

# **Assumption Parish**

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## **A Guide to Catholic Funerals at Assumption Parish**

The entire parish family of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary would like to extend their condolences and the assurance of our continuing prayers for you and your loved one.

We understand that this time can be especially confusing, with many decisions that you may not have considered before. We have designed this guide in the hope of making some decisions a bit easier for you. Also, it is an opportunity for the parish to minister to the family.

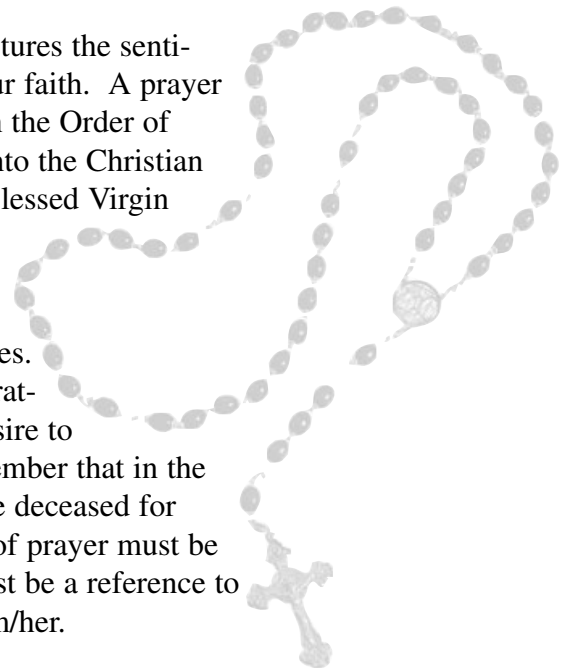
The prayers offered and the graces obtained through the fullness of the Catholic funeral liturgy, represent the ultimate gift of love and comfort that we who are left behind can present to our loved one.

### **The Vigil**

*(Sometimes referred to “The Visitation” or “Wake Service”)*

The Vigil for the Deceased is the first way that the Church captures the sentiments of those who are grieving and sets them in the context of our faith. A prayer service with readings, a homily, intercessions and prayers found in the Order of Christian Funerals can do a great deal to prepare people to enter into the Christian spirit of the Funeral Liturgy. The Rosary or other prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, if desired by the family, may be led by family members or friends or another organization after the Vigil Prayer Service.

The Vigil is the appropriate time for eulogies and remembrances. This is the portion where the earthly life of our loved one is celebrated. It is important to keep in mind that while there is a natural desire to say good things about a person who has died, we must always remember that in the context of prayer, it is the working of God’s grace in the life of the deceased for which we want to give thanks and praise. Eulogies in the context of prayer must be more than mere tributes to the goodness of the deceased. There must be a reference to what God has done for the deceased person and for us through him/her.



... Continued on page 2

## **Funeral Liturgy**

*(Usually known as the Mass)*

Celebrating the funeral liturgy at Mass in the parish church is the normal way in which most Catholics experience the Order of Christian Funerals. The Eucharist is truly the central point in a Catholic Funeral. The Mass is offered for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of the soul of the departed. The liturgy speaks of the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection which gives the deepest meaning to the life of the deceased.

The parish at this time assists in preparing the readings and songs for the funeral liturgy. This effort of the parish should aid the family in their time of grief.



## **The Committal Service**

*(at cemetery)*

The Rite of Committal is the final liturgy in the Order of Christian Funerals. Like the Vigil Service, the Rite of Committal makes use of Scripture, a few words of hope by the presider, intercessions and prayers.

At this point in the liturgy, we finally entrust our loved one to the Lord in the sure and confident hope that the Lord will continue to hold them in life and the certainty that one day we will rejoin our loved one. The Final Commendation concludes our liturgy with a closing prayer and a final blessing.

