



Dear Friends in Christ:

If you received this pamphlet on the occasion of the death of a loved one, I offer you my heartfelt prayers and sympathy. The Catholic community joins with you and your family in prayer and consolation.

It is my hope that the guidance that this pamphlet contains will help you in this time of grief and sorrow. I invite you to take full advantage of our rich Catholic funeral rites which offer prayer for our beloved dead and provide hope and consolation to you.

May you, your family and friends enjoy God's gift of grace for all eternity. May you experience the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding.

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain

IN THE SURE AND CERTAIN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE

Celebrate the gift of a life which has now been returned to God.

The Catholic funeral rites offer hope and consolation in the sure and certain hope of eternal life.

We remember and give thanks for this life within the context of our Christian faith: eternal life founded on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The parish pastor should be contacted prior to meeting with the funeral home. He will guide and assist you in preparing a Catholic funeral. If the funeral home is contacted first, a funeral director should contact the parish priest before proceeding with any funeral plans.

Your pastor and his staff can best provide information and answer your questions in planning the funeral. If you are not a member of a parish, or don't feel comfortable contacting a parish, the Catholic cemetery can guide you and help you meet your loved one's wishes.

FULL BODY OR CREMATION?

Catholic Cemeteries provide a variety of options for burial. Since the presence of the body best expresses the values which the Church affirms in our funeral rites, the presence of the body at the funeral rites is preferred. Cremation is permitted as long as it has not been chosen for reasons contrary to Church teaching.

In exceptional circumstances when cremation is chosen, the Church does encourage that the funeral Mass be celebrated with the body present. Cremation would then follow the Mass. As an alternative the Church does provide an option of the funeral Mass in the presence of the cremated remains of the body.

In keeping with the sacred nature of the cremated remains of the body, the Church asks that they be treated in the same way as the full body. This includes burial of cremated remains in a cemetery. Scattering or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend are not the reverent disposition that the Church suggests.

Questions about cremation should be discussed with the pastor.

PRE-PLANNING A CATHOLIC BURIAL

Preparation for death is an essential part of life for a Christian. Recognizing that the goal of our lives is eternal life with God, we prepare for that by prayer, reception of the sacraments and care for those around us.

We invite you to prayerfully consider the information provided in this brochure. The Catholic cemeteries' staff can provide you with additional information as you consider pre-planning decisions.

For additional information, please call:
1-888-784-8683 (toll free)
www.acc-seattle.org



AT REST
TOGETHER
IN FAITH

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

CELEBRATION OF LIFE: CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. In this time of loss and grief, the Catholic community joins with you in prayer and support. The parish church is where the person's Christian journey began — in the waters of baptism. This is where they were formed by the Word of God and nourished in the Eucharist. It is a symbol of the faith community to which they belong.

It is the ordinary practice that Catholics bring the body of the deceased to the parish church to celebrate the funeral rites. Priests and deacons are the presiders at Catholic funeral rites.

THE VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED

The vigil for the deceased is the principal rite celebrated by the Christian community in the time following death and before the funeral liturgy.

While you and the family may find comfort in other devotional prayers, such as the rosary, these should not replace the vigil. The rosary and other devotional prayers may be offered at other times such as immediately after death or when the family first gathers in the presence of the body.



THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The funeral liturgy, usually the Mass, is the central celebration of the Christian community for the deceased and takes place in the parish church. This is the case even if cremation is chosen.

Your family and friends may serve in a variety of roles at the funeral liturgy, such as greeters or ushers, readers, and presenters of the gifts of bread and wine.

While the funeral Mass is the norm, there may be occasions when Mass would not be possible or appropriate. The pastor can help you with this as well as answer your other questions about the funeral liturgy.

THE RITE OF COMMITTAL

This rite is the conclusion of the funeral. It is the community's final act in caring for the body of its deceased member. The rite of committal should be celebrated at the place of committal — that is, at the grave or mausoleum crypt — and should include the actual act of committal. The Lord himself has made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection.

AT REST TOGETHER IN FAITH

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY

This is the final resting place for the members of our faith community on our journey to God. It is the gate of heaven.

Burial in the consecrated ground of the Catholic cemetery allows you to share your faith values with future generations of your family. This legacy of faith is your gift to them.

The Catholic community in Western Washington is fortunate that most geographic areas have Catholic cemeteries to meet the burial needs of our faith community.



BATTLE GROUND
Sacred Heart Cemetery
360-687-4515

DEMING
St. Peter Cemetery
360-354-2334

ELMA
Elma Catholic Cemetery
360-482-3190

ENUMCLAW
Holy Family Cemetery
360-825-3759

EVERETT
Mount Carmel Cemetery
425-349-7014

FEDERAL WAY
*Gethsemane Cemetery
253-838-2240 (Seattle)
253-927-3350 (Tacoma)

FRANCES
Holy Family Cemetery
360-291-3434

FRIDAY HARBOR
St. Francis Cemetery
360-378-2910

KENT
*St. Patrick Cemetery
253-838-2240

MARYSVILLE
St. Mary Cemetery
360-653-9400

OLYMPIA/TUMWATER
Calvary Cemetery
360-754-4667

PE ELL
St. Joseph Cemetery
360-291-3434

PORT TOWNSEND
St. Mary Star of the Sea
Cemetery
360-385-3700

RIDGEFIELD
St. Mary Cemetery
360-687-4515

SEATTLE
*Calvary Cemetery
206-522-0996

SHORELINE
*Holyrood Cemetery
206-363-8404

TACOMA
Calvary Cemetery
253-472-8875

TOLEDO
St. Francis Xavier Cemetery
360-864-4126

VADER
Vader Catholic Cemetery
360-864-4126

VANCOUVER
Mother Joseph Catholic
Cemetery of Vancouver
(formerly St. James Acre
Cemetery)
360-693-3052

ST. JOHN CEMETERY
360-573-3325

WASHOUGAL
Holy Cross Cemetery
360-834-2126

WILKESON
Wilkeson Catholic Cemetery
253-862-6014

WINLOCK
St. Urban Catholic Cemetery
360-864-4126



Additional information about Catholic Cemeteries in
the Archdiocese is available at www.acc-seattle.org