

St. Cecilia Funeral FAQ

1. **What is a Catholic funeral?** A Complete Catholic funeral consists of three parts, the Vigil Service the night before, the formal funeral Mass itself and the Rite of Committal (burial) at the cemetery.
2. **Where should a funeral Mass be celebrated?** A funeral Mass can only be celebrated in a parish church or consecrated chapel. Funeral Masses in funeral homes are generally prohibited.
3. **How can I get a funeral scheduled?** Michael Case is our Funeral Coordinator. Please contact him at 614-361-5433. He will coordinate with the Pastor, funeral home, and family to schedule the funeral. Michael will also work with the family to select readings and music for the Mass.
4. **Can a funeral Mass be celebrated any day?** Days which funeral Masses may not be celebrated are Holy Days of Obligation, during the Paschal Triduum, Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, and Easter Sunday. Since Sundays are already scheduled with regular parish Masses, all Sundays are typically excluded. Saturdays should be avoided whenever possible due to the parish schedule. Non-Mass funerals may be possible on these days.
5. **Is cremation permitted in the Catholic Church?** Yes, cremation is permitted, provided that the ashes of the deceased are kept together in a sacred space such as a cemetery, or in an area dedicated to this purpose by the ecclesiastical authority. The church prefers that the body be present at the funeral Mass before cremation occurs.
6. **Can I take some of the ashes of the deceased and bury the rest?** Ashes must all be kept in a sacred space, therefore dividing ashes and keeping portions outside of a sacred space (i.e. scattering them on land, sea, or air or keeping them in a private home) is not permitted.
7. **Can we schedule visitation at St. Cecilia?** St. Cecilia does not have the space nor the resources to accommodate visitations. This is better left to the funeral home where space and resources are readily available.
8. **Can I have my favorite priest celebrate the funeral Mass?** Typically, the pastor assigned to each parish celebrates the funeral Mass. However, if there is a personal relationship with another priest, you may request from the pastor at St. Cecilia that this priest be allowed to celebrate the funeral Mass.
9. **The deceased had some favorite readings. Can we use those at the funeral Mass?** St. Cecilia uses the readings published in the Order of Christian Funerals. Readings may be selected from this book.
10. **Can I have my loved one's favorite song(s) sung at the funeral Mass?** Only sacred and liturgical music is permitted during a Catholic Funeral Mass. St. Cecilia has a list of songs that meet that criteria and are familiar to our choir. Other sacred or liturgical music can be requested and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Prerecorded music is never used during a Mass.
11. **Can we have a family member or friend sing or play music at the funeral Mass?** Our Music Director will need to meet with outside musicians first to determine possible involvement.
12. **Can I have family members read the scripture readings at the funeral Mass?** St. Cecilia has trained lectors available for funeral Masses. The church requires that readers be practicing Catholics who have experience reading at Mass.
13. **Are we able to have a eulogy read during the funeral Mass?** The Order of Christian Funerals prohibits eulogies during a Catholic Funeral Mass. It is recommended that eulogies be said at the funeral home visitation or during a luncheon.
14. **Does St. Cecilia provide a luncheon after the funeral Mass?** Yes, we have a bereavement luncheon group that is happy to provide a luncheon after final committal. The group will take into consideration any food allergies or sensitivities when planning the menu