

# CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ADAMS & CHESHIRE

ST. JOHN PAUL II PARISH & ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH

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## PLANNING FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

### ENTRANCE RITES:

At the start of the Funeral Mass, the casket is greeted in the main aisle at the back of the church and is sprinkled with holy water and covered with a pall. The Entrance Procession begins when Pall bearers escort the casket to the front of the church where a Christian symbol, generally a crucifix, is placed on the casket, followed by the opening prayer.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD:

The reading of the word of God is essential element of the funeral liturgy. The readings proclaim the Paschal Mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey hope of being gathered in God's kingdom, and encourages the witness of Christian Life. The readings are from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Gospel. The readings will tell of God's design for the world. A brief homily opens the word of God and focuses on God's love and compassion. Finally, in the Intercessions the community responds to the word of God by prayer for the deceased and all the dead. *You have an option to choose the First and Second Reading and provide reader(s) to do each or both. You may also select between a Sunday (longer) or Daily (shorter) Mass Format.*

First Reading & Second Reading: Choose from the *Order of Christian Funerals* or *Through Death to Life*

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST:

The community, having been spiritually nourished by the word, turns for spiritual nourishment at the table of the Eucharist. During our mourning, God comes with His very body and blood to bless and strengthen us in our grief.

### EULOGY: (OPTIONAL)

Remarks of Remembrance may be made at the end of the Funeral Mass. Remarks must be kept to less than ten minutes and may only be made by one person .

### FINAL COMMENDATION:

At the conclusion of the Funeral Liturgy, the rite of final commendation is celebrated to provide the community an opportunity to say farewell to one of their members, and reminds us that we are Baptized into one Body, share the same destiny - resurrection on the last day. The Rite begins with opening words followed by a time of silent prayer. The body may be sprinkled with holy water and incensed.

### MUSIC:

The Rite is made much more special because of the music. You are invited to select the hymns that will accompany the prayers, readings, and actions of the Mass. The only music allowed at a funeral Mass is sacred music. Popular music and secular music is not appropriate. This is not meant to be an inconvenience or hardship for the family, but to show respect for the Mass. ***Please contact the organist to select music.***