



**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS**

**FOR**

**CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH**

# **CELEBRATION OF THE FUNERAL LITURGY**

The Order of Christian Funerals is celebrated in three stations: the Vigil for the Deceased, the Funeral Liturgy, and the Rite of Committal.

## **The Vigil for the Deceased at the Funeral Home**

As its name implies, the Vigil is generally celebrated the night before the Funeral. The Vigil service is typically brief, consisting of Opening Prayers, a proclamation of Sacred Scripture, and intercessions for the deceased. Sacred music may also be a part of this service. If secular music or a eulogy is requested, these take place after the completion of the Vigil Rite.

## **The Funeral in the Church**

At the Funeral Liturgy the community gathers with the family and friends of the deceased to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death and to commend the deceased to God's tender mercy and compassion.

The funeral may take place in the context of Mass, or if held at the Funeral Home during a Liturgy of the Word that is not Mass. The church is the place where the community of faith gathers for worship. Therefore, it is best that the funeral rites take place in the church.

In the act of bringing the body to the church, the members of the community acknowledge the deceased as one of their own, as one who was welcomed in Baptism and who held a place in the assembly. Through the use of various baptismal symbols we show the reverence due the body, the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Any national flags or insignia of associations to which the deceased belonged are to be removed from the coffin at the entrance of the church. This allows the baptismal symbols and gestures to become evident.

The Paschal Candle is lit and placed at the front of the church near the coffin or urn. The candle reminds us of the light of Christ, given to us at Baptism.

Sprinkling the body with Holy Water recalls the pouring of water in the baptismal celebration to wash away our sin.

Placing the pall over the coffin recalls the "white garment" we were given at Baptism as a sign of putting on a new life in Christ.

Later, the body of the deceased is incensed as a sign of respect for the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit.

## **The Rite of Committal at the Cemetery**

In committing the body to its resting place, the community expresses the hope that, with “all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith”, the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection. The Rite of Committal is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of the deceased. It may be celebrated at the grave.

This Rite includes prayers offered for blessing of the ground (if held at a non-Catholic cemetery), disposition of the body and for the consolation of those gathered. If military honors are offered, they are done following the completion of the Rite.

## **SACRED SCRIPTURE IN THE FUNERAL RITES**

At the Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, and Rite of Committal, scriptural passages are read. The Catholic Church does not permit substituting other sources of literature for these readings. Poetry or excerpts from literature are appropriately read at the funeral home following the Vigil or at a later time when the family is gathered.

If they so desire, the family may choose an Old Testament reading from those listed at the end of this booklet to be read at the funeral. If, however, the funeral is held during the Easter Season the reading is set by the Church from the New Testament.

## **FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH**

Casket sprays are removed before the casket is brought into the church. They may be replaced at the end of the funeral. Flowers may be brought from the funeral home or sent directly to the church. They will be placed so as not to obscure the altar, pulpit, tabernacle, or block passage of ministers in the sanctuary.

Very few flowers should be brought into the church during Advent or Lent. When the church is decorated for Christmas or Easter, other flowers may seem redundant. You may wish not to bring them to the church during these times.

## **SCHEDULING A FUNERAL MASS**

Here in Corpus Christi Parish Funerals are scheduled for either 9:00am or 11:00am, Monday through Saturday. Funeral Masses are NOT permitted on:

Sundays at any time

Holy Days of Obligation

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday

Funeral services apart from Mass can be scheduled on most days of the year.

## OTHER LITURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

**Placing of the Pall:** A funeral pall will be draped over the casket at the beginning of the Funeral Mass. The Pall reminds us of the white garment given at Baptism symbolizing our life in Christ.

**Presentation of Offertory Gifts:** Two persons (family members or friends who are Catholics in good standing) may bring forward the bread and wine at the Offertory Procession during the funeral Mass. The bread and wine will be located on a table near the entrance to the church. Each person carries one item from there to the priest who will be standing by the casket.

**Holy Communion:** Catholics do not practice inter-communion with the members of other Christian communities. Catholics in the state of grace are encouraged to receive communion. Others may come forward for a blessing, indicating their desire to do so by crossing their arms across their chest.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Those who are alienated from the Church, from God, or from family members or friends, may wish to become reconciled. The priest will be happy to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation available to those who request it.

**Eulogy:** A traditional Eulogy is not part of the Rite of Christian Funerals. We do, however, allow *one* person to speak in remembrance of the deceased. This sharing follows the Communion Rite. The reflection should focus on the faith of the deceased as well as their relationships with family and friends. We require it to be no more than 2-5 minutes long and written down.

**Music for the Funeral Rites:** Music in the Funeral Rites allows the community to express its convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey. It has the power to console and uplift mourners and to strengthen the unity of the assembly.

