to its resting place the Community proclaims its hope that the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection of the body.

CREMATION

The 1983 Code of Canon Law clarifies the Church's stand on cremation in Canon 1176, "The Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead be observed, it does not however, forbid cremation unless it has been chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching." Cremation is prohibited only if the person choosing cremation does so to deny Christian teachings, especially those of the resurrection of the dead and the immortality of the soul. The church strongly prefers that cremation takes place after the full Funeral Liturgy where the body is present, for "This is the body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the bread of life." When this is not possible it is appropriate that the cremated remains be present for the Funeral Mass. The cremated remains are to be buried or placed in a mausoleum. Scattering cremated remains at sea, from the air, on the ground or keeping them at home is not the reverent disposition that the Church asks.

VIEWING THE BODY

This practice is highly encouraged, because it helps remove doubts that the loved one has truly died. The body should be viewed at the funeral home. At the time of the Mass of Christian Burial the casket is closed. However, viewing may take place in the atrium/entryway of the church prior to the Mass. If the Vigil/Rosary is held in the Church, viewing can take place in the church before and after the Vigil Service.

FUNERAL MASS AND VIGIL TIMES

Vigil/Rosary Services usually begin at 7:00 PM Funeral Masses generally will begin at 10:00 AM, 10:30 AM or 11:00 AM Mass is not offered earlier due to daily Mass. This should be coordinated between your funeral director and the Church.

LITURGY MUSIC AND GUIDELINES

Roman Catholic Church, guidelines for Sacred Music in the Catholic Liturgy are to be followed. When the date/time has been set and confirmed, the Parish secretary will contact with William Beck, *Organist/Director of Music*. He will review, coordinate and direct all music and/ or musician(s) involvement with the Vigil/Rosary and/or Funeral Mass.

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

There is no “charge” for the Funeral Mass; we suggest a minimum offering donation of a \$250.00 Church facilities fee for registered active families (6 months). This offering will cover the cost of the maintenance of a large church and usage of the utilities, custodial costs, your sacramental preparation, the rehearsal and the day of the ceremony. This offering donation DOES NOT include the stipend for the Parish Priest/Deacon (*Discuss with Parish Office Secretary for Suggested Offering Donation*), altar server(s), music, flowers or decorations. Your donation is a gift to the Church and your generosity is greatly appreciated by the Parish Community. If one feels he or she cannot offer this much, the situation may be discussed with the Priest.

Most funeral directors itemize all costs within their billings. This is something that should be discussed with them. Included should be payments for these services:

Suggested Minimum Offering Donations for Services:

Altar Server(s)	\$ 15.00	each
Organist/ Director of Music	\$ 200.00	WILLIAM BECK- (310) 475-2693
Vocalist/Cantor	\$ 200.00	
Church Facilities Fee	\$ 250.00	Registered Active Families
Priest/Deacon Stipend	TBD	Discuss with Parish Office

* *Financial arrangements for the above services are made and payable directly with each of the above service provider(s).*

** *The above suggested Minimum Offering Donations for services are subject to change. Please check with the appropriate provider for current Minimum Offering Donations.*

GENERAL ORDER OF ALL SERVICES

VIGIL/ROSARY ORDER

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Greeting
- Optional Opening Song
- Invitation to Prayer
- Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- First Reading (*you may choose one*)
- Responsorial Psalm (*if there are musicians present, this should be sung*)
- There is no second reading at a Vigil
- Gospel (*you may choose one*)
- Homily (*done by the priest*)

PRAYING OF THE ROSARY

- The Lord's Prayer
- Concluding Prayer
- Eulogy (*you may choose to have members of the family or friends speak briefly about the deceased.*)

CONCLUDING RITE

- Blessing
- Optional Closing Song

FUNERAL MASS ORDER

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Greeting
- Sprinkling the Casket with Holy Water
- Placing of the Pall (*sometimes done by family members and handed to the family by the funeral director*)
- Opening Song
- Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- First Reading (*taken from the Old Testament*)
- Psalm (*sung by cantor*)
- Second Reading (*taken from the New Testament*)
- Gospel Reading (*from the Scripture list*)
- Intercessions/Petitions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Christians are Baptized into the Paschal Mystery of Christ's death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sin and fullness of salvation. This mystery is celebrated in every Mass, remembering Christ's loving deed and giving thanks and praise to God. The celebration reaches its high point as the priest concludes the Eucharistic Prayer, lifting up the vessels containing the Body and Blood of Christ.
- **Offertory/Presentation** of Gifts song (*usually a solo*)
Gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar table (*by members of the deceased family if they so choose*), and everything is prepared for the celebration.
- **Preparation of the Gifts & Altar**
Communion Song (*solo or congregation*)
(*Communion ministers from the parish will assist in the distribution of Holy Communion.*)
Optional Meditational Song
Optional Eulogy (*You may have members of the family or friends speak briefly about the deceased.*)

FINAL COMMENDATION

- Invitation to Prayer
- Silence
- Song of
- Prayer of Commendation
- Closing Song
- Procession to the Place of Committal (*to the cemetery*)

RITE OF COMMITTAL ORDER

- Invitation
- Scripture Verse
- Prayer over the Place of Committal
- Committal
- Intercessions
- The Lord's Prayer
- Concluding Prayer

"It is my Father's Will that whoever sees the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life,
and that I should raise that person up on the last day."

~John 6:40

The foregoing information was been assembled for your convenience to answer some of the usual questions asked by those planning a funeral and to help you understand the planning and preparation processes of Catholic Funeral, as well as St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact the Parish Office at email: parish+funeral@st-cyril.org -or- phone: 818-986-8234

CONTACT INFORMATION

ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM PARISH

PARISH OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS: ... 4601 Firmament Avenue
Encino, CA 91436

CHURCH LOCATION ADDRESS: ... 15520 Ventura Boulevard
Encino, CA 91436

PARISH OFFICE PHONE: ... 818- 986.8234

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS: ... parish+funeral@st-cyril.org

PARISH EMAIL WEBSITE: ... st-cyril.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST:
William Beck: ... 310- 475.2693
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NOTES: