

Catholic Funeral *and* Burial Wishes

This document is to be completed to express your funeral and burial preferences, in accordance with Catholic teachings. By filling out this form, you will be helping your loved ones understand your wishes and guide them through a difficult process. Please feel free to reach out to your pastor or another priest to answer any questions you may have.

Personal Information:

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Completion of Document: _____

Organ Donation:

The Catholic Church supports organ donation as an act of charity and love, provided it is done in a manner that respects the dignity of the human person.

Would you like to donate your organs?

Yes

No

Yes, but only specific organs (please specify): _____

Cremation or Burial:

The Church encourages that the body of the deceased is buried as a sign of respect for the dignity of the body, which is a temple of the Holy Spirit. However, cremation is permitted by the Church, so long as it has not been chosen for reasons contrary to Catholic teachings.

Would you prefer to be:

- Buried
- Cremated

If cremation is chosen, the Church requires that the cremains be treated with respect by being buried or inurned in a sacred place, such as a columbarium or grave in a cemetery. They are not to be kept at home or scattered in a place that might be considered “special” or “memorable”. During the Funeral Rites at the inurnment/burial, the columbarium or grave will be blessed, if this has not already taken place.

Casket or Urn:

The Catholic Church encourages that a traditional casket is used for burial of the body. An urn is acceptable for cremains, provided that it is buried or inurned in a respectful and sacred location.

What type of casket or urn would you prefer?

- Traditional Casket
- Simple Casket (Abbey)
- Urn for Cremation (please specify style or material): _____
- Other (please specify): _____

How would you prefer your casket to be displayed? Open Closed Let Family Decide

Attire for Burial:

Please specify the attire you would like to be dressed in for your burial. This may include any specific clothing, religious items, or personal items.

Clothing (e.g., suit, dress, etc.): _____

Special Religious Items (e.g., crucifix, rosary, etc.): _____

Personal Items (e.g., jewelry, watch, etc.): _____

Other Requests (if applicable): _____



Funeral Home:

Which funeral home would you like to use for your service?

Name of Funeral Home: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Church for Funeral Mass:

Ordinarily, the Funeral Mass takes place in your home parish church.

Name of Church: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cemetery:

Where would you like to be buried?

Name of Cemetery: _____

Address: _____

Specific Location of Plot (plot number): _____

I do not have a burial plot.



Flowers and Memorial Donations:

Flowers are a beautiful sign of respect, however an individual is also encouraged to request offerings to charitable causes in lieu of flowers.

Would you prefer to designate that donations be made in your memory to a specific Catholic charity or nonprofit, restricted for your church parish, school, or other ministry?

Yes

No

If yes, please specify the name of the charity or fund*:

Name of Organization: _____

Address or Website: _____

*It is helpful for a family member to notify the charities, who will receive benefits in your name, in advance of receiving them.

Pallbearers:

Please list the individuals you would like to serve as pallbearers for your funeral. These individuals will carry your casket during the Funeral Mass and the burial.

1. Pallbearer 1 Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

2. Pallbearer 2 Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

3. Pallbearer 3 Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

4. Pallbearer 4 Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____



5. Pallbearer 5 Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

6. Pallbearer 6 Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

7. Pallbearer 7 Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

8. Pallbearer 8 Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

Funeral Mass:

For Catholics, the Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives. There is no greater expression of our faith, and it is an opportunity for your family and the community to pray for the peaceful repose of your soul.

As you complete the following pages, you are encouraged to consult with your pastor or another priest, who can assist you with choosing readings and hymns that are fitting for the celebration of a Funeral Mass.

Celebrant/Homilist:

Do you have a preference for the Celebrant of the Funeral Mass?

If yes, who? _____

Do you have a preference for the Homilist at the Funeral Mass, if not the Celebrant?

If yes, who? _____



Readings and Prayers:

In the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word at the funeral liturgy, the biblical readings may not be replaced by nonbiblical readings. But during prayer services with the family, nonbiblical readings may be used in addition to readings from Scripture (Order of Christian Funerals, no. 23).

First Reading:

- I would prefer the priest/family to choose the First Reading.
- My choice for the First Reading (Old Testament):

Readings from the Old Testament:

- 2 Maccabees 12:43-46 (*He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.*)
- Job 19:1, 23-27a (*I know that my Vindicator lives.*)
- Wisdom 3:1-9 (short form, 3:1-6, 9) (*As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*)
- Wisdom 4:7-15 (*An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.*)
- Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 (*He will destroy death forever.*)
- Lamentations 3:17-26 (*It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.*)
- Daniel 12:1-3 (*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.*)

Readings from the New Testament during Easter Time:

- Acts 10:34-43 (short form, 10:34-36, 42-43) (*He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.*)
- Revelation 14:13 (*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*)
- Revelation 20:11-21:1 (*The dead were judged according to their deeds.*)
- Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 (*There shall be no more death.*)

Reader Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

Responsorial Psalm (usually sung by a cantor):

- I would prefer the priest/family to choose the Responsorial Psalm.
- My choice for the Responsorial Psalm:
 - Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6 *R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
or: R/. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.*
 - Psalm 25:6 and 7b, 17-18, 20-21 *R/. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
or: R/. No one who waits for you, O Lord, will ever be put to shame.*
 - Psalm 27:1, 4, 7 and 8b and 9a, 13-14 *R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation.
or: R/. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.*

(see next page for more options)



- Psalm 42:2, 3, 5cdef; 43:3, 4, 5 R/. *My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?*
- Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 R/. *My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*
- Psalm 103:8 and 10, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18 R/. *The Lord is kind and merciful.*
or: R/. The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.
- Psalm 116:5, 6, 10-11, 15-16ac R/. *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*
or: R/. Alleluia.
- Psalm 122:1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 R/. *I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.*
or: R/. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
- Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8 R/. *Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord.*
or: R/. I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.
- Psalm 143:1-2, 5-6, 7ab and 8ab, 10 R/. *O Lord, hear my prayer.*

Second Reading:

- I would prefer the priest/family to choose the Second Reading.
- My choice for the Second Reading (New Testament):

Readings from the New Testament:

- Romans 5:5-11 (*Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.*)
- Romans 5:17-21 (*Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.*)
- Romans 6:3-9 (short form, 6:3-4, 8-9) (*We too might live in newness of life.*)
- Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 (*What will separate us from the love of Christ?*)
- Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12 (*Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.*)
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (short form, 15:20-23) (*So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.*)
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 (*Death is swallowed up in victory.*)
- 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1 (*What is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.*)
- 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 (*We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.*)
- Philippians 3:20-21 (*He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.*)
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (*Thus we shall always be with the Lord.*)
- 2 Timothy 2:8-13 (*If we have died with him we shall also live with him.*)
- 1 John 3:1-2 (*We shall see him as he is.*)
- 1 John 3:14-16 (*We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.*)

Reader Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____



Gospel Reading:

- I would prefer the priest/family to choose the Gospel Reading.
- My choice for the Gospel:

Readings from the Gospels:

- Matthew 5:1-12a (*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*)
- Matthew 11:25-30 (*Come to me and I will give you rest.*)
- Matthew 25:1-13 (*Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!*)
- Matthew 25:31-46 (*Come, you who are blessed by my Father.*)
- Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6 (short form, 15:33-39) (*Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.*)
- Luke 7:11-17 (*Young man, I tell you, arise!*)
- Luke 12:35-40 (*You also must be prepared.*)
- Luke 23:33, 39-43 (*Today you will be with me in Paradise.*)
- Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a (short form, 23:44-46, 50, 52-53) (*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*)
- John 5:24-29 (*Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.*)
- John 6:37-40 (*Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day.*)
- John 6:51-58 (*Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.*)
- John 11:17-27 (short form, 11:21-27) (*I am the resurrection and the life.*)
- John 11:32-45 (*Lazarus, come out!*)
- John 12:23-28 (short form, 12:23-26) (*If it dies, it produces much fruit.*)
- John 14:1-6 (*In my Father's house there are many dwellings.*)
- John 17:24-26 (*I wish that where I am they also may be with me.*)
- John 19:17-18, 25-39 (*And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit.*)

Reader Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

Prayers of the Faithful:

Reader Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____



Sacred Hymns:

Please indicate any sacred hymns you would like to be included in your funeral Mass.

Hymns: _____

Special Requests (Song, Musician/Choir, etc.): _____

Gift Bearers:

1. Gift Bearer Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

2. Gift Bearer Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

3. Gift Bearer Name: _____

Relationship to You: _____

Placing of the Pall:

Just as you receive a white garment at your baptism, a white cloth called a pall is placed over the casket at the beginning of the funeral liturgy. Would you prefer a family member or friend to place the pall on your casket?

Name of Person: _____

Relationship to You: _____

Name of Person: _____

Relationship to You: _____

Name of Person: _____

Relationship to You: _____



Other Requests:

Please use the space below to include any other requests, instructions, or special wishes you may have at this time. You may also wish to indicate a specific photo for an obituary and any other information, such as community memberships, that you would like to be included in an obituary. Please also note any other funeral or burial requests that you would want your loved ones to know:

Signature:

By signing below, you acknowledge that the information provided are your personal wishes. This document should be stored in a safe place, with a copy provided to a trusted family member, a priest, or an attorney to ensure that your funeral and burial are conducted in accordance with Catholic teachings and your personal wishes.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____