

Music: A separate handout is available for music at the funeral Mass. It may be helpful to think about seasonal music that you would like to include, for example if the funeral is during the Advent/Christmas or Lenten/Easter seasons. Popular/secular music, including recorded music, is not permitted.

Universal Prayer: A prayer is typically included for those in the family who are living and another for those who are deceased. Providing these names on the funeral planning sheet will be helpful.

Liturgical Ministers at the Funeral Mass: The parish may provide liturgical ministers for the Funeral Mass, such as lectors, cantors, altar servers, extraordinary ministers of holy communion. Family members or friends who are trained in these roles may function provided they are emotionally able to carry out their liturgical ministry.

It is most appropriate for family members to present the gifts. Only the bread, wine, or other gifts that have been collected for the Church or the poor are to be brought forward.

Options

Visitation in the Church: Visitation in the Church prior to the Funeral Mass provides an opportunity for friends to share condolences and immediately thereafter attend the Funeral Mass. When Visitation is held in the Church, the rosary is not prayed beforehand.

Tribute Videos: If your family has made arrangements with the funeral home for a tribute video, this can be played in the church during visitation.

Live Streaming: All Masses at All Saints are typically live streamed. This is very helpful for family and friends who live at a distance or who are unable to attend in person. It is, however, the family's choice to live stream the Funeral Mass. A copy of the live streamed Funeral Mass will also be provided to the family at a later date.

Funeral Luncheons: It is customary that a luncheon is provided after the Funeral Liturgy. This provides an opportunity to share a meal as well as memories of your loved one.

Next Steps:

- Discuss your wishes and your Funeral Mass plans with your family.
- Keep a copy of your plans in your home.
- Share a copy of your plans with the parish, which will be kept on file.

Pre-Planning Your Funeral Mass

*All Saints
Catholic Community*



Funeral Masses

The celebration of the Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. While proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and witnessing to Christian hope in the resurrection, the funeral rites also recall to all who take part in them God's mercy and judgement and meet the human need to always turn to God in times of crisis.--*Order of Christian Funerals, No. 7*

This brochure contains helpful information for funeral planning and is an abridged version of the Guidelines for Funeral Masses from the Diocese of Toledo with some information specific to our parish.

The Obituary: Kindly use the Church's terminology, such as "Funeral Mass" instead of "Mass of Resurrection," "Memorial Mass," or "Mass of Christian Burial."

Flowers: Fresh flowers, used in moderation, can enhance the setting of the funeral rites. Flowers arranged near the altar should not impede the celebrant's ability to incense the altar by walking closely around it. Flowers are not used to decorate the altar during Lent.

Choice of Day: A funeral Mass may be celebrated on any day except:

- Holy Days of Obligation
- Thursday of Holy Week
- The Triduum
- The Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter

Rosary and Other Devotionals: If the deceased held a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary or the Sacred Heart, etc., it is most fitting that the rosary or other devotional prayers or litanies be recited prior to the Funeral Mass.

Words of Remembrance: Words of Remembrance take place prior to the beginning of the Funeral Mass. Kindly allot no longer than three minutes for these remembrances and share them with the pastor at least the day before the Funeral Mass.

Christian Symbol: Only Christian symbols may rest on or be placed near the casket during the funeral liturgy. Any national flags or the flags or insignia of associations to which the deceased belonged are to be removed from the casket at the entrance of the church. For your consideration: Use a crucifix that hangs in your home or a prayer book that is particularly meaningful to you.

Regarding the Body and Cremation: Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values, which the Church affirms in those rites.

Disposition of Ashes: The ashes of the faithful "must be laid to rest" in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery, or in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose.

The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition.

It is not permitted for the ashes of the deceased to be separated and distributed or conserved in a domestic residence nor be scattered in the "air, on land, at sea" or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects.

Donation of the Body for Scientific Purposes:

There is no objection to Catholics making prior arrangements to donate their bodies or parts of them to advance medical science. The only limitation is that, upon eventual disposition of the body or its parts, there is some reasonable assurance that the remains will be interred in a proper, reverential manner.

Readings: There are a number of choices for each of the scripture readings for the Funeral Mass. You will need to pick one each of the following:

- Old Testament Reading
- New Testament Reading
- Gospel Reading

Of note, during the Easter season, the Old Testament Reading is replaced with one of the Easter Season readings. Also, there are special readings for the funeral of a child.