



Christ Our King

CATHOLIC CHURCH

1149 Russell Drive

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466

Office: (843) 884-5587

Funeral Guidelines

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven.ⁱ

Through the funeral rites, we commend the dead to God's merciful love, and we pray for the forgiveness of their sins.ⁱⁱ We offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving for a life that has been returned to God.ⁱⁱⁱ

We recognize the spiritual bond between the living and the dead, and we proclaim our belief that the faithful will be raised up and reunited in the new heavens and a new earth, where death will be no more.^{iv}

Who may receive Christian Burial?

1. Members of the Christian faithful (baptized Catholics)^v
2. Catechumens^{vi}
3. Children who die before baptism^{vii}

CREMATION

Although cremation is now permitted by the Church, it does not enjoy the same value as burial of the body. The Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites.^{viii}

In cases of cremation, the cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition.^{ix}

The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The Church does not condone the practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend.^x

When the choice has been made to cremate a body, it is recommended that the cremation take place after the Funeral Liturgy.^{xi}

If the Funeral Liturgy is celebrated in the presence of the cremated remains, the Rite of Committal is celebrated at the cemetery or columbarium as soon as possible following the Funeral Liturgy.^{xii}

In no circumstance would it be appropriate to bring the cremated remains to a luncheon or reception.

ARRANGEMENTS

Generally, the funeral home will contact Christ Our King's Pastoral Assistant (Betsy Dalton) for funeral arrangements. The parish office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am-3:00pm. The parish office number is 843-884-5587.

No arrangements may be made (time, place, etc.) without the approval of the priest/celebrant.

Following the arrangements made at the funeral home, a priest or his representative will contact the family.

WAKE SERVICE

Options for the wake service:

1. Vigil for the Deceased (Liturgy of the Word)
2. Praying the Rosary

PLANNING THE LITURGY

Father Spencer will meet with the deceased's family prior to the funeral to discuss arrangements and become better acquainted with the life of the deceased.

Visiting priests are invited to serve as the celebrant, or concelebrant, or homilist. Visiting deacons are also invited to participate.

If there are any appropriate musical requests, the family should communicate them to the presiding priest, and the Director of Liturgy and Music will make a reasonable effort to include such requests.

Music is provided by the Christ Our King Director of Liturgy and Music. Guest singers may participate with the express permission of the Director of Liturgy and Music.

Funeral Masses at Christ Our King are not celebrated on Wednesdays during the school year, on weekends, or on Holy Days.

The Funeral Mass may never be celebrated at a funeral home.

Christ Our King will provide a trained parish lector for the Funeral Mass.

Altar servers are provided by the church.

The Gospel is chosen by the celebrant; the 1st and 2nd readings may be chosen by the family of the deceased (if they so desire).

The family of the deceased may select friends or family members to participate with the presentation of the gifts.

Flowers in the church are provided by the church. An additional floral arrangement may be placed in the narthex of the church near the guest registry or in Grace Hall, should there be a reception after the funeral rites.

Honor guards are not allowed in the course of the liturgy. They are welcome to pay respects at the cemetery.

The American flag is to be removed from the casket for the liturgy. A funeral pall is placed over the casket during the Mass. The American flag may be replaced over the casket after Mass has ended.

The firing of rifles is not permitted on church property.

EULOGY

Christ Our King adheres strictly to the *Order of Christian Funerals*. Additions or changes to the Mass (such as eulogies) are not permitted. Remarks may be made at the visitation, the cemetery or gatherings after the funeral.

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the deepest expression of the Catholic Faith and signifies oneness of Faith. In fact, “communion” actually comes from two Latin words that mean “in union with.” Partaking in Holy Communion signifies and proclaims that one is in union with all Catholic beliefs and customs. For this reason, it is considered inappropriate for non-Catholics to participate in Holy Communion at Mass. During the distribution of Holy Communion, non-Catholics are encouraged to remain in their pews in prayer.

RECEPTION

For deceased parishioners, a reception for the family and relatives is offered by the Christ Our King Lazarus Committee and is held in Grace Hall after the Funeral Mass and interment. A representative from the committee will contact the family.

FEEES

There is no fee for the priest or the musicians at the funeral. If the family of the deceased wishes to present an honorarium to the priests or musicians, they may do so, but this should be presented independent of the funeral home.

If a check is issued for the musicians, it should be made payable to Christ Our King Choir and not to an individual.

ⁱ Roman Missal, Preface I for the Dead

ⁱⁱ Order of Christian Funerals, 6

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid., 5

^{iv} Ibid., 6

^v Code of Canon Law, Canon 1176 §1

^{vi} Ibid., Can. 1183 §1

^{vii} Ibid., Can. 1183 §2

^{viii} Order of Christian Funerals, Appendix II, 413.

^{ix} Order of Christian Funerals, Appendix II, 417.

^x Ibid.

^{xi} Ibid., 418

^{xii} Ibid., 430