



SAINT ANN

CATHOLIC CHURCH

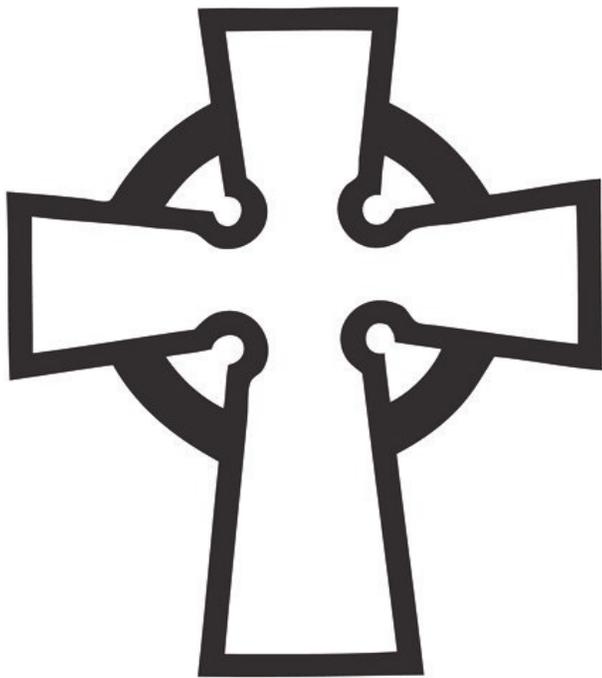
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The Catholic
Funeral
and
Burial



What You Need to Know about a Catholic Funeral and Burial

The following are some very broad guidelines for family members of a Catholic person who is dying or who has died. It has been prepared by the Catholic Health Association of BC. This information is intended to assist family members and loved ones who may not be familiar with the requirements for a Catholic funeral and burial in knowing what needs to be done.

“He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death and no more mourning or sadness or pain.” Rev. 21:4

It is important to notify caregivers, hospital staff and pastoral care visitors that the dying/deceased person is Catholic.

Oftentimes, these individuals will know what procedures are to be followed and may be of assistance at this difficult time.

It is highly recommended that contact be made with the Parish of the deceased individual as soon as possible to inform the pastor of the death.

Funeral, cemetery or cremation arrangements cannot be finalized until the family of the deceased has had an opportunity to discuss personally with the parish the various procedures and rites pertaining to a Catholic funeral and burial.

In accordance with Catholic teaching, the funeral service for a Catholic consists of bringing the body of the deceased to the Church, the celebration of Mass at the Church, and followed by interment, if possible, in the consecrated ground of a Catholic cemetery.

While the Catholic Church accepts cremation, if possible the body of the deceased is highly recommended to be present in the Church at a Mass of Christian Burial.

Once the Funeral Home/Director has been chosen, inform them that the deceased is Catholic. Family and loved ones should also be aware of the following key aspects of the funeral and burial for an individual who is Catholic:

- A wake or prayer service may be offered for the deceased and for the bereaved preferably in the funeral home, usually the afternoon or evening preceding the funeral. The whole Christian community, through the Church and its Liturgy, offers its prayers for God’s mercy for the deceased and His strength for the bereaved.
- **A eulogy (or words of remembrance) is not part of the funeral Mass.** If there is to be a eulogy, it may take place at the conclusion of the wake or prayer service or at a gathering following the funeral and burial.

FAQ: Cremation and Funeral Fees

As a Catholic may I be cremated?

Yes. In 1963, the Vatican's Holy Office (today the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith) lifted the prohibition forbidding Catholics to choose cremation. This permission was incorporated into the revised Code of Canon Law of 1983 (Canon #1176), as well as into the Order of Christian Funerals. It is now the standard practice to celebrate the funeral liturgies with the body and then take it to the crematorium. Most recently the bishops of the United States and the Vatican have authorized the celebration of a Catholic funeral liturgy with the cremated remains when the body is cremated before the funeral.

Do I need to ask permission to be cremated?

No, but it is recommended you discuss this matter with your pastor or other parish minister.

How much are the funeral fees at St. Ann Catholic Church?

Please contact the parish office at 919-934-2084 to discuss fees and other details.



Order of the Funeral Mass

The following is the Order for Christian Funeral Mass so that you may plan your liturgy (Funeral Mass) and choose the scripture readings and songs.

Introductory Rites

(*Done only when the body is present for the Funeral Mass)

- Greeting
- Sprinkling with Holy Water
- Placing of the Pall
(done by the family members or friends)
- Placing of Christian symbols
(done by family members or friends)
- Opening Song (choose from the song list)
- Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading (you may choose from Old Testament or New Testament if you only have one reading. During the Easter Season, you may have two New Testament readings.)
- Psalm (sung by the Music Minister - you may choose from the psalm list)
- Second Reading (optional to have a 2nd reading; from the New Testament - you may choose from the Scripture list)
- Gospel (you may choose from the Scripture list, but will be read by the priest or deacon)
- Homily
- Intercessions

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Presentation Song
(choose from the song list)
- Preparation of the Gifts
- Continuation of the Mass as usual
- Communion Song
(choose from the song list)

As mentioned earlier, the appropriate place for family and friends sharing, or the offering of a eulogy or reflection, is at the Vigil. If it is determined that a speaker is to be included at the Funeral Mass this will take place following Communion. One person may speak who will limit the comments to three to four minutes. It is requested that the person write out their comments for review and so that it be appropriate for Mass.

Final Commendation

- Invitation to Prayer
- Silence
- Song of Farewell
- Prayer of Commendation

Scripture Selections

You may have one or two members of your family or friends do the readings. The readers must be Catholic and it is suggested that they be at least 13 years of age. The priest or deacon will read the Gospel.