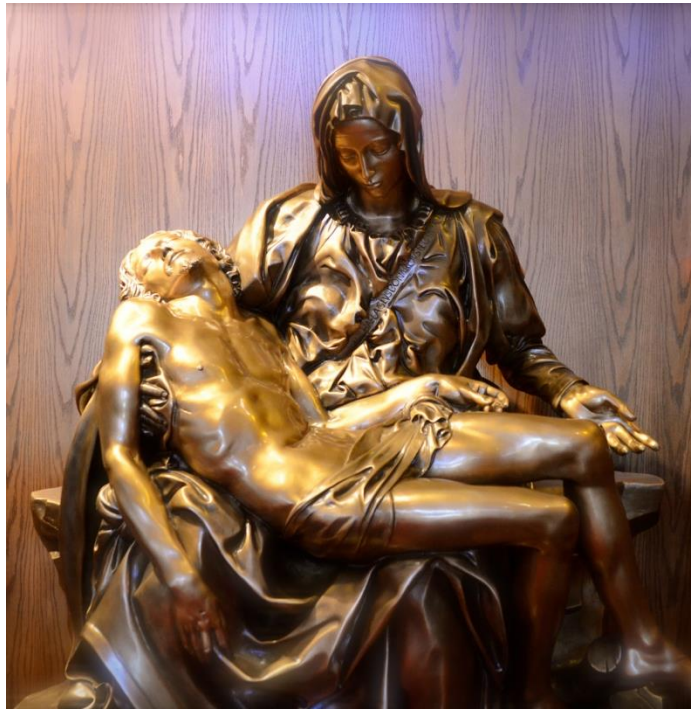


Funeral Planning Guide

St. Peter Chanel



Revised January, 2016

Included in this Funeral Planning Guide are resources and outlines meant to assist you as you undertake a very difficult responsibility. A Catholic Funeral has very specific parts, but there is much opportunity to personalize it (the prayers, liturgies, music, and special roles) to reflect your own loved one.

The Catholic funeral rite is divided into several elements, or parts, each with its own purpose. For this reason we are including an explanation of the complete structure for your information.

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 such as the Rosary. It can also take the form of one of the prayers of the Office for the Dead from the *Liturgy of the Hours*. 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 usually encouraged to be done at the funeral home during visitation or at the Vigil Service.

We can assist you with planning for 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 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 Internment)

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 internment. In committing a body to its final 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.



FUNERAL PLANNING FORM – St. Peter Chanel

Name of the deceased _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

Name of Funeral Home _____

Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Date of Vigil _____ Presider _____

Place _____

Date of Mass _____ Presider _____

Time _____

Date/Time of Internment _____ Presider _____

Place of Internment _____

Listing of Family Members:

Spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, siblings - please indicate if any close family member has preceded the deceased in death

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please use reverse side to list more family members.

FUNERAL MASS:

Placing of Pall and Crucifix:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Entrance Hymn _____

Words of Remembrance: (Name of speaker) _____

First Reading (Old Testament) _____

First Reader (Lector) _____

- Responsorial Psalm _____

Second Reading (New Testament) _____

Second Reader (Lector) _____

Gospel (Read by clergy) _____

- Offertory Hymn _____

Offertory Gift Bearers: Normally two – others can escort them.

- Communion Hymn _____
- Communion Meditation _____
- Song of Farewell (English/Latin) _____
- Recessional Hymn _____

NOTES AND QUESTIONS: