ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

The Catholic Funeral Rites in the Order of Christian Funerals are a celebration of faith that enables loved ones and the community to mourn by focusing on the promise of everlasting life and the hope of Resurrection in Christ.

Services in the Order of Christian Funerals

Vigil & Visitation
The Vigil is often the first time family, friends and members of the community gather in remembrance of the deceased, for prayer and support.

Funeral Liturgy
The funeral liturgy is the principle celebration of the Christian Funeral. It is the memorial of Christ’s death and Resurrection, and a reminder that we are one with Christ in life, death and Resurrection. It is here that family and friends join to reaffirm that life has not ended.

Committal
The Committal is the final service and time of interment. Here family and friends gather to take their final leave, as the deceased is committed with the hope of Resurrection.

MAIN BENEFITS
- Drawing strength from our faith
- Finding comfort in your time of need
- Sharing the moment with your loved ones

For more information about this and other programs, please call: Holy Sepulchre at (248) 350-1900 or Our Lady of Hope, St. Joseph, or Mount Carmel at (734) 285-2155 or visit us at: www.cfcsDetroit.org
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Woven into the context of the funeral rites is an abundance of Catholic symbols and metaphors that convey the dramatic journey from baptism to redemption through Christ. Our locations’ warm and welcoming environments provide a sanctuary for family and friends to join and reaffirm the belief that life has not ended.

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**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Does the Archdiocese offer mortuary services?**

No, the Archdiocese does not offer mortuary services. However, we have developed great relationships with funeral homes in our area who understand our Catholic families, faith, beliefs and traditions.

**Where should families start when needing funeral services?**

There are many different ways to gather information about funeral services and sometimes this can be a very overwhelming task for families. Our recommendation is to follow 3 basic steps:

1. Parish
   - Priest
   - Decide on location for vigil and liturgy
2. Funeral Home
   - Select provider for funeral services
   - Choose services and options
3. Cemetery
   - Work with the cemetery to select committal options

**Does CFCS provide scattering services?**

The Church teaches that cremated remains should be buried or entombed and receive the “Rite of Committal.” Scattering the remains, keeping them at home or dividing them are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. “The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the dead is a corporal work of mercy. It honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit.”

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**Where should cremated remains be interred?**

The Church teaches that cremated remains should be interred in the consecrated grounds of a Catholic Cemetery. This ensures the reverence and respect for the remains of the deceased. This is such an important tradition that CFCS provides free interment of Cremated Remains in our Crypt of the Holy Angels at all of our cemeteries.

**Should the cremation occur before or after the Funeral Liturgy?**

The preference is for cremation to occur following the funeral liturgy so that the body can be present for the vigil and funeral services. However, it is possible to have a funeral mass with the cremated remains present.

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**RESOURCES**

- Archdiocese of Detroit: www.aod.org
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: www.usccb.org
- Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services: www.cfcsDetroit.org

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**THE CFCS ADVANTAGE**

As a resource you can trust today and tomorrow, we guide our families to make educated decisions about end-of-life services.

- Flexible and Affordable
- Welcoming Staff
- Convenient Locations
- People You Can Trust
- Resource for Information on Funeral, Cremation, and Cemetery Services

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