



Archdiocese
of Seattle

Q&A | Steps to set up a Catholic funeral



“Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just.”

— *Order of Christian Funerals, General Introduction, no. 5*

The Archdiocese of Seattle is committed to providing pastoral care to those who have lost loved ones. While funerals are times of grief and loss, they can also help families connect with the Church as a source of hope.

MY LOVED ONE DIED, AND I WOULD LIKE A CATHOLIC FUNERAL. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

The first step is to contact a Catholic parish. If you are unsure which parish, **click here for the Archdiocese of Seattle parish finder**. Consider these questions when searching for a parish:

- Was the deceased an active parishