

The Order of the Mass of Christian Burial

Introductory Rites

Greeting - The priest, ministers and the assembly greet the body at the entrance (vestibule) of the Church.

Sprinkling with Holy Water - After all have gathered, the body is blessed with holy water that reminds us of the saving waters of baptism.

Placing of the Pall -A white cloth or "pall " is unfolded and laid over the casket at the beginning of Mass. This cloth symbolizes the baptismal garment of our Catholic faith. Family members are encouraged to take part in this ritual at the liturgy.

Entrance Procession and Song - While the processional song is played, the casket is then processed to the front of the church near the Paschal Candle, the sign of the light of Christ and the eternal life into which we are born and die with him.

Opening Prayer

Words of Remembrance – It is preferred that words of remembrance or eulogies take place at a more appropriate time outside of Mass.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading - The first reading is always taken from the Hebrew' Scriptures or the "Old Testament". Please choose one of the readings on pages 1-3 of Funeral Readings and indicate your choice on the attached planning form.

During the Easter season (from Easter Monday through Pentecost); please choose one of the readings on pages 4 and 5 to be used as a first reading instead of a passage from the Old Testament.

Responsorial Psalm - The psalm is always sung at the funeral liturgy. Please choose a psalm from one of the selections on pages 6-11 and the music minister will lead the assembly in singing the response.

Second Reading - The second reading is always taken from the "New Testament". Please choose one of the readings on pages 12-17 and indicate your choice on the attached planning form.

Gospel - The Gospel is always proclaimed by the priest or deacon. Please choose one of the Gospel readings on pages 18-27 and mark your selection on the planning form.

Homily - The homily breaks open the Word of God and helps relate it to the life of the deceased. Family members may wish to write down some notes about the deceased to share with the priest.

General Intercessions These prayers may be offered by a family member or friend.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts and Song - Family members or friends are strongly encouraged to present the gifts of bread and wine at Mass. Please choose two or three individuals to bring up the gifts.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Distribution of Communion and Song

Prayer after Communion

Final Commendation

Invitation to Prayer

Song of Farewell - A song is sung as the casket is being incensed; a sign of our prayers, thoughts and petitions rising-up to God and an acknowledgement of the sacred nature of the body.

Prayer of Commendation

Procession to the Place of Committal and Closing Song - The casket is processed to the back of church with the family following, while closing song is played. The priest can accompany the family to the cemetery or place of committal.