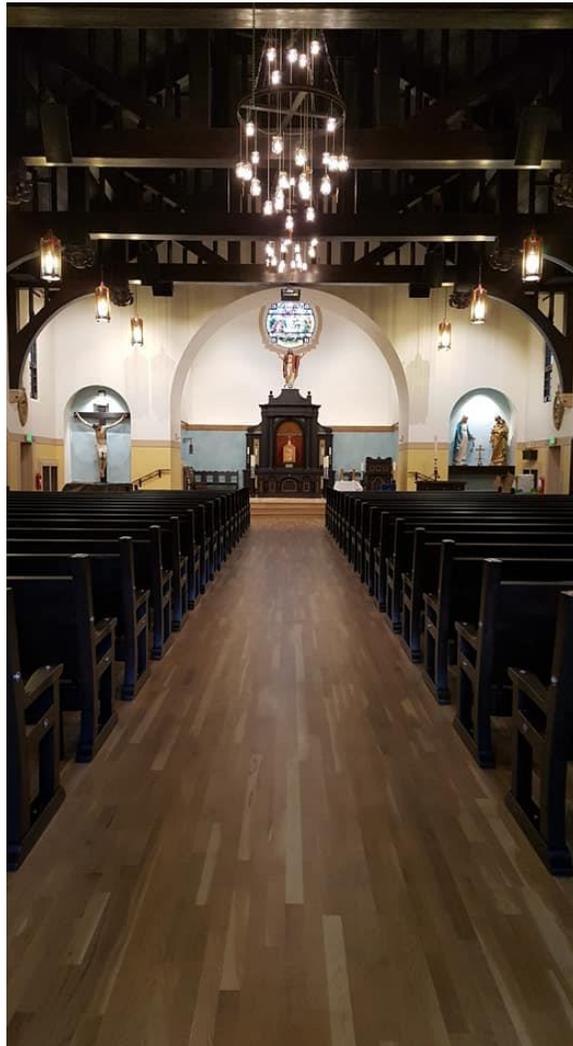


# Funeral Planning Guide



**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
**2021 W. Pikes Peak Avenue (Mailing address)**  
**2030 W. Colorado Avenue (Church address)**  
**Colorado Springs, CO 80904**  
**(719) 633-8711**

## General Introduction

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. Christ “achieved his task of redeeming humanity and giving perfect glory to God, principally by the Paschal Mystery of his blessed passion, death and resurrection from the dead, and his glorious ascension.”

(Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, art. 5.)

At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of baptism and strengthened at the eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The Church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting word of God and the sacrament of the eucharist.

(*Order of Christian Funerals*, no. 4)

The Church, through its funeral rites, commends the dead to God’s merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins. At the funeral rites the Christian community affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one great communion of saints. Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and intercession. At the rite of final commendation and farewell, the community acknowledges the reality of separation and commends the deceased to God. In this way it recognizes the spiritual bond that still exists between the living and the dead and proclaims its belief that all the faithful will be raised up and reunited in the new heavens and a new earth, where death will be no more.

(*Order of Christian Funerals*, no.6)

The celebration of the Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. While proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and witnessing to the Christian hope in the resurrection, the funeral rites also recall to all who take part in them God’s mercy and judgment and meet the human need to turn always to God in times of crisis.

(*Order of Christian Funerals*, no. 7)

## An Overview of Catholic Funeral Rites

The Catholic funeral rite is divided into several stations, or parts, each with its own purpose. We recommend following the complete structure and making use of each station.

### **Vigil Service (Wake)**

“At the vigil, the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ’s presence.” (*Order of Christian Funerals*, no. 56) The Vigil Service usually takes place during the period of visitation and viewing at the funeral home. It is a time to remember the life of the deceased and to commend him/her to God. In prayer we ask God to console us in our grief and give us strength to support one another.

The Vigil Service can take the form of a Service of the Word with readings from Sacred Scripture accompanied by reflection and prayers. It can also take the form of one of the prayers of the Office for the Dead from Liturgy of the Hours. The parish representative can assist in planning such a service.

It is most appropriate, when family and friends are gathered together for visitation, to offer time for recalling the life of the deceased. For this reason, eulogies are encouraged to be done at the funeral home during visitation or at the Vigil Service.

### **Funeral Liturgy**

The funeral liturgy is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased. When one of its members dies, the Church encourages the celebration of the funeral liturgy at a Mass. When Mass cannot be celebrated, a funeral liturgy outside Mass can be celebrated at the church or in the funeral home.

At the funeral liturgy, the Church gathers with the family and friends of the deceased to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, to commend the deceased to God's tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery. The funeral liturgy, therefore, is an act of worship, and not merely an expression of grief.

### **Rite of Committal (Burial or Interment)**

The Rite of Committal, the conclusion of the funeral rite, is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member. It should normally be celebrated at the place of committal, that is, beside the open grave or place of interment. In committing the body to its resting place, the community expresses the hope that, with all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, the deceased awaits the glory of the resurrection. The Rite of Committal is an expression of the communion that exists between the Church on earth and the Church in heaven; the deceased passes with the farewell prayers of the community of believers into the welcoming company of those who need faith no longer, but see God face-to-face.

*(2018 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

### **Cremation and The Order of Christian Funerals**

In April 1977, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments granted an indult, or dispensation, for the United States to allow the diocesan bishop to permit the presence of the cremated remains of a body at a Funeral Mass. Later that year, the Congregation confirmed the special texts and ritual directives, which were published as an appendix to the *Order Of Christian Funerals*.

The practice of cremation has grown and become more commonplace in the United States, and it is often presented as a more affordable alternative to traditional burial. What is often overlooked is the Church's teaching regarding the respect and honor due to the human body. The *Order of Christian Funerals'* Appendix on Cremation states: "Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites." *(no. 413)*

Ideally, if a family chooses cremation, the cremation would take place at some time after the Funeral Mass, so that there can be an opportunity for the Vigil for the Deceased in the presence of the body (during “visitation” or “viewing” at a church or funeral home). This allows for the appropriate reverence for the sacredness of the body at the Funeral Mass: sprinkling with holy water, the placing of the pall, and honoring it with incense. The Rite of Committal then takes place after cremation. Funeral homes offer several options in this case. One is the use of “cremation caskets,” which is essentially a rental casket with a cardboard liner that is cremated with the body. Another is a complete casket that is cremated (this casket contains minimal amounts of non-combustible material such as metal handles or latches). Ask your funeral home director if these options are available.

When cremation takes place before the Funeral Mass, the Appendix provides adapted texts for the Sprinkling with Holy Water, the Dismissal for use at the Funeral Mass (or the Funeral Liturgy outside Mass), and the Committal of Cremated Remains.

The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, and the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of the deceased, a friend or relative, and the creation of cremation jewelry are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.

*(no. 417)*

The Church encourages burial in a Catholic cemetery. *(Canon 1180.1)* Burial in consecrated ground is a sign of the commitment and vows of baptism and gives witness, even in death, to the Resurrection of Christ. If interment of cremated remains in a mausoleum or columbarium is chosen, it is praiseworthy for the priest or deacon to preside in a brief service of blessing the final resting place, and leading prayers and intercessions for the deceased.

### **When a Death Occurs**

Typically, one of the first calls made when a death occurs is to a funeral home. Please contact Sacred Heart Church 719-633-8711 about the availability of Sacred Heart Church, or Holy Rosary Chapel in Cascade, and our priest ***before*** setting the date with the funeral home. Funerals are offered on the following days of the week at the listed times:

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10am</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10am</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10am</b>

Once the date and time of the funeral has been confirmed with the parish, a consult appointment will be scheduled with the Sacred Heart Church Director of Music Ministry. This is a meeting with 1 or 2 family members to obtain information for our sacramental records, and assist with planning the funeral.

