



Mary Our Queen Church

Pre-planning your funeral liturgy

Planning a funeral is a difficult time for everyone involved. Taking the steps to plan your own funeral allows you to take an active role in the liturgy, as well as provide your family with less difficult and complicated decisions to make during such an emotional time.

The following is an outline of things to be considered when planning a funeral. Please take time to read through it and familiarize yourself with all the elements.

Also included in this packet are suggested scripture readings, responsorial psalms, and songs for use in your liturgy.

Once you have decided on these elements of the funeral liturgy, please fill out the funeral planning worksheet. Please keep a copy of the completed form in your possession, with any other final documents. You are also encouraged to send a copy of the form to Mary Our Queen Church, Department of Music and Liturgy. We will keep your plan on file. When the time arises, we will be prepared to meet with your loved ones and share your wishes with them. You may feel free to update your plan at any time.

The most common form of the Catholic funeral has the following elements:

1. Vigil service with either the body or cremated remains present.
2. Funeral Mass or service with either the body or cremated remains present.
3. Graveside service with burial of the body or cremated remains.

Another option is a Memorial Mass or service with no remains present. This can take place close to the time of death, or at another time convenient for the gathering of friends and family.

VIGIL SERVICE

1. Prayer service (suitable for congregations of mixed faiths)
2. Prayer service with rosary (suitable for congregations of mixed faiths)
3. Rosary alone – usually five decades of the rosary (suitable where most of the congregation are Catholic)

The vigil service may be held at the funeral home or the church. Vigils may be led by a priest or deacon. The vigil is the best time to have memorials and eulogies, as well as secular music and readings, such as poems.

FUNERAL MASS

1. Funeral Mass with body or cremated remains present.
2. Memorial Mass (no remains present) The memorial Mass is held in church just like a funeral Mass, but no remains are present.

OUTLINE OF A FUNERAL MASS

Introductory Rites*

The Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm (sung)
- Second Reading
- Gospel Reading
- Homily
- Prayers of the Faithful

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- The Offertory* (Bread and wine are brought to the altar)
- The Eucharistic Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer and The Peace
- Communion*

Final Commendation and Farewell

- The remains are sprinkled with holy water and honored with incense and the pall is removed.*
- Recessional*

*Hymns and solos may be inserted at these points

Incorporating Family

We encourage family members and friends to take part in the Liturgy. You may wish to think of people from your family and friends who can:

- Read the 1st reading
- Read the 2nd reading
- Read the Prayers of the Faithful
- Bring forward the gifts of bread and wine

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Tributes and eulogies

Individual tributes should be reserved for the vigil service the evening before the day of the Funeral Mass or for a reception following. During the homily, the priest will preach on the gospel you have chosen and make specific references to the deceased.

Memorial Gifts

You may wish to encourage friends and family to make Memorial Gifts to Mary Our Queen. These gifts are received in the name of the one who has died, and the immediate family is notified of these gifts. Memorial gifts may be used for the general needs of the church, or may be designated for one or more specific purposes. If you wish to have Memorial Gifts made, it will be indicated in the funeral program.

MUSIC

Music is an important part of ritual, and we encourage families to make full use of the Church's rich tradition and the parish's musical resources.

Music before and after the Mass

Music for all liturgies is under the direction of the Director of Music and Liturgy, Renée Spicka. Music can provide a quiet and prayerful atmosphere at the beginning of the service, when mourners are likely to be upset and in need of a calming atmosphere. At the end of the Mass, it is good to have some uplifting and reassuring music.

Soloists and Choirs

Many people like to have a solo sung. We recommend that one of our skilled cantors lead the singing of the Psalm and the Eucharistic music, and sing one or more of the many appropriate solos that you may choose. It is also possible for one of our choirs to sing. Our Director of Music will be pleased to advise you on this and help with choices.

Recorded Music

We recognize the importance of certain recorded songs. Recorded music may be proper at a vigil service or at a reception but not during Mass.