

Co-Cathedral Funeral Guidelines

On behalf of the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, we extend to you and your family our sincere condolences at this difficult time. We will assist you in the preparation of the Catholic funeral liturgies. These liturgies give witness to our belief in the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting with a loving God. We hope that through the Church's prayer you will find strength and peace in Christ our Risen Lord.

1. **Mortuary:** Please contact the Parish Office before finalizing any plans with the mortuary.
2. **Services:** The Catholic funeral liturgy consists of three (3) parts:
 - a. **Vigil for the Deceased** – At the Vigil (Wake Service), the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ's presence. This brief Liturgy of the Word normally takes place at the mortuary the evening before the Funeral. It may be presided over by a priest, deacon, or a trained lay minister. The Vigil allows time for family members to share a meal and remembrances of the deceased and to visit with one another. *For these reasons, the Vigil should ordinarily be celebrated at the mortuary.*
 - b. **Funeral** – The Catholic Funeral service may take place in the context of Mass or outside of Mass. In making this choice, consideration should be given to those attending and their spiritual needs. A Funeral Mass may only take place in the church building.
 - c. **Committal** – This graveside service takes place following the Funeral. It may be presided over by a priest, deacon, or trained lay person.
3. **Scheduling:** Funerals are scheduled at 11 a.m. during the day or at 7 p.m. in the evening based on the availability of the church. Funeral Masses are not celebrated on Sundays, during the Paschal Triduum, Holy Days of Obligation, or civic holidays.
4. **Visitation:** The Funeral may be preceded by a two hour visitation in the church. There is no visitation after the Funeral Mass. Smoking and alcoholic beverages are not allowed on church property.
5. **Eulogies:** For some non-Catholics, the funeral can primarily be a time for remembrance and celebration of a person's life. For Catholics, however, the prayers for the dead and the transition to eternal life with God are the central focus of the liturgy. At the funeral, we derive strength from our Christian faith which recalls the dying and rising of the Lord and provides true consolation and hope in times of sorrow. Our attention is centered on Jesus, who speaks to us through the Scriptures, and who comes to us in a real way through the Holy Eucharist. These suggestions will help those preparing a Eulogy:
 - a. The best place for a eulogy is not in the church, but at the Vigil or Wake Service.
 - b. It may precede the Funeral Mass, or if given at a Funeral Mass, it must come after the Post-Communion Prayer.
 - c. The Eulogy should reference the deceased's faith in God – i.e. how they came to believe in Christ, how they prayed, how they experienced Christ through the Church, how they drew strength from their faith in difficult moments, how they shared their Christian faith with their family, friends, co-workers, and the poor.
 - d. The eulogy is not a time to preach, instruct others in Christian living, call others to conversion, or even to offer prayers.
6. **Casket:** The casket will be closed for the Funeral and remain closed thereafter.

7. **Cremation:** Cremation is permitted in the Catholic Church and the remains may be present during the Funeral Mass. They should be placed in a worthy container. After the Committal Service, the cremated remains should be buried or entombed. The scattering of ashes on the sea, from the air, or on the ground or keeping the cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend do not provide the reverent disposition the Church requires. Burial at sea of cremated remains differs from scattering. An appropriate and worthy container may be lowered into the sea adhering to all government laws and ordinances.
8. **Flowers:** Flowers may be placed in the church, but not so as to obstruct the view of the altar, ambo, presider's chair, or cathedra.
9. **Flags:** Any national flags or flags or insignia of secular organizations to which the deceased belonged are to be removed from the coffin at the entrance of the church. They may be replaced after the coffin has been taken from the church.
10. **Music:** Only sacred music appropriate for Catholic liturgy is allowed in the Co-Cathedral. The Director of Liturgy will help you select appropriate music and will provide accompaniment. The cost of the musician is \$100.00 and is payable to Conception B. Gora, Director of Liturgy.
11. **Offering:** The suggested donation to the church is \$600.00. This offering does not include the gratuity to the priest. Funeral services outside the church (i.e. at the mortuary only) are arranged with the individual priest and the suggested offering for the priest is \$100.00.

