

FUNERAL FAQs

A Catholic Guide to end-of-life decisions.

Learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches about end of life issues.

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When my loved one dies, whom should I call?

We recommend your first call be to a funeral home. We find it much easier for families to coordinate funeral services with the parish when a funeral home is directly involved.

When are funeral Masses offered?

Based on availability, the parish will be available for a funeral Mass most days with the exception of Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Keep in mind the pastor is responsible for two communities and is not present everyday. A Sunday funeral is possible, but it must be outside of Mass and by visiting clergy. The preferred time for a funeral Mass is in the morning, reflecting the theme of resurrection.

Who can have a funeral Mass?

Every Catholic, unless specifically excluded by the norms of law, is entitled to Catholic funeral rites. A child who dies before baptism or a stillborn or miscarried child may receive Catholic funeral rites if the parents intended to have the child baptized. Catechumens may also be given Catholic funeral rites.

Can a non-Catholic spouse be buried from a Catholic Church?

Yes, if the non-Catholic did not have a church of his/her own and the Catholic family member requests it. The funeral, including the Mass, can be celebrated.

Can a divorced, remarried Catholic or one who committed suicide have a Catholic Funeral?

Yes. Such circumstances themselves do not exclude the possibility of a Catholic burial. In individual cases the pastor should be consulted.

Both burial and cremation are permitted for Catholics. Which is the preferred option?

The Church clearly says that while cremation is permitted, it doesn't enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church prefers and urges that the body be present for the funeral rites if one does choose cremation. Cremated remains need to be treated with the same respect as we would the body of our deceased loved ones. They need to be inurned into the ground or placed in a cremation niche. They cannot be scattered, divided, or combined with others' cremains.

What is the purpose of a funeral?

Please view this [video](#).

For more information on Catholic funerals, click [here](#).