



## GESU ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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2049 Parkside Boulevard + Toledo, Ohio 43607 + 419-531-1421

### Planning a Funeral Mass (or a Mass of Remembrance) and Burial

When a loved one dies many things run through a person's mind and heart. There are also many practical things which need to be decided. The following information may be helpful to you when preparing for a loved one's death or for making preparations for a loved one's funeral.

1. Notify the parish immediately by telephone or in person. The parish office number is 419-531-1421. The parish office is open Monday-Friday from 8am-4:30pm. Please call us. Do not send an E-mail or other form of electronic communication.
2. We ask that you do not set a day or time for the funeral Mass until you have spoken to a priest from the parish. The same applies if you would like to invite a guest priest to come and preside at the funeral Mass.
3. A funeral luncheon prepared by volunteers from Gesu Parish is available for the relatives and friends of a current parishioner who has died if the parish hall (Sullivan Center) is not already under contract and reserved. Contact the parish office to see if the Sullivan Center is available at 419-531-1421.
4. The funeral rites of the Catholic Church normally include the following elements:
  - Vigil Prayer for the Deceased: A gathering the evening before the funeral for prayer: This normally takes the form of a brief scripture service which can be lead by a lay person or member of the clergy. (If the relatives of the deceased wish, the rosary or other devotional prayers may be recited at any time during the period of visitation, but the scripture service is recommended.)
  - The Funeral Mass: Mass at the church with the family and friends of the deceased. The deceased's body (or the cremains) is brought to the church to be honored before burial. The deceased may lie in state in the church prior to the funeral Mass if the family wishes. If the deceased was cremated, you are welcome to display a photograph of the person near the deceased's cremains in the church.
  - Commendation (Burial): Prayers at the grave site lead by a lay person or a member of the clergy.

# Personalizing the Funeral Mass

Many opportunities exist for you to personalize the Funeral Mass according to pre-arranged wishes or according to consensus arrived by the surviving relatives and friends. The following points will help you to consider ways you can plan the Mass.

- **Selecting Scripture Readings for the Funeral Mass**

Here is a list of scriptural readings normally used at funeral Masses.

Usually there are three readings: One from the Old Testament, a second from the New Testament (Epistles), and the third, the Gospel reading proclaimed by the presiding priest or deacon. The Old Testament readings are prefaced by "A Reading from the Book of Wisdom, or A Reading From the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians etc." The readings should be concluded with the statement: "The Word of the Lord." to which the congregation responds "Thanks be to God."

The suggested texts can be found in the bible as well as by checking the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at:  
<http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/index.htm>

Old Testament Readings	<i>Choose one Old Testament Reading</i>
1 <a href="#">Job 19:1, 23-27</a>	"...I know that my Vindicator lives..."
2 <a href="#">Ecclesiastes 3:1-11</a>	"...A time to be born, a time to die..."
3 <a href="#">Ecclesiastes 11:9--12:8</a>	"...Before the silver cord is snapped..."
4 <a href="#">Song of Solomon 2:8-14</a>	"...Arise my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!..."
5 <a href="#">Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23f</a>	"...God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living..."
6 <a href="#">Wisdom 3:1-9</a>	"...The souls of the just are in the hand of God..."
7 <a href="#">Wisdom 4:7-15</a>	"The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest..."
8 <a href="#">Sirach 1:1-10</a>	"...All wisdom comes from the LORD..."
9 <a href="#">Sirach 2:1-11</a>	"...in fire gold is tested....Compassionate is the Lord..."
10 <a href="#">Sirach 44:1, 10-15</a>	"...Now will I praise those godly men,..."
11 <a href="#">Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9</a>	"...he will destroy death forever..."
12 <a href="#">Isaiah 26:7-19</a>	"...your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise..."
13 <a href="#">Isaiah 35:1-10</a>	"...Here is your God, he comes with vindication..."
14 <a href="#">Isaiah 40:1-11</a>	"Comfort...to my people..."
15 <a href="#">Isaiah 40:25-31</a>	"...Though youths stagger and fall...they will soar..."
16 <a href="#">Jeremiah 17:5-10</a>	"...I, the Lord, alone probe the mind and test the heart..."
17 <a href="#">Lamentations 3:17-26</a>	"...My portion is the Lord, says my soul..."

- 18 [Ezekiel 37:12-14](#) "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise..."  
 19 [Daniel 12:1-3](#) "...the wise shall shine brightly..."  
 20 [Micah 7:7-9](#) "...though I sit in darkness, the Lord is my light..."  
 21 [Zephaniah 3:14-18](#) "...Shout for joy...the Lord has removed the judgment..."  
 22 [Malachi 3:13-20](#) "...And a record book was written before him..."  
 23 [2 Maccabees 12:43-46](#) "...he made atonement for the dead..."

**New Testament Readings**

*Choose one New Testament Reading*

- 1 [Romans 5:1-5](#) "...We know that affliction makes for endurance..."  
 2 [Romans 8:1-11](#) "...he...will bring your mortal bodies to life..."  
 3 [Romans 8:26-30](#) "...God makes all things work together for the good..."  
 4 [Romans 10:8-13](#) "No one who believes in him will be put to shame..."  
 5 [Romans 11:33-36](#) "...How deep are the riches and the wisdom...of God..."  
 6 [1 Corinthians 1:22-25](#) "God's folly is wiser than men,...weakness, more powerful"  
 7 [1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#) "...Let him who would boast, boast in the Lord..."  
 8 [1 Corinthians 2:6-10](#) "...Eye has not seen, ear...heard...what God has prepared..."  
 9 [1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#) "...if Christ was not raised, your faith is worthless..."  
 10 [2 Corinthians 4:6-10](#) "...this treasure we possess in earthen vessels..."  
 11 [2 Corinthians 5:14-17](#) "...The old order has passed away; now all is new!"  
 12 [Ephesians 1:3-10](#) "...he likewise predestined us...to be his sons..."  
 13 [Ephesians 1:11-14](#) "...In Christ we were chosen..."  
 14 [Ephesians 2:4-10](#) "...By this favor you were saved... not your own doing"  
 15 [Philippians 3:8-14](#) "...I run toward the prize to which God calls me..."  
 16 [Colossians 3:1-4](#) "...After all, you have died! Your life is hidden now..."  
 17 [Colossians 3:12-24](#) "...you will receive an inheritance from him..."  
 18 [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#) "...We belong neither to darkness nor to night..."  
 19 [2 Timothy 1:8-10](#) "Bear your share of the hardship...He has robbed death..."  
 20 [2 Timothy 4:6-18](#) "... I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race..."  
 21 [Titus 2:11-14](#) "...he who sacrificed himself for us, to redeem us..."  
 22 [Titus 3:4-7](#) "...he saved us, not because of any righteous deeds..."  
 23 [Hebrews 4:12-16](#) "...Nothing is concealed from him;...let us hold fast..."  
 24 [Hebrews 5:7-9](#) "...he learned obedience from what he suffered..."  
 25 [Hebrews 12:18-24](#) "...you have drawn near to...the heavenly Jerusalem..."  
 26 [James 5:7-10](#) "Be patient,...until the coming of the Lord..."  
 27 [1 Peter 1:3-9](#) "...you may for a time have to suffer...faith...fire-tried gold"  
 28 [2 Peter 3:12-17](#) "...Look for the coming of the day of God..."  
 29 [1 John 5:1-5](#) "...Who, then, is conqueror of the world?..."  
 30 [Revelation 22:12ff](#) "...I am the Alpha and the Omega....Come, Lord Jesus..."

## Gospel Readings

- 1 [Matthew 5:1-12a](#)
- 2 [Matthew 11:25-30](#)
- 3 [Matthew 18:19-20](#)
- 4 [Matthew 25:1-13](#)
- 5 [Matthew 25:31-46](#)
- 6 [Mark 10:13-16](#)
- 7 [Mark 13:33-37](#)
- 9 [Mark 15:33-46](#)
- 10 [Mark 15:33--16:6](#)
- 11 [Luke 7:11-17](#)
- 12 [Luke 12:35-40](#)
- 13 [Luke 20:34-38](#)
- 14 [Luke 23:33-43](#)
- 15 [Luke 23:44--24:6a](#)
- 16 [Luke 24:13-35](#)
- 17 [Luke 24:13-35](#)
- 18 [John 5:24-29](#)
- 19 [John 6:37-40](#)
- 20 [John 6:51-58](#)
- 21 [John 11:17-27](#)
- 22 [John 11:32-45](#)
- 23 [John 12:23-28](#)
- 24 [John 14:1-6](#)
- 25 [John 17:24-26](#)
- 26 [John 19:17-30](#)

## *Choose one Gospel Reading*

- "The Eight Beatitudes"
- "come to me . . . and I will give you rest."
- "For where two or three are gathered together in my name"
- "Look. The bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him"
- "Come, you whom my Father has blessed"
- "Let the children come to me"
- "...you do not know when the appointed time will come."
- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last"
- "Young man, I say to you, arise."
- "Be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect,..."
- "They can no longer die, for they are like angels"
- "Today you will be with me in paradise."
- "Father, I put my life in your hands."
- "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer..."
- "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer..."
- "Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from..."
- "All who believe in the Son will have eternal life..."
- "All who eat this bread will live for ever...."
- "I am the resurrection and the life."
- "Lazarus, come out."
- "If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies..."
- "There are many rooms in my Father's house."
- "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me..."
- "Jesus bowed his head and gave up the spirit."

## • Music

Music is essential to the celebration of the Mass. Our parish minister of music can help you choose music that will support the overall prayer and participation of everyone in attendance.

The use of recorded music or secular music is not encouraged during the Mass. It can be used prior to the Mass if the deceased is in state in the church or at the funeral home during visitation. Please speak with the priest who will preside at the funeral Mass about any questions regarding particular musical requests.