## Guidelines

1. The Catholic Church has beautiful Rites for Christian Burial with or without Mass. A “Celebration of Life” is a different event and does not replace the funeral liturgy. These are not to be celebrated in the church.
2. The Vigil and Rosary *are optional*. This is normally done on the day of, or night before, the funeral, and is normally done at the funeral home. A Catholic family member is encouraged to lead the Rosary. This is also a time for family members to speak about the deceased in the ways they deem fit. The Vigil is the most appropriate time for eulogies and favorite songs that would not otherwise be appropriate for the Funeral Rite.
3. The church will be open and available 1 hour before the scheduled funeral. It is the responsibility of the funeral home to ensure the body of the deceased (or cremated remains) is at the church on time.
4. Catholic funerals are normally celebrated in the context of a Mass. However, this is not your only option. If the deceased was not particularly active in the liturgical life of the Church, or the majority of family and friends are not actively practicing Catholics, you may want to choose a Liturgy of the Word service.
5. Because these are sacred rites, the music for funeral liturgies must be church-approved sacred music. Popular and non-religious music is not appropriate. Liturgical law prohibits the playing of pre-recorded music. Families are encouraged to select music from our hymnal in order to promote the assembly’s full participation in the sung and spoken word. Please see the attached music planning guide on page 8.
6. A shelf is available in the main entrance of Sacred Heart Church for placement of memorial items such as pictures, guestbook, and personal mementos.
7. In the case of cremation, an ossuary for the urn will be provided during the funeral rite at Sacred Heart Church. [If the funeral occurs at Holy Rosary Chapel, the urn will be placed on a small table in front of the altar.] The choice of an appropriate urn should be in keeping with Catholic Church teaching of the dignity of the human body.
8. If the family chooses not to gather in the presence of the body for a Rosary or Vigil the night before the funeral, a viewing can be arranged at the church on the day of the funeral, 1 hour before the scheduled funeral liturgy. The open casket will be placed at the front of the church. The casket will be closed a few minutes before the start of the formal funeral liturgy and moved to the main entrance of the church for the Introductory Rites.
9. The Rosary, Vigil or reception are the most appropriate times to eulogize the deceased. An *optional eulogy* may be offered before the start of the funeral liturgy. If it is given, the eulogy must be offered by 1 family member or friend, be brief and in writing, and limited to 3-5 minutes. The purpose of the eulogy is to reflect on the way the Catholic faith positively impacted the life of the deceased, and how the person lived out the Catholic faith.
10. There are no fees for the rites of the Church. However, there are fees associated with those who serve the liturgy:
  - a. The Sacred Heart Director of Music Ministry will schedule a consult meeting with 1 or 2 family members to assist in arranging scriptures and music, as well as walk through the funeral liturgy.

- b. The Catholic funeral liturgy requires 2 music ministers - a cantor and an accompanist. Both of these musicians will be provided by the parish. The requested stipend for the cantor is \$150. The Sacred Heart Church Director of Music Ministry serves as the accompanist, and no stipend is requested. However, if the Sacred Heart Church Director of Music Ministry is unavailable, a suitable and trained Catholic accompanist will be contacted by the parish at the requested stipend of \$150.
  - c. One of our priests will serve as the presider and lead the gathered family and friends in prayer the day of the funeral. He will also lead the Final Commendation service at the cemetery, mausoleum or columbarium following the funeral.
11. Ministers of the Liturgy: In addition to the presiding priest and music ministers from the parish, there is an opportunity for family members or friends to serve as gift bearers (2 actively practicing Catholics who carry the bread and wine to the altar during the offertory procession.) The parish will provide properly trained and mandated extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) as well as trained and experienced altar servers and proclaimers. The Sacred Heart Church Director of Music Ministry will meet with family members 20-30 minutes before the start of the funeral liturgy to ensure everyone is comfortable and knows what to do.
  12. Scripture and Music choices: Please refer to pages 6, 7 and 8 of this document.
  13. Flowers: Floral arrangements will only be placed in designated areas on the steps of the sanctuary space in the church, and on the shelf in the main entrance. Arrangements on stands will be placed in designated areas in the church and the main entrance.
  14. Burial: Burial of the body or cremated remains should occur as soon as possible after the funeral liturgy, normally immediately following the funeral liturgy. The Church encourages burial in a Catholic cemetery. Burial in consecrated ground is a sign of the commitment and vows of baptism, and gives witness, even in death, to the Resurrection of Christ. Since this is not always possible, prayers and a blessing of the burial site are led by the priest in a public cemetery. Cremated remains must be interred in the ground or a columbarium as soon as possible after the funeral, like the burial of a body. Cremated remains must be given the same respect as the body and will normally be placed in a burial vault at a cemetery. These should not be kept in the home or other place following the funeral.
  15. DVD's, slide shows or other forms of media are best shared during the Rosary or Vigil at the funeral home, or during the Meal of Compassion in Sacred Heart Parish Center. It is not appropriate for these to be shown before or after the funeral liturgy in the church.

Prohibited Days: The universal liturgical law of the Catholic Church does not allow funerals to take place on the following days:

- a. The Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday)
- b. Easter Sunday
- c. Sundays of Advent, Lent and the Easter season including Ascension Sunday
- d. Holy days of obligation:
  - a. January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
  - b. August 15 – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
  - c. November 1 – All Saints
  - d. December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
  - e. December 25 – Christmas

### **Meal of Compassion:**

If the deceased *is a registered parishioner of our parish*, we offer the opportunity of a meal in Sacred Heart Parish Center for family and friends. The meal consists of 4 set menu options. Donations are kindly accepted, though not required.

If the deceased *is not a registered parishioner of our parish*, we offer the opportunity of a meal in Sacred Heart Parish Center for family and friends at the cost of \$200.

The meal consists of 4 set menu options:

1. Lasagna or spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert, beverages
2. Enchilada casserole, beans, rice, salsa, chips, dessert, beverages
3. Baked chicken, potato salad, green beans/corn, rolls, dessert, beverages
4. Cold cut and relish tray for sandwiches, dessert, beverages
5. If a funeral is scheduled on a Friday during Lent, only a meatless option will be offered
6. If the death and the funeral occur in the same week, only the cold cut/relish tray or baked chicken option will be offered

\*\*\*Meals are provided pending the availability of our volunteers

### **Suggested Scripture Choices**

The Order of Christian Funerals calls for either 1 or 2 scripture readings before the Gospel reading. The psalm is sung by the cantor as a prayerful response to the 1<sup>st</sup> scripture reading, and an Alleluia, or Gospel Acclamation, is sung to prepare all gathered for receiving Christ present in the proclamation of the Gospel.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading (Choose 1)**

#### **Wisdom 3:1-9**

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.

#### **Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

#### **Psalm (Choose 1)**

1. Psalm 23 "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."
2. Psalm 25 "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul, my God."
3. Psalm 27 "I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading (Choose 1)**

### **Romans 6:3-4, 8-9**

Brothers and sisters, are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

### **2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

Brothers and sisters: we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

## **Gospel (Choose 1)**

### **Matthew 5:1-12a**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

### **John 6:37-40**

Jesus said to the crowds: “Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.”

### **John 14:1-6**

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God, have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

## **Suggested Song Choices**

In times of grief and sorrow, we often turn to music as an expression of our faith – of those beliefs and hopes we sometimes cannot express in words. Music can say a lot about what you, your family and loved ones believe. It can be a great source of comfort and consolation to the living; it can even inspire new faith or renewed faith in the lives of your family and friends. We offer the following suggestions for your consideration. The placement of the music is usually best left to the discretion and experience of the parish music director. Occasionally, families request a current popular secular song to be played or sung during the funeral Mass. Songs outside the liturgical parameters allowed by the Church are not permitted.

### **Please select 3 hymns:**

1. Amazing Grace
2. Be Not Afraid
3. Gift of Finest Wheat (Communion)
4. How Great Thou Art
5. I Am the Bread of Life (Communion)
6. On Eagle's Wings
7. Prayer of St. Francis
8. Precious Lord, Take My Hand
9. Taste and See (Communion)
10. You Are Mine