

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED

Introductory Rites

Greeting
Opening Song
Invitation to Prayer
Opening Prayer

The vigil for the deceased is the principal rite celebrated by the Christian community in the time following death and before the funeral liturgy, or if there is no funeral liturgy, before the rite of committal.

Liturgy of the Word

Reading
Responsorial Psalm
Gospel
Homily

The vigil may be celebrated in the home of the deceased, in the funeral home, parlor or chapel of rest, or in some other suitable place. It may also be celebrated in the church.

Prayer of Intercession

Litany
The Lord's Prayer
Concluding Prayer
(Remembrance by family member or friend)

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. It is the first occasion among the funeral rites for the solemn reading of the word of God. In this time of loss the family and community turn to God's word as the source of faith and hope, as light and life in the face of darkness and death. Consoled by the redeeming word of God and by the abiding presence of Christ and his Spirit, the assembly at the vigil calls upon the Father of mercy to receive the deceased into the kingdom of light and peace.

Concluding Rite

Blessing
Song

The reading of the word of God is an essential element of the celebration of the funeral liturgy. The readings proclaim the paschal mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourage the witness of Christian life. Above all, the readings tell of God's design for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called his own.

A brief homily based on the readings should always be given at the funeral liturgy, but never any kind of eulogy. The homilist should dwell on God's compassionate love and on the paschal mystery of the Lord as proclaimed in the Scripture readings. Through the homily, the community should receive the consolation and strength to face the death of one of its members with a hope that has been nourished by the proclamation of the saving word of God.

from *Order of Christian Funerals*
The Roman Ritual



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

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FUNERAL LITURGY

ORDER WITH MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting
Sprinkling with Holy Water
[Placing of the Pall]
Entrance Procession/*Song*
[Placing of Christian Symbols]
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

I Reading (Old Testament)
Responsorial Psalm
II Reading (New Testament)
Gospel
Homily
General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts and Altar/*Song*
Preface and Eucharistic Prayer
Holy
Memorial Acclamation
Amen
The Lord's Prayer
Lamb of God litany
Communion Procession/*Song*
Post Communion Prayer

FINAL COMMENDATION

[Remembrance by family member or friend]
Invitation to Prayer
Silence
[Signs of Farewell]
Song of Farewell
Prayer of Commendation

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITMENT/*Song*

ORDER WITHOUT MASS

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting
Sprinkling with Holy Water
[Placing of the Pall]
Entrance Procession/*Song*
[Placing of Christian Symbols]
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

I Reading (Old Testament)
Responsorial Psalm
II Reading (New Testament)
Gospel
Homily
General Intercessions
The Lord's Prayer



FINAL COMMENDATION

[Remembrance by family member or friend]
Invitation to Prayer
Silence
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Song of Farewell
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PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITMENT/*Song*



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RITE OF COMMITTAL

Invitation
Scripture Verse
Prayer over the Place of Committal

Committal
Intercessions
The Lord's Prayer
Concluding Prayer

[Remembrance by family member or friend]
Prayer over the People

The rite of committal, the conclusion of the funeral rites, is the final act of the community of faith in the caring for the body of its deceased member. It may be celebrated at the grave, tomb, or crematorium and may be used for burial at sea. Whenever possible, the rite of committal is to be celebrated at the site of the committal, that is, beside the open grave or place of interment, rather than at a cemetery chapel.

In committing the body to its resting place, the community expresses the hope that, with all those who gone before 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.

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Preparing a Funeral Service for:

Full Name	Nickname
Date of Birth	Funeral Home
Date of Death	Pre-Need Planing
Next of Kin	Vigil time/date
	Funeral time/date
	Burial time/date
	Memorial time/date

Presider	
Deacon/MC	
Musician	
Cantor/Choir	
Pall Bearers	
Lector (s)	
Server (s)	
Usher (s)	
Eucharistic Minister (s)	
Family Remembrance	
Placing the Pall	
Procession of Bread & Wine	
Reading I	
Psalm	
Reading II	
Gospel	
General Intercessions	
Entrance Music	
Preparation of Altar	
Service Music	Holy Mystery of Faith Great Amen Lord's Prayer Lamb of God
Communion Hymn	
Song of Farewell	
Recessional Music	
Food	
Flowers	
Other	
December 14, 2014	