The following music selections are suggested for your convenience. The list is not exhaustive and other selections from *Gather Comprehensive 2* (our parish hymnal) are possible based on availability and the ability of the music minister.

*\*Numbers listed after hymns refer to their place in our parish hymnal.*

### Opening or Concluding Hymn

- Be Not Afraid #596
- Here I Am, Lord #671
- How Great Thou Art #496
- Holy God, We Praise Thy Name #519
- O God Our Help in Ages Past #588
- On Eagle's Wings #593
- Sing with All the Saints in Glory #442 (Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee #520)
- We Are the Light of the World #515

### Preparation of the Gifts of Bread and Wine

- Amazing Grace #586
- Be Not Afraid #586
- Here I Am, Lord #671
- I Have Loved You #504
- Lord of All Hopefulness #560
- Prayer of St. Francis (Make Me a Channel of Your Peace) #721
- This Day God Gives Me #749
- We Remember #578
- You Are Mine #627
- Instrumental Music or a Soloist Piece is also appropriate at this time in the Mass

### Communion

- I Am the Bread of Life #822
- Let Us Break Bread Together #832
- One Bread, One Body #813
- Taste & See #827
- You Satisfy the Hungry Heart #816

### Post Communion Meditation (optional)

- Ave Maria
- Hail Mary, Gentle Woman #779

- In the Garden
- Old Rugged Cross
- On this Day, O Beautiful Mother

# Ministers

You are welcome to invite members of your family and friends to serve in the following ways:

- Lector - reads the scripture reading(s) prior to the Gospel and the Prayers of the Faithful after the Gospel
- Altar Server - assists the priest during the funeral Mass
- Minister of Communion - Assists the priest in the distribution of Holy Communion during the funeral Mass
- Cantor/Psalmist - leads the Assembly in song/sings the responsorial psalm
- Placement of the Pall - a white garment is placed over the casket at the beginning of the funeral Mass (If relatives or friends do not wish to do this the funeral home staff will do it on your behalf.)
- Gift bearers - bring forward the bread and wine to the priest during the Mass

# Eulogy

A eulogy is a testimony to the life of the deceased person by one related or who befriended the deceased.

We highly recommend that a eulogy/eulogies take place the evening before the funeral Mass at the funeral home when there is an intimate gathering time and when memories of the deceased are already naturally being shared.

We do not recommend a eulogy/eulogies during the funeral Mass itself.

If a eulogy is to be delivered during Mass, it may take place at the following times:

- After the Opening Hymn and before the Opening Prayer (beginning of the funeral Mass)
- After Communion & the Prayer after Communion

Eulogies should be brief and written out prior to delivery as an assistance to the person offering it.

# Cremation

The Catholic Church does allow the bodies of Christians to be cremated. The order of preferences of the Church is as follows:

- The body of the deceased is present at the church for the funeral Mass and cremation takes place after the funeral Mass. Burial or entombment of the deceased's ashes in a mausoleum takes place at a later time.
- The deceased ashes are brought to the church in a dignified urn and treated with the same respect as if the deceased's body was present. The deceased's ashes remain in the church during the funeral Mass (with a picture of the deceased displayed if the family wishes) and after the funeral Mass the ashes are taken for burial or entombment in a mausoleum.
- The deceased's ashes are buried or entombed in a mausoleum accompanied by the burial prayers of the church (led by a priest, deacon or lay minister) and a memorial Mass takes place in the church at a later date.

## Catholic Burial Practices

Catholics are strongly encouraged to make arrangements for burial at a local Catholic cemetery. In Toledo both Calvary and Resurrection Cemeteries serve area Catholics.

Recent events have brought to the fore questions regarding the practice of the cremation of a body and burial at sea.

A helpful summary of the Church's teaching on cremation may be found in the 1998 statement of the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, *"Reflections on the Body, Cremation and Catholic Funeral Rites."*

"The Church's belief in the sacredness of the human body and the resurrection of the dead has traditionally found expression in the care taken to prepare the bodies of the deceased for burial."(OCF 411)

"This is the body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the bread of life. This is the body whose hands clothed the poor and embraced the sorrowing. Indeed, the human body is so inextricably associated with the human person that it is hard to think of a human person apart from his or her body. Thus, the Church's reverence and care for the body grows out of a reverence and concern for the person whom the Church now commends to the care of God." (OCF 412)

Thus, while "cremation is now permitted, 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 its rites." (413) However, "when extraordinary circumstances make the cremation of a body the only feasible choice, pastoral sensitivity must be exercised by all who minister to the family of the deceased." (414)

The rites of burial for the cremated remains of a body may be found in the appendix to

the *Order of Christian Funerals*. This appendix recommends that when cremation is chosen, the body be cremated after the Funeral, thus allowing for the presence of the body at the Funeral Mass. When pastoral circumstances require it, however, cremation and committal may take place even before the Funeral liturgy.

Any catechesis on the subject of cremation should emphasize that "the cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the corporeal remains of a human body. 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." (416)

While cremated remains may be buried in a grave, entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium or even buried at sea, "the practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires." (416)