

Funeral Services

Immaculate Conception Parish

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On the Christian Burial of the Dead

by *Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, D.D., J.C.D.*

"The care with which we bury the dead expresses our faith in the victory over everlasting death which Our Lord Jesus Christ has won in our human nature by His own Death and Resurrection. We bury the dead in the sure hope of the resurrection of the body, when their mortal bodies will share fully in the glory of the Risen Christ.

The place of burial is sacred, for it receives the human body which has been a temple of the Holy Spirit, the instrument by which the Christian soul expressed itself in the world. (Cf. *OCF*, Nos. 19 and 411412) What is more, the body received by the grave or tomb in burial is destined for resurrection on the Last Day. After the celebration of the Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy with the body of the deceased present, the body is interred or entombed in expectation of its resurrection on the Last Day. Burial of the body of the deceased is done in imitation of the burial of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the sure hope of sharing in His Resurrection.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us about respect for the body of the dead: 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. (No. 2300)

The love which we are called to show to one another in life continues in death through our reverent burial of the dead and our prayers for their eternal rest.

The carrying out of the rites of Christian burial is one of the principal works of the parish priest who with "generous love" is "to help the sick, particularly those close to death, by refreshing them solicitously with the sacraments and commending their souls to God." (Can. 529, § 1; cf. 530, no. 5)

The body of the deceased Christian is either buried in the ground (interment) or entombed in a mausoleum (entombment). Both interment and entombment symbolize the placing of the body in a sacred place while it awaits the resurrection on the Last Day.

Keeping this in mind, one understands why the rite of committal of the body is an integral part of the rites of Christian burial. Today, there is a certain tendency to detach the rite of committal from the other rites or even to eliminate it completely. Unless it is impossible to bury or entomb the body after the Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy, the committal should take place immediately.

Cremated remains must be placed in a worthy vessel, and they must be interred or entombed. It is not permitted to scatter cremated remains over a favorite place, and it is not permitted to keep cremated remains in one's home or place other than a cemetery. (Cf. *OCF*, No. 417)

The integrity of the cremated remains is to be respected. The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains and inter or entomb them in more than one place.

In closing, I express esteem and gratitude, to those who carry out the corporal work of mercy of burying the dead and the spiritual work of mercy of praying for the dead. I express heartfelt gratitude to funeral directors, cemetery workers, cemetery committees and associations, and all who serve our deceased brothers and sisters with full respect for the Church's teaching about death and the resurrection of the body. It is my hope that the reflections and directives contained in this letter will confirm your work and respond to the questions and concerns which come up in carrying out your noble service of the dead and of their families and friends."

As the pastor of the Tri-Parish communities of Sacred Heart in Freeport, Immaculate Conception in New Munich, and St. Rose of Lima in St. Rosa, I want to encourage you to be aware of the importance of burying the dead. During Jubilee Year of Mercy, we were reminded of the importance of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. One of the corporal works of mercy is to bury the dead, and one of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the dead. With this information presented to us for our reflection, we will have the policy within our Tri-Parish communities that burial of the dead will take place on the day of the funeral Mass. The only exceptions will be if the remains of the individual will be cremated after the funeral Mass, then a date to bury will be scheduled within a reasonable time, or if the remains are to be buried within a military cemetery, then scheduling burial according to the military cemeteries' availability. May God continue to bless each of us and especially our beloved dead. This policy goes into effect immediately.

**In Christ,
Fr. Dan**

July 2018

Immaculate Conception Church

Fr. Daniel Walz, Pastor

Tri-Parish Contact Numbers:

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Parish Funeral Meal Coordinator: Judy Gaebel 320-837-5319

Parish Music Coordinator: Calli Mayers 320-290-4583

Music Guidelines for Catholic Funerals:

Music is an important part of Catholic funeral rites. Music allows convictions and feelings to be expressed that words alone may fail to convey. Music has the power to strengthen the faith and hope of those present. The hymns chosen should express the mystery of our salvation in Christ, namely, the saving power of the Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection.

Funeral music should support, console, and uplift those present and help create in them a spirit of hope in Christ's victory over death and in the Christian's share in that victory.

Secular songs (popular/non-religious songs), even though they have been meaningful to the deceased or the family, do not capture the Gospel message of hope nor the sacred quality of Christian worship, so secular songs are not appropriate for funeral services. Secular songs would be more appropriate for a funeral reception.

A musician from one of our parishes may be available for the liturgy. If you will be using musicians outside of one of the Parish Music Coordinators, it is required that the musician have music ability and knowledge of liturgical celebrations. The music they use must also be approved by the Parish Music Coordinator. If using an outside musician, there will be an additional fee for setting up microphones and equipment for them. All questions regarding music should be directed to the music coordinator.

Outside soloists and instrumentalists are allowed to perform under the following conditions:

1. Musical selections are to be approved by the Parish Music Coordinator.
2. There is a fee for additional meetings and rehearsals with outside musicians in addition to the fee to the outside musician.
Payment to be paid to parish where Mass is taking place.

All music fees (organist, cantor, instrumentalist, choir, and extra rehearsal time) must be paid as agreed upon to the musician.

Fee Schedule

The charts below list the various fees for funeral and burial services at Immaculate Conception Church.

(A former member is considered a non-member after 5 years absence from the parish. In order to get the parish member rate you need to be an active member for at least 6 months.)

Funeral:

Fees	Parish Member	Former Member	Non Member
Church Use for Funeral	No Fee	\$100	\$250
Lunch Facility Fee	No Fee	\$100	\$200
Lunch Serving Fee (Christian Women)	No Fee	\$150	\$150
Suggested Priest Funeral Stipend	\$150	\$250	\$250
Coordinating Fee (If funeral home is not coordinating funeral services)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

Cemetery Ground Burial Costs:

Headstone placement needs to happen within 6 months to a year from reserving lot.

Fees	Parish Member	Former Member	Non Member
Ground Burial (single)	\$300	\$750	\$1,500
Ground Burial (double)	\$600	\$1,500	\$3,000
Summer Opening/Closing - Traditional Grave	\$600*	\$600*	\$600*
Winter Opening/Closing - Traditional Grave	\$700*	\$700*	\$700*
Summer Opening/Closing- Cremation Site	\$275*	\$275*	\$275*
Winter Opening/Closing- Cremation Site	\$375*	\$375*	\$375*

*If burial is on a weekend, an additional fee of \$50 is charged.