

# HOLY ROSARY PARISH FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING FORM

There are many elements of your funeral rites which you can plan before your death to assist your family and friends after the end of your earthly life. This file will be kept in the parish office to be used upon your death. A copy can be made for your records if you wish, as well.

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name:

Address:

Birth date:

Birth place:

Funeral Home:

Bodily Burial       Ashes

The ancient practice of the Church is to bury the bodies of those who have died. The body is an integral part of ourselves and our lives, and one day our souls and bodies will be reunited. Our lives are lived in and through and with our bodies. As such, the body, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, is always treated with respect, whether living or not. Think of Mary and Joseph of Arimathea wrapping the body of Jesus after His own death. And just as Jesus was laid in a tomb, so too we commend the bodies of our loved ones to the earth. Cemeteries are protected land – a place for their bodies to rest while we await the Resurrection. They won't be churned up to become fill elsewhere, nor be paved or built over. And in Catholic cemeteries, those who visit and tend for the site often pray for those buried there, and the Holy Mass is offered there regularly. For centuries, it was the non-Christians who cremated their dead. They did so either out of a contempt for the body, a denial of its goodness, or simply because it was of little value. Since these were not values shared by Christians, cremation was never allowed. In 1963 cremation became allowed, but Pope Paul VI was quick to state that it should only be allowed "when forced to do so by necessity." (Instruction *Piam et Constantem* allowing cremation) "The practice of burying the bodies of the faithful is by all means to be kept." Even when cremation is chosen, it is still preferred that the body be present for the Funeral Liturgy. The Instruction also noted that "all necessary measures must be taken to preserve the practice of reverently burying the faithful departed." This was reaffirmed in October 2016 when the Instruction *Ad resurgendum* was issued, stating that "following the most ancient Christian tradition, the Church insistently recommends that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places." Cremation makes possible several abuses which are contrary to the dignity of the body which were before impossible. Whether keeping the urn in the home or scattering the ashes in a beloved place, or the odder and rarer practice of placing the ashes in small vials as jewelry, all of these practices are ones which we wouldn't countenance if the body were still intact. This was explicitly stated in *Ad resurgendum*, "the conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted." It continued, "In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects." Even when chosen out of "necessity," cremation should not change our view of the body, nor the reverence which is due to it as a Temple of the Holy Spirit.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

Funeral rites are provided to baptized Catholics and catechumens, as well as children who die before baptism. Non-Catholic baptized individuals may have funeral rites as long as it is not contrary to their will and as long as their own minister is not available; particularly when the surviving spouse is Catholic. The Archbishop must grant permission in all cases that would cause scandal to the faithful. (from the Code of Canon Law and the Archdiocesan Policies)

## FUNERAL RITES

*The St. Dominic Chapel in the Parish Center seats about 50 people and is fitting for smaller liturgies outside of school hours. It is not possible to use the chapel with a casket. The Church is the preferred space as it is where our community celebrates Mass together each week.*

### 1. VIGIL/ROSARY (*optional*)

A Vigil is an ancient part of the tradition of the Church, as the family and friends keep watch and pray. It can take the form of a Liturgy of the Word, or a recitation of the Rosary. There would also be some time for some words of remembrance. In some traditions, the vigil takes place in the home – such as with the Irish wake.

- Funeral Home
- Church
- St. Dominic Chapel

### 2. FUNERAL

The funeral is the heart of the three parts of the rites of burial, as the family and friends of the deceased gather to commend the individual to God, to pray for their repose, and to ask for comfort for themselves in their time of grief. The Funeral Rites are not simply ‘a celebration of life.’ Praying for the dead is a spiritual work of mercy. Burying the dead is a corporal work of mercy. The most important reason we gather in God’s house is for these purposes.

As Catholics, the Eucharist is the heart of our life and our worship. As such, Option A – a Mass, is preferred. Option B – a Funeral outside of the Mass, consists of a Liturgy of the Word with the Rites of Commendation. This is normally chosen when the individual is not-Catholic. Option C, where the body or ashes are not present, is not preferred but is permitted. The blessing of the body or ashes is an important part of the Funeral Liturgy – something which is not possible when it is not present. Normally funeral liturgies are held at 10 or 11AM, in accord with the parish calendar.

#### A. MASS

- Church
- St. Dominic Chapel

#### B. FUNERAL OUTSIDE OF MASS

- Church
- St. Dominic Chapel

#### C. MEMORIAL SERVICE (*no body or ashes present – can be a Mass or not*)

- Church
- St. Dominic Chapel

### 3. COMMITMENTAL

Cemetery:

## FUNERAL OPTIONS

Pall Bearers (6):

*or Urn Bearer:*

Holy Rosary has several individuals who assist with funeral Masses. However, if you have particular requests, we can try to honor them.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (usually 2-3 depending on the size of the funeral):

*Must be currently commissioned at a parish in the Archdiocese of Seattle*

Altar Servers (2-3):

## READINGS

The readings for the Liturgy come from a set selected by the Church which highlight the mysteries we are celebrating, death and new life. The options can be found in the *Through Death to Life* Booklet, or on the [US Bishop's Website](#). Since there are so many options, each passage has a bolded line or phrase next to the heading which is the primary focus to make reading through all of them a little easier. If you like the statement, read the whole passage. These are the only options. The reading options follow. The priest will make a selection if you or your family do not.

-One Old Testament Reading (pg 40) AND/OR One New Testament Reading (pg.57)

-During the Easter Season, One of the New Testament Readings from the Book of Acts or the Book of Revelation replaces the Old Testament Reading

-One Psalm (to be sung by the cantor) (pg. 47)

-One Gospel (pg 70)

*Please write out the passage you would like – do not simply list the number.*

OT: Easter Option:

Psalm:

*Response:*

NT:

Gospel:

Readers (1-3 persons):

Proclaiming the Word of God within the Liturgy is a sacred work - a ministry. As such, readers should not simply be selected because they are a family member or friend. The readers selected should be practicing Catholics, ideally for whom this is a regular ministry.

## MUSIC

Music is an integral part of the Liturgy. Within the Liturgy, our songs are a part of our prayer to God. As such, secular songs are not appropriate. Nor is recorded music. Music must be selected from the hymnals in the church, the most commonly used of which is *Breaking Bread*. This encourages the active participation of those present. Below are the four hymns which are included in the Funeral Liturgy. Questions can be directed to the Pastor or the Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy and Music. Two selections can be chosen for funerals with 250+ people for Communion as it will take longer.

Opening Hymn:

Offertory Hymn:

Communion Hymn (Mass only):

Recessional Hymn:

A list of the most commonly chosen funeral songs to assist in your selection.

Abide with Me

Amazing Grace

Ave Maria

Be Not Afraid

Holy God, We Praise thy Name

How Great Thou Art

I Am the Bread of Life

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Jerusalem My Happy Home

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Now Thank we All Our God

On Eagle's Wings

Shepherd Me, O God

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Psalm 23)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

### COSTS (CAN NOT BE PREPAID)

Fee for the Cantor and Accompaniment: \$460 (*To be paid to Holy Rosary in advance of the funeral.*)

Altar servers: \$10 each (3 – *Given to the priest before Mass in separate envelopes*)

Donation to the Church in honor of your loved one: Encouraged

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Some people wish to make a final gift to the parish or school to help us continue our important work and ministry. If you wish to make Holy Rosary a part of the legacy of your life through your will, trust or as a beneficiary of a retirement account or insurance policy, it should be written as "I give to the Corporation of the Catholic Archbishop of Seattle, for the benefit of Holy Rosary Parish in Seattle, WA..... ." This utilizes our legal name, but also ensures that your wishes are followed and the entire gift of cash or property will come to us here at Holy Rosary. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.