If they so desire, the family may request a liturgical song to be included in the Funeral Rites chosen from those listed at the end of this booklet. All music that will take place during the Funeral Mass will be played and sung by Parish Musicians. If the family would like a musician/singer from outside Corpus Christi Parish to offer a liturgical music piece it will take place before the Funeral Mass as a prelude. Secular, national, or ethnic songs, as well as recorded music in any form, are not permitted during the Funeral. Their proper place is after the Vigil service or at a family celebration.

## CREMATION IN THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITE

The Church prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites. The long-standing practice of burying the body in a grave or tomb in imitation of the burial of Jesus' body is encouraged as a sign of our Christian faith. When the choice has been made to cremate a body, it is recommended that the cremation take place after the Funeral Rite.

The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they came. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. Scattering of ashes is not the reverent disposition the Church requires.

If cremated remains are brought to the church for the Funeral Rite, a small table or stand is prepared at the place normally occupied by the coffin. The vessel may be carried to its place during the entrance procession or may be placed on the table or stand before the liturgy begins.

## OPTIONS FOR SACRED SCRIPTURE

If desired, you may choose one of the following readings.

READING A—Job 19:1, 23-27

A reading from the book of Job

Job answered and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead  
they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,  
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

my own eyes, not another's shall behold him;

And from my flesh I shall see God;  
my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The Word of the Lord

READING B—Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;  
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew;  
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. I recognized that there is nothing better than to be glad and do well during life. For every man, moreover, to eat and drink and enjoy the fruit of all his labor is a gift of God.

The Word of the Lord.

READING C—Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts  
will provide for all peoples.  
On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,  
The web that is woven over all nations;  
he will destroy death forever.  
The Lord God will wipe away  
the tears from all faces;  
The reproach of his people he will remove  
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:  
“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!  
This is the Lord for whom we looked;  
Let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The Word of the Lord.

READING D—Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.  
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.  
But they are in peace.  
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;  
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them  
and found them worthy of himself.  
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.  
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:  
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

READING E—Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace,  
I have forgotten what happiness is;  
I tell myself my future is lost,  
all that I hoped for from the Lord.

The thought of my homeless poverty  
is wormwood and gall;  
Remembering it over and over  
leaves my soul downcast within me.  
But I will call this to mind,  
as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,  
his mercies are not spent;  
They are renewed each morning,  
so great is his faithfulness.  
My portion is the Lord, says my soul;  
therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,  
to the soul that seeks him;  
It is good to hope in silence  
for the saving help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

READING F—Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the prophet Daniel

“At that time there shall arise  
Michael, the great prince,  
guardian of your people;  
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress  
since nations began until that time.  
At that time your people shall escape,  
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep  
in the dust of the earth shall awake;  
Some shall live forever,  
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.  
But the wise shall shine brightly  
like the splendor of the firmament,  
And those who lead the many to justice  
shall be like the stars forever.”

The Word of the Lord.

READING G—Revelation 21:1a, 3-5a

*During the Easter Season (from Easter Sunday through Pentecost) this is the only option for readings*

A reading from the book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.”

The one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.  
The Word of the Lord

## **FUNERAL MUSIC SELECTIONS**

If you wish, you may choose **one** of the following songs to be sung at the funeral Mass. The music director will choose the remaining songs.

**Amazing Grace**

**Ave Maria**

**Be Not Afraid**

**How Great Thou Art**

**Prayer of St. Francis**

**I Am the Bread of Life**

**Panis Angelicus**

**J’irai La Voir Un Jour**

## PLANNING THE FUNERAL

1. You may select **one** Scripture reading from those listed on the previous pages, if you wish. You are not required to choose a reading.

Please circle **one** letter which corresponds to the reading of your choice.

A    B    C    D    E    F    G

A family member or friend may read the scripture selection but they should be able to proclaim the scripture reading with composure.

This will be read by: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Prayer of the Faithful may be read by a family member or friend, if you wish. You are not required to choose someone for this reading. This prayer can be found later in this booklet.

The Prayer of the Faithful will be read by: \_\_\_\_\_

3. If the funeral takes place during Mass, if you wish the bread and wine may be presented to the priest by two persons who normally receive communion. You do not have to choose anyone for this ministry.

The bread and wine will be presented by: \_\_\_\_\_

4. You may select **one** song from those listed previously, if you wish. You are not required to choose any songs.

We would like the following song to be sung at the funeral: \_\_\_\_\_

5. You may choose **one** person to speak in remembrance of the deceased. This memorial should follow all guidelines as previously listed in this booklet.

The person who will speak is: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this completed form to the Funeral Director or the Parish Priest*

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL AT THE FUNERAL**

**Priest:** God, the almighty Father, raised Christ His Son from the dead; with confidence we ask Him to save all his people, living and dead.

**Reader:**

For \_\_\_\_\_, who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she may now be admitted to the company of the saints. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer. (People will respond after each petition.)

**Reader:**

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:**

For our deceased relatives and friends, and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:**

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:**

For the family and friends of our brother/sister \_\_\_\_\_, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:**

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Priest:** God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters. Cleanse them of their sins, and grant them fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen