

Order of Christian Funerals
Guidelines for Preparation of the
Funeral Liturgy



Our Lady of the Annunciation Church
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Life is Changed, Not Ended

The death of a loved one is a trying time. With death comes a separation. With the support of the community, however, the grieving process can be made easier. “If one member suffers in the body of Christ which is the Church, all members suffer with them,” (1 Cor. 12:26). For this reason, those who are baptized into Christ and nourished at the same table of the Lord are responsible for one another. When Christians are sick, their brothers and sisters share a ministry of mutual charity. So too when a member of Christ’s body dies, the faithful are called to a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of one whom they love. Christian consolation is rooted in the hope that comes from faith in the saving death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christian hope faces the reality of death and the anguish of grief, but trusts confidently that the power of sin and death have been vanquished by the Risen Lord.

(Order of Christian Funerals, General Introduction, art. 8)

Making arrangements for funeral services is a very difficult and sometimes painful task. The clergy, pastoral team and staff of Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish want to make this as simple as possible for you and your family. Please be assured that our prayers are with you.

Prayer of Consolation

*Father of mercies and God of all consolation,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying has destroyed our death, and by rising,
restored our life.*

*Enable us, therefore, to press on toward Him, so that,
after our earthly course is run,
He may reunite us with those we love,
when every tear will be wiped away.
We ask this through Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Funeral Preparation

Once notified by either the family or the funeral home that a parishioner has died, a date and time for the funeral is arranged with the parish. At that time, an appointment is set with interested family members to discuss the funeral. Arrangements are made for the Marianites to lead the Rosary, if desired, and a deacon for the interment.

The meeting with the family is to discuss the funeral liturgy. During this meeting the Scripture readings, music and any ministries are discussed. Those present at this meeting are made aware of our policies and practice regarding the funeral liturgy. Family members are encouraged to choose the

readings and music as well as participate in various ministries, i.e. gift bearers, lectors. The family is also asked to prepare a brief biography of the deceased so that the Presider can use this information in his homily.

Ordinarily the parish clergy celebrate the Funeral Mass. Exceptions must be approved by the pastor ahead of time. Grave side interment services can usually be provided by a parish deacon if the service is held within Albuquerque city limits. Only musicians and cantors who normally minister at Annunciation Parish are permitted to lead the music ministry at funerals in the parish.

Offerings

The customary offerings are as follows:

Parish / Clergy (Mass)	\$150
Music Ministers	\$ 50 (per musician)
Clergy (Interment)	\$ 15

These offerings should be paid to the parish before the funeral.

When the funeral takes place during the week (Monday through Friday) and St. Magdalene Hall is available, the Women's Guild of the parish offers a luncheon that often follows interment at the cemetery. The cost is figured at \$1 per expected guest, and arrangements must be made through the parish office. If interment takes place at a cemetery outside of Albuquerque, time usually does not permit a luncheon. We are unable to offer a luncheon for funerals which take place on Saturday, or when St. Magdalene Hall is unavailable.

The Funeral Mass

On the day of the funeral the parish community gathers to pray for the repose of the soul as well as commend the soul of the deceased to the Lord. Through the rites of the Church we celebrate as a family the Church's teaching on death and resurrection. The parish provides music ministers, servers and when needed, lectors and Eucharistic ministers. The Funeral Mass is celebrated using the preparations agreed upon with the parish and the family. Ordinarily the Funeral Mass takes place at our parish 8:30 a.m. weekday Mass, where the family of the deceased can receive the great love, support and prayers of our regularly gathered faith community.

If for some reason there is no Funeral Mass, a Memorial Mass may be celebrated. A Memorial Mass differs from a Funeral Mass in as much as the body is not present. Memorial Masses usually take place when cremation has occurred or when burial takes place out of state.

Eulogies

Both the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (338) and the General Introduction to the *Order of Christian Funerals* (27 in the U.S. edition) mention that at a funeral there may be a brief homily "but never a eulogy." Questions have been raised as to whether this is a blanket prohibition against *any* "eulogy" or means only that a eulogy can never replace the homily.

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe and Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish encourage family and friends to share memories of the deceased at the rosary or vigil. Eulogies at the Funeral Mass itself are not permitted. It is our Christian faith that our life on earth is a preparation for our death and

that our death is a birth to eternal life. The funeral rites of the Church focus on our belief that a fellow Christian has now attained the goal we all long for -- life with God. Achievements on earth are ultimately insignificant when compared to this reality. Thus, funeral liturgies are inappropriate moments for cataloguing earthly achievements.

The Rosary

While the Rosary is not an official part of the Order of Christian Burial, families often ask to have a rosary prayed for their deceased loved one. If you choose to pray the Rosary it normally takes place at the mortuary chapel the evening before the funeral liturgy. In this situation, the Marianites from Annunciation Parish will usually attend and lead the prayer. If it is not possible to have the Rosary at the mortuary chapel, an alternative is to invite family and friends to your own home to pray the Rosary. Annunciation Church is not available due to our own parish schedule of rehearsals, liturgies and other events regularly taking place in the church.

Viewing

Hours for viewing the body must be scheduled with the mortuary and take place at the mortuary. Once the casket is closed and transported from the mortuary to the church, it may not be re-opened for viewing at the church.

Selection of Readings

Readings for the Funeral Mass are taken from the Lectionary for Mass. Just as for a Sunday liturgy, there are three readings for the Funeral Mass: one selection from the Old Testament, one from the books of the New Testament and one reading selected from the four Gospels, either Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.

The following list offers suggested readings for Funeral Masses as given in the Lectionary. Each selection includes a brief synopsis of that particular reading. Please select one reading from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and one from the Gospels. Readings marked by an asterisk (*) are especially appropriate for the Funeral Mass for Children.

Old Testament Readings

1. ___ He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.
2 Maccabees 12:43-46
2. ___ I know that my Vindicator lives.
Job 19:1, 23-27a
3. ___ As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
Wisdom 3:1-9 or 3:1-6, 9
4. ___ An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.
Wisdom 4:7-15

5. ___ He will destroy death forever.
Isaiah 25:6a, 7-96*
6. ___ It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.
Lamentations 3:17-26*
7. ___ Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.
Daniel 12:1-3
8. ___ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8,11

New Testament Readings

1. ___ Since we are now justified by his Blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.
Romans 5:5-11
2. ___ Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more.
Romans 5:17-21
3. ___ We too might live in newness of life.
Romans 6:3-9 or 6:3-4, 8-9*
4. ___ We also grow within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
Romans 8:14-23

5. ___ What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39
6. ___ Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12*
7. ___ So too in Christ shall all be brought to life.
1 Corinthians 15:20-28 or 15:20-23*
8. ___ Death is swallowed up in victory
1 Corinthians 15:51-57
9. ___ What is seen in transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:14—5:1
10. ___ We have a building from God, eternal in heaven.
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10
11. ___ He will change our lowly bodies to conform to his glory.
Philippians 3:20-21
12. ___ Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*
13. ___ If we have died with him we shall also live with him.
2 Timothy 2:8-13
14. ___ We shall see him as he is.
1 John 3:1-2

15. ___ We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.
1 John 3:14-16
16. ___ He is the one appointed by god as judge of the living as the dead.
Acts 10:34-43 or 10:34-36, 42-43
17. ___ Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.
Revelation 14:13
18. ___ The dead were judged according to their deeds.
Revelation 20:11-21:1
19. ___ There shall be no more death.
Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 *
20. ___ God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
Revelation 7:9-10, 15-17 *
21. ___ He chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy.
Ephesians 1:3-5 *

Gospel Readings

1. ___ Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.
Matthew 5:1-12a
2. ___ Come to me and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:25-30 *
3. ___ Behold the bridegroom! Come out to him!
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 or 15:33-39
6. ___ Young man, I tell you, arise!
Luke 7:11-17
7. ___ You also must be prepared.
Luke 12:35-40
8. ___ Today you will be with me in Paradise.
Luke 23:33, 39-43
9. ___ Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.
**Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53; 24:1-6a
or 23:44-46, 50, 52-53**
10. ___ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?