Funeral Planner

Name of Deceased: _____

Family Contact:

Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Name of Mortuary: _____

Director's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Viewing/Vigil/Wake Service:

Date: _____ **Viewing:** Y/N

Time of Service: _____ **Location:** _____

Presider: _____

Funeral Mass or Funeral Outside of Mass? _____

Date: _____ **Time** _____

Location: _____

Presider: _____

Presence of the Body: Y/N

Presence of Cremains: Y/N

Pallbearers (up to 6 people)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Old Testament Reading (circle one)

1. I Know That My Redeemer Lives: Job 19:1,23-27
2. He Accepts Them as a Offering: Wisdom 3:1-9, or 3:1-6,9
3. A Blameless Life Is A Ripe Old Age: Wisdom 4:7-15
4. The Lord God Will Destroy Death Forever: Isaiah 25:6,7-9
5. It is Good To Wait In Silence for the Lord to Save: Lamentations 3:17-26
6. Of Those Who Lie Sleeping Many Will Awake: Daniel 12:1-3
7. It is Good and Holy To Think of the Dead Rising: 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

Reader: _____

New Testament Reading (circle one)

1. God Has Appointed Jesus to Judge Everyone: Acts 10:34-43
2. We are Justified By Jesus' Blood: Romans 5:1-11
3. Where Sin Increased, Grace Abounded All The More: Romans 5:17-21
4. Let us Walk in Newness of Life: Romans 6:3-9
5. We Wait for the Redemption Of Our Bodies: Romans 8:14-23
6. Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of Christ: Romans 8:31-35,37-39
7. Whether Alive or Dead, We Belong To The Lord: Romans 14:7-9, 10-12
8. All People Will be Brought To Life Through Christ: 1 Cor. 15:20-24, 25-28
9. Death Is Swallowed Up in Victory: 1 Cor. 15:51-57
10. What Is Seen Is Transitory; What is Unseen Is Eternal: 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1,6-10
11. We Have An Everlasting Home in Heaven: 2 Cor. 5:1,6-10
12. Our Citizenship Is In Heaven: Philippians 3:20-21
13. We Shall Stay With the Lord Forever: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
14. If Have Died With Christ, We Shall Live With Him: 2 Timothy 2:8-13
15. We Shall See God As He Really Is: 1 John 3:1-2
16. We Have Passed From Death to Life: 1 John 3:14-16
17. Happy Are Those Who Die In The Lord: Revelation 14: 13

18. The Judgment of the Dead: Revelation 20:11-21:1
19. There Will Be No More Death: Revelation 21:1-5,6-7

Reader: _____

Gospel Readings (circle one)

1. The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1-12
2. Come To Me and I Will Give You Rest: Matthew 11:25-30
3. Go Out To Meet the Bridegroom: Matthew 25:1-13
4. Come, You Who Are Blessed By My Father: Matthew 25:31-46
5. Jesus Gave A Loud Cry and Breathed His Last: Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6
6. Young Man, I Say To You Arise: Luke 7:11-17
7. Be Prepared: Luke 12:35-40
8. Today You Will Be With Me In Paradise: Luke 23:33,39-43
9. Father, I Put My Life In Your Hands: Luke 23:44-49, 24:1-6
10. The Risen Lord Reveals Himself in the Breaking of Bread: Luke 24:13-35
11. Whoever Hears My Word and Believes: John 5:24-29
12. I Will Raise Them Up on the Last Day: John 6:37-40
13. Whoever Eats This Bread Will Live Forever: John 6:51-58
14. I am the Resurrection and the Life: John 11:17-27
15. The Raising of Lazarus: John 11:32-45
16. If A Grain of Wheat Falls Dies It Yields A Rich Harvest: John 12:23-28
17. There Are Many Rooms In My Father's House: John 14:1-6
18. Father, I Want Those You Have Given Me To Be With Me: John 17:24-26
19. Jesus Bowed His Head and Gave Over The Spirit: John 19:17-18, 25-30

Music

Our Director of Liturgy will assist you in selecting appropriate music. Because the church building is the Lord's house and a sacred place, only sacred music appropriate for Catholic liturgy is allowed in the Co-Cathedral.

Gathering Song: _____

Offertory Song: _____

Communion Song: _____

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