

## What can we do?

"In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity. Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just."

### **PRAYING**

"The Church through its funeral rites commends the dead to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins. At the funeral rites, especially at the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice, the Christian community affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one communion of saints. Though separated from the living, the dead are still one with community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and intercession. At the rite of final commendation and farewell, the community acknowledges the reality of separation and commends the deceased to God. In this way it recognizes the spiritual bond that still exists between the living and the dead and proclaims its belief that all the faithful will be raised up and reunited in the new heavens and a new earth, where death will be no more."

### **COMFORTING**

"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 judgment and meet the human need to turn always to God in times of crisis... 'If one member suffers in the body of Christ which is the Church, all the members suffer with that member' (*I Corinthians 12:26*). For this reason, those who are baptized into Christ and nourished at the same table of the Lord are responsible for one another.... when a member of Christ's body dies, the faithful are called to a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of one whom they love .... The Church calls each member of Christ's Body -- priest, deacon, layperson -- to participate in the ministry of consolation: to care for the dying, to pray for the dead, to comfort those who mourn. "

### **SHOULDERING**

"Members of the community should console the mourners with words of faith and support and with acts of kindness, for example, assisting them with some of the routine tasks of daily living. The community's principal involvement in the ministry of consolation is expressed in its active participation in the celebration of the funeral rites, particularly the vigil for the deceased, the funeral liturgy, and the rite of committal. In the celebration of the funeral rites, laymen and laywomen may serve as readers, musicians, ushers, pallbearers and, according to existing norms, as special ministers of the eucharist.

*The quotes above are from the Order of Christian Funerals,*

## Some commonly asked questions

### **Why do we celebrate the funeral rites?**

In the funeral rites we pray for the deceased, entrusting them to God's mercy and care. We honor the body. We comfort the living in their grief. We celebrate the funeral rites not only for the dead but also for the living.

### **Is cremation permitted by the Catholic Church?**

Since 1963, the Church has permitted cremation as long as the Church's teaching on the resurrection of the body is upheld.

### **How are the rites celebrated for someone who chooses cremation?**

The Church prefers that the body be present for the Funeral Liturgy and cremated following the Final Commendation of the Liturgy. If there is a serious reason, it may be possible to celebrate the Funeral Liturgy in the presence of cremated remains.

### **What rites can be used for miscarried or stillborn infants?**

"Funeral Rites may be celebrated for children whose parents intended them to be baptized but who died before Baptism. In these celebrations the Christian community entrusts the child to God's all-embracing love." (Order of Christian Funeral #237)

### **What rites can be used for a suicide victim?**

This person is entrusted to God's love and mercy and is therefore entitled to the usual Funeral Rites.

### **What is done for a lapsed Catholic?**

By virtue of Baptism this person is entitled to the prayers of the Church including the Funeral Rites.

### **What is the proper place for the Funeral Rites?**

The Vigil service is celebrated in the presence of the body either in the funeral home or the Parish Church the night before. The Funeral Mass is always celebrated in the Church. The Committal Rite is preferably celebrated at the grave or the tomb.

### **Why do we recommend viewing in the Church before the funeral?**

Gathering at the Church before the Funeral Mass begins allows family and friends a time to console one another, to say final goodbyes, and to enter into the spirit of prayer.

### **What is the Rite of Committal?**

The Rite of Committal is the third station of the Catholic funeral liturgy, after the Vigil (*usually the day or night before the funeral*) and the Funeral Mass (*or Funeral Liturgy outside Mass*). It is normally celebrated at the site of burial.

The rite begins with an Invitation to prayer, followed by a Scripture Verse. Then comes the Prayer over the Place of Committal. Next the Committal itself. Then come the Intercessions, the Lord's Prayer, a Concluding Prayer, the Prayer over the People, the final blessing, depending on whether the minister is a cleric or not, and a dismissal.

A song may conclude the rite. Where it is the custom, some sign or gesture of leave-taking may be made.

### **Why is the grave or tomb the preferred site for the Rite of Committal?**

The grave or tomb is preferred because the prayers from the ritual express clearly the finality of placing the body in the ground or in the tomb.

# Order of Christian Funerals

Has three principal parts: the Vigil for the Deceased; the Funeral Mass or the Funeral Liturgy outside Mass; the Rite of Committal.

## **VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED**

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting  
Opening Song  
Invitation to Prayer  
Opening Prayer

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Scripture Readings with Responsorial Psalm  
Homily

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Litany  
The Lord's Prayer  
Concluding Prayer (A family member or friend may speak in remembrance of the deceased.)

### CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing  
Song and/or a few minutes of silent prayer

## **FUNERAL MASS**

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting & Sprinkling with Holy Water , Placing of the Pall (and Christian Symbols)  
Entrance Procession  
Song  
Opening Prayer

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Scripture Readings with Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation  
Homily  
General Intercessions

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts  
Eucharistic Prayer  
Communion Rite

### FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation to Prayer  
Song of Farewell and Incense  
Prayer of Commendation

## PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITAL

### RITE OF COMMITAL

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

### **Concluding Prayer**

Prayer over the People

## SUGGESTED READINGS

### **Old Testament**

*Job 19:1, 23-27 ; Wisdom 3:1-9 ; Wisdom 4:7-15 ; Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 ; Lamentations 3:17-26 ; Daniel 12:1-3 ; 2 Maccabees 12:43-46 ;*

### **New Testament**

*Acts 10:34-43 ; Romans 5:5-11 Romans 5:17-21 ; Romans 6:3-9 ; Romans 8:14-23 ;Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12 ; I Corinthians 15:20-23, 24b-28 ; I Corinthians 15:51-57 ; 2 Corinthians 4:14 -5:1; 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 ; Philippians 3:20-21 ; I Thessalonians 4:13-18 ; 2 Timothy 2:8-13 ;I John 3:1-2 I John 3:14-16 ; Revelation 14:13 ; Revelation 20:11 - 21:1 ; Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7*

### **Gospel**

Matthew 5:1-12a ; Matthew 11:25-30 ; Matthew 25:1-13 ;Mathew 25:31-46; Mark 15:33-39, 16:1-6  
Luke 7:11-17 ; Luke 12:35-40 ; Luke 23:33, 39-43 ; Luke 23: 44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a ; Luke 24:13-35  
John 5:24-29 ; John 6:37-40; John 6:51-58 ; John 11: 17-27; John 11:32-45

If you decide to chose some of the reading please be sure to communicate them at the Priest or minister at the moment of the wake. To do it in the morning of the funeral would not be proper.

For the music please keep in mind that only Catholic Church Music is allowed. In Case of a Service Man or Woman to play Taps before the final commendation may be appropriate.

No secular Music will be allowed. Please be sure to have your personal requests forwarded to the Parish the Morning of the day preceding the Funeral Mass.



I have hoped  
in you,  
O LORD,  
I have said  
You are my  
GOD,  
my life is in  
your hands

**FUNERAL INFORMATION SHEET**  
**HOLY REDEEMER PARISH**  
**OFFICE 569 65<sup>TH</sup> ST., WNY NJ 07093 ~ TEL 201.8689444**

Funeral Home \_\_\_\_\_

Address & Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Funeral \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_  
*Call the Parish for hour*

Wake ( Dates and Hours) \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_ Language \_\_\_\_\_

Name Of the deceased \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of death \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin & /or other family members \_\_\_\_\_

Special request Music or others \_\_\_\_\_

Request procession for the gifts yes  no  ( two or three people can participate).

Member of any specific Group or Society \_\_\_\_\_

Would the Family Like to be visited \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_

**N.B.** **An eulogy** is not allowed in Church by Archdiocesan Policy. Eulogy may be offered at the funeral home. A short introduction may be offered by a member of the family, but only before the entrance of the casket in Church.

**The music** will be provided by Deacon Peter Basch, Parish Director of Music. In no circumstances secular songs will be allowed to be sung in Church during the Celebration of the Liturgy.

If any member of the family desire to participate in reading one of the readings the person **needs to be an instituted Lector in his/her own parish.**