Luke 24:13-35 or 24:13-16, 28-35

11. ___Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from death to life.
John 5:24-29
12. ___Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life and I shall raise him on the last day.
John 6:37-40 *
13. ___Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.
John 6:51-59
14. ___I am the resurrection and the life.
John 11:17-27 or 11:21-27
15. ___Lazarus, come out!
John 11:32-45
16. ___If it dies, it produces much fruit.
John 12:23-28 or 12:23-26
17. ___In my Father's house there are many dwellings.
John 14:1-6
18. ___I wish that where I am they also may be with me.
John 17:24-26
19. ___And bowing his head he handed over his Spirit.
John 19:17-18, 25-39
20. ___The Kingdom of heaven belongs to little children.
Mark 10:13-16

Selection of Music for the Funeral Mass

Music Ministers for the Funeral Mass are chosen from the available ministers of our own parish. The selection of music for the Funeral Mass is based on the same principles used for selecting music for a Sunday liturgy. The Funeral Mass is a resurrection celebration of the local parish community and, as such, the music selected for the Funeral Mass should be representative of the music known by the community and chosen from within its repertoire.

Gathering Hymns

- _____ Blest Are They
- _____ For All the Saints
- _____ How Firm a Foundation
- _____ I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
- _____ I Know That My Redeemer Lives
(DukeStreet)
- _____ Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- _____ O Love of God/Amor de Dios
- _____ We Walk by Faith

Responsorial Psalm

- _____ Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd
- _____ Psalm 25: To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul

- _____ Psalm 27: The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation
- _____ Psalm 42/43: Like a Deer that Longs for Running Streams, My soul longs for you, my God
- _____ Psalm 63: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God
- _____ Psalm 103: The Lord is kind and merciful
- _____ Psalm 116: Our Blessing Cup
- _____ Psalm 122: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord
- _____ Psalm 130: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Out of the Depths)

Preparation of the Gifts

- _____ Be Still, My Soul
- _____ Give Me Jesus
- _____ I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
- _____ Keep in Mind
- _____ Lord of All Hopefulness
- _____ My God and My All
- _____ Only This I Want
- _____ The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- _____ The Living God My Shepherd Is
- _____ You Are Mine

Communion Hymns

- _____ Eat This Bread
- _____ Eye Has Not Seen
- _____ Gift of Finest Wheat
- _____ I Am the Bread of Life
- _____ In the Breaking of the Bread (Hurd)
- _____ One Bread, One Body
- _____ Pan de Vida
- _____ Panis Angelicus (Sacris Solemnis)
- _____ Psalm 42 As The Deer Longs
- _____ Shepherd Me, O God
- _____ There Is A Longing
- _____ Unless a Grain of Wheat

Sending Forth Hymns

- _____ Be Not Afraid
- _____ Christ Be Our Light
- _____ Crown Him with Many Crowns
- _____ Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
- _____ Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
- _____ Lead Me, Lord
- _____ Now Thank We All Our God
- _____ Sing With All the Saints In Glory

Funeral Planning

Deceased:

Mortuary:

Interment:

Cremation: Yes No

Open Casket: Yes No

Viewing Hours: None Afternoon Evening

Wake / Rosary: Yes No

Location: Time:

NOTES:

Funeral / Memorial Mass Planning Form

Reception of the Body

Gathering Hymn

Opening Prayer

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

Preparation of the Gifts Hymn

Holy

Memorial Acclamation

Amen

Lamb Of God

Communion Hymn

Sending Forth Hymn

Lectors

Servers

Gift Bearers

