

# A Funeral Planning Checklist For Your Departed Loved One



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.

Life brings moments that are as unavoidable as they are painful. When a loved one passes away, it's a tough time filled with grief and confusion. Add to that the need for immediate action like funeral planning, and the pressure is unbearable for many. Having a funeral planning checklist can alleviate some of this stress, offering a clear roadmap in those initial foggy moments. Let's help you navigate these complex times by breaking down what you need to consider and plan for.

## Preparing for the Mass of the Resurrection

Holding a Catholic funeral service can feel daunting, especially after just losing a loved one. There are centuries-old tradition and ceremony to observe as well as your loved one's wishes. To ensure you have honored your loved one properly, a degree of planning is in order. As with many things in life, planning is the key to handling a Catholic funeral service. This guide may help get the process started.

### After death:

1. Select a funeral home and work closely with them. Decide with the funeral director whether you want a **burial** or **cremation**.
2. Decide with the rest of the family if you want a mass with the body or memorial service or mass with the cremated remains or funeral service only.
3. Contact the priest or pastoral staff at your church, who will work with the funeral director.
4. Select a date of the vigil (wake) and funeral mass. Work with the funeral director and the church.
5. Call/Meet with the priest to plan for the mass.

### Vigil Service/Wake Service

1. Decide the date and time with the funeral directors
2. Do you want a vigil service to be conducted by the priest? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If Yes, Rosary? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Vigil Service Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. Work with the priest for the details.

### Preparing for the Mass

1. The Mass
  - a. Reception of the body and placing of the pall (Pall Bearers) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Entrance Song: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Liturgy of the Word  
*(Select the readers. Select the readings from the approved catholic readings for funeral found on the next page)*  
First Reading (OT) \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Responsorial Psalm \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Read \_\_\_ Cantor \_\_\_)*  
  
Second Reading (NT) \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Gospel Reading (G) \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Homily  
Prayers of the Faithful Priest
  - d. Offertory  
Offertory Song \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Bread and Wine \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Communion Song \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Eulogy (optional) *Brief only (work with the priest)*
  - g. Song of Farewell Choir
  - h. Recessional Song \_\_\_\_\_

## Old Testament (OT)

2 Maccabees 12:43-46	"...he made atonement for the dead..."
Job 19:1,23-27	"...I know that my vindicator lives..."
Ecclesiastes 3.1-8	"...A time to be born, a time to die..."
Ecclesiastes 3.1-15	"...A time to be born, a time to die..."
Wisdom 3.1-9	"...The souls of the just are in the hand of God..."
Wisdom 3:1-6, 9	"...The souls of the just are in the hand of God..."
Wisdom 4:7-14	"The Righteous One, though he die early, shall be at rest..."
Sirach 2:1-11	"...in fire gold is tested....Compassionate is the Lord..."
Isaiah 25:6,7-9	"...he will destroy death forever..."
Isaiah 26:7-19	"...your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise..."
Isaiah 35:1-10	"...Here is your God, he comes with vindication..."
Isaiah 40:1-11	"...Here is your God, Here comes with power..."
Lamentations 3:17-26	"...My portion is the Lord, says my soul..."
Ezekiel 37:12-14	"O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise..."
Daniel 12:1-3	"...the wise shall shine brightly..."
Micah 7:7-9	"...though I sit in darkness, the Lord is my light..."

## New Testament

Acts 10:34-43	"...Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins"
Acts 10:34-36, 42-43	"...Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins"
Romans 5:5-11	"...We were reconciled to God through the death of his Son..."
Romans 5:17-21	"...through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all..."
Romans 6:3-9	"...if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall live with him..."
Romans 6:3-4.8-9	"...if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall live with him..."
Romans 8:1-11	"...There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ..."
Romans 8:14-23	"...Those who are led by the Spirit of God are Children of God"
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39	"...If God is for us, who can be against us?"
Romans 14:7-9, 10-12	"...This is why Christ died and came to life"
1 Corinthians 2:6-10	"..."Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard..."
1 Corinthians 15:12-20	"If there is no resurrection of the dead..."
1 Corinthians 15:20-28	"In Adam all die, so too if Christ shall all be brought to life."
1 Corinthians 15:51-57	"Death where is your victory?"
2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1	"The one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us..."
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10	"We would rather leave the body and go home..."
Philippians 3.7-14	"...I run toward the prize to which God calls me..."
Philippians 3.20-21(1)	"He will change our lowly body..."
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	"If we believe that Jesus died and rose..."
2 Timothy 2:8-13	"Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead..."
2 Timothy 4:1-2, 6-8	"I have competed well, I have finished the race..."
1 John 3:1-2	"Beloved, we are God's children now..."
1 John 3:14-16	"We know that we have passed from death to life..."
Revelation 14:13	"...Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..."
Revelation 20:11-21:1	"...The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades..."
Revelation 21:1-5, 6-7	"...I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem..."

## Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12	"The Eight Beatitudes"
Matthew 11:25-30	"come to me . . . and I will give you rest."
Matthew 25:1-13	"Look. The bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him"
Matthew 25:31-46	"Come, you whom my Father has blessed"
Mark 15:33-39	"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
Mark 15:33-16:6	"Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last"
Luke 7:11-17	"Young man, I say to you, arise."

Luke 12:35-40	“Be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect,…”
Luke 23:33, 39-43	“Today you will be with me in paradise.”
Luke 23.44-49	“Father, I put my life in your hands.”
Luke 23:44-49	“Father into your hands I commend my spirit”
Luke 24:13-35	“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer…”
Luke 24:13-16,28-35	“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer…”
John 5:24-29	“Whoever hears my word and believes has passed from…”
John 6:37-40	“All who believe in the Son will have eternal life…”
John 6:51-58	“All who eat this bread will live for ever…”
John 11:17-27	“I am the resurrection and the life.”
John 11:21-27	“I am the resurrection and the life.”
John 11:32-45	“Lazarus, come out.”
John 12:23-28	“If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies…”
John 12:23-26	“If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies…”
John 14.1-6	“There are many rooms in my Father’s house.”
John 17.24-26	“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me…”
John 19:17-18, 25-39	“Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirits.”

<b>Entrance</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Offertory</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All My Hope on God is Founded</li> <li>- All You Who Seek a Comfort Sure</li> <li>- Amazing Grace</li> <li>- Be Not Afraid</li> <li>- For You Are My God</li> <li>- For All the Saints</li> <li>- God Whose Glory Reigns Eternal</li> <li>- Healer of Our Every Ill</li> <li>- Here I Am Lord</li> <li>- How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place</li> <li>- Lord of the Living</li> <li>- Love Divine, All Love Excelling</li> <li>- Sing With All the Saints</li> <li>- On Eagle’s Wings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Psalm 23 – My Shepherd is the Lord</li> <li>- Psalm 25 – To You, O Lord, I life up my soul</li> <li>- Psalm 27 – The Lord is my light and my salvation</li> <li>- Psalm 42; 43 – So my soul is yearning for you, my God</li> <li>- Psalm 42 – My soul is thirsting for the Lord</li> <li>- Psalm 63 – In the shadow of your wings I rejoice</li> <li>- Psalm 63 – My soul is thirsting for You, O Lord, my God</li> <li>- Psalm 103 – The Lord is compassion and love</li> <li>- Psalm 116 – I will walk in the presence of the Lord</li> <li>- Psalm 130 – With the Lord there is mercy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amazing Grace</li> <li>- Blest Are the Pure in Heart</li> <li>- Eye Has Not Seen</li> <li>- How Great Thou Art</li> <li>- Lord of All Hopefulness</li> <li>- O Lord You Died That All Might Live</li> <li>- Prayer of St. Francis</li> <li>- Remember Those, O Lord</li> <li>- Rest In Peace</li> <li>- Shelter Me O God</li> <li>- The Lord… Rules My Life</li> </ul>

<b>Communion</b>	<b>Song of Farewell</b>	<b>Recessional</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amazing Grace</li> <li>- Bread of Life</li> <li>- Eat This Bread</li> <li>- Gather Us Together</li> <li>- Gift of Finest Wheat</li> <li>- I Am the Bread of Life</li> <li>- Like a Shepherd</li> <li>- My Shepherd is the Lord</li> <li>- Our Daily Bread</li> <li>- Prayer of St. Francis</li> <li>- Taste and See</li> <li>- No Greater Love</li> <li>- You Are Near</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I Know That My Redeemer Lives</li> <li>- I Know That My Redeemer Lives</li> <li>- Jesus Remember Me</li> <li>- May Flights of Angels</li> <li>- Songs of the Angels</li> <li>- This Day in New Jerusalem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Living Faith</li> <li>- Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord</li> <li>- Be Not Afraid</li> <li>- City of God</li> <li>- For All the Saints</li> <li>- How Great Thou Art</li> <li>- Jesus Christ is Ris’n Today</li> <li>- O Jesus Lord Increase Our Faith</li> <li>- O God Beyond All Praising</li> <li>- O God Our Help In Ages Past</li> <li>- Sing a New Song</li> <li>- Sing With All the Saints in Glory</li> <li>- There’s a Wilderness In God’s Mercy</li> </ul>