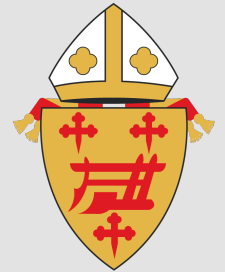


Now and At the Hour of Our Death

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments



— ARCHDIOCESE OF —
CINCINNATI

Getting Started

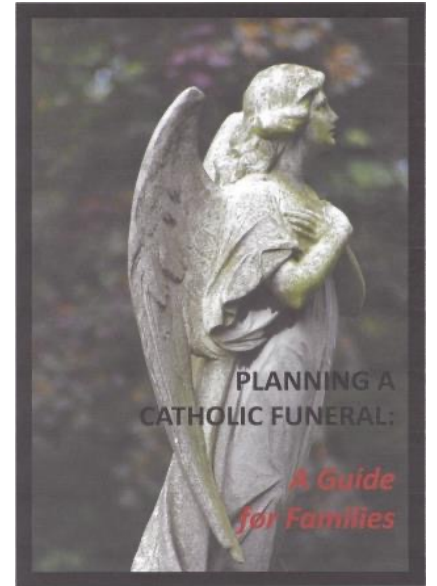
Welcome

Prayer

Overview of Session – Why are you here?

General plan/goals:

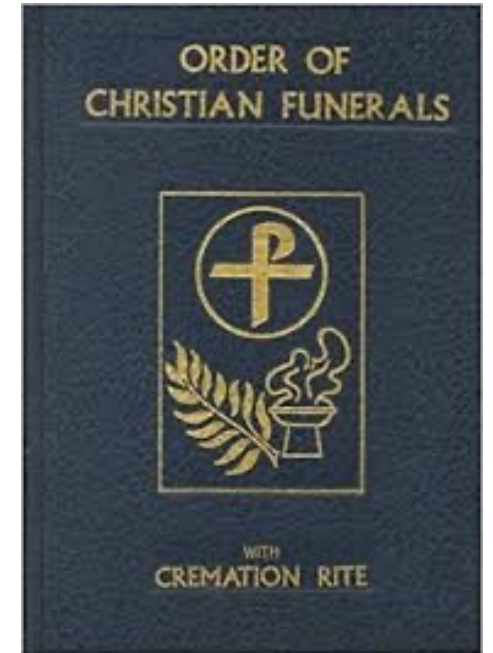
- Theology of a Catholic funeral
- 3 stages of a Catholic funeral and preparing each
- Other considerations for preparing the funeral liturgy
- Cremation: what the Church really teaches



Theology of a Catholic Funeral

“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.”

(Order of Christian Funerals, General Introduction, #1)



Theology of a Catholic Funeral

What does the Church actually say happens at a Catholic funeral?

- “Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased” (*OCF 4*)
- “Church ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them with the comforting Word of God and the sacrament of the Eucharist.” (*OCF 4*)
- We “offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God” (*OCF 5*)
- “Commends the dead to God’s merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins” (*OCF 6*)
- “Affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the church in heaven” (*OCF 6*)

Theology of a Catholic Funeral

“The responsibility for the ministry of consolation rests with the believing community.” (OCF 9)

- Participating in the vigil, Mass, and committal
- “Family members should take an active part in these ministries, but they should not be asked to assume any role their grief or sense of loss may make too burdensome.” (OCF 15)

Theology of a Catholic Funeral

MASSES FOR THE DEAD

1011. READING I FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. 2 Maccabees 12: 43–46
He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.

Judas, the ruler of Israel,
took up a collection among all his soldiers,
amounting to two thousand silver drachmas,
which he sent to Jerusalem
to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.
In doing this he acted in a very excellent
and noble way,
inasmuch as he had the resurrection
of the dead in view;
for if he were not expecting the fallen
to rise again,
it would have been useless and foolish
to pray for them in death.
But if he did this with a view
to the splendid reward
that awaits those who had gone
to rest in godliness,
it was a holy and pious thought.
Thus he made atonement for the dead
that they might be freed from this sin.

2. Job 19: 1, 23–27a
I know that my Vindicator lives.

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:
"Oh, would that my words were written down!
Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead
they were cut in the rock forever!
But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,
and that he will at last stand forth
upon the dust;
Whom I myself shall see:
my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him;
And from my flesh I shall see God;
my inmost being is consumed with longing.

3. Wisdom 3: 1–9 [LONG FORM]
As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away
was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us,
utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings
he took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

OR

Wisdom 3: 1–6, 9 [SHORT FORM]
As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away
was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us,
utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them,
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings
he took them to himself.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,

The Word of God

- “In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the Word of God....above all, the readings tell of God’s designs for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called his own.” (OCF 22)

Theology of a Catholic Funeral

Symbols and rituals

- Water
- Pall
- Easter candle
- Colors: White/violet/black (listed in that order)
 - **“should express Christian hope but should not be offensive to human grief or sorrow.” (OCF 39)**
- Music

3 Stages of a Catholic Funeral

1. Vigil

- Principal rite celebrated by the Church in the time between death and the funeral liturgy
- May be celebrated in the home of the deceased, a funeral home, in the church, or some other suitable place
- Two options:
 - Office for the Dead from Liturgy of the Hours
 - Liturgy of the Word (more typical)
- Liturgical dimension
- Reception of the Body?

3 Stages of a Catholic Funeral

2. Funeral liturgy

- Central liturgical celebration
- Within or outside of Mass
- Liturgical aspects:
 - Reception of the Body
 - Final Commendation

3 Stages of a Catholic Funeral

3. Committal

- “Final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member.” (*OCF 204*)

Preparing: Vigil

- Timing
- Leader
- Ministers
- Scriptures
- Intercessions
- Music
- Participation

Preparing: Funeral Liturgy

- Form: within or outside of Mass?
- Time
- Scriptures
- Music
- Ministers: greeters, readers, gift-bearers, pall-bearers, etc.
- Participation aid

Preparing: Committal

- Presider
- Location
- Participation aid

Other considerations

- Funerals for a child
- Liturgical ministers

Other considerations

Music:

“Allows the community to express convictions and feelings that words alone may fail to convey” (OCF 30)

- “Texts of songs...should express the paschal mystery of the Lord’s suffering, death, and triumph over death and should be related to the readings from Scripture.” (OCF 30)
- How is music chosen? Who will be music ministers?

Music Suggestions

This music is available in the hymnals of all the major Catholic music publishers. Check with your local parish musician about specific titles and selections.

Abide With me	He Looked Beyond My Fault
All You Who Seek a Comfort Sure	Here I am Lord
Alleluia Love is Alive (Angrisano)	Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks	How Can I Keep From Singing
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus	How Great Thou Art
Alleluia, The Strife is O'er	I am the Bread of Life
Amazing Grace	I Heard the Voice of Jesus
At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing	I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Be Not Afraid	I Received the Living God
Be Still	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Because the Lord is My Shepherd	I'll Be Singing Up there
Behold the Lamb	I'll Be Somewhere Listening...
Blest Are They	I'll Fly Away
Blessed Assurance	If We Are Living
Canticle of the Sun	In God Alone (Ps 62)
Center of My Life	In the arms of God (Alonso)
Christ in Me Arise	I Received the Living God
Christ the Lord is Risen Today	Jerusalem, My Happy Home
Come by Here, Lord	Jesus Christ is Risen Today
Come to Me (Joncas)	Jesus, Lead the Way
Crown Him with Many Crowns	Jesus, Remember Me
Day is done	Jesus, The Bread of Life
Day of Peace (Whitaker)	Just A Closer Walk With Thee
Dwellers in the Holy City	Keep in Mind
Earth, Earth Awake: Your Praises Sing	Let Us Be Bread
Easter Alleluia	Lord of All Hopefulness
Eat This Bread	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Eternal Lord of Love	Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
Eye Has Not Seen	My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
For All the Saints	No Not One
Gentle Shepherd	Now in This Banquet
Gift of Finest Wheat	Now the Green Blade Rises
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah	Now We Remain
God of Love	O Christ Who Shared Our Mortal Life
Going Up Yonder	O God Beyond All Praising
Grant Us Peace (Canedo)	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Hear Us Almighty Lord	O Sons and Daughters

Other considerations

Eulogy

- “Following the prayer after Communion, the priest goes to a place near the coffin. The assisting ministers carry the censer and holy water if these are to be used. A member or friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins.” (*OCF* 170)

Cremation: What the Church Really Believes

- 1997 permission
- **“Does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body.”** (*OCF 413*)
- Preference for presence of the body for the funeral rites (cremation afterwards)
- **“The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they came”** (*OCF 417*)

Resources

Shop for resources on planning a Catholic funeral:
shop.catholicaoc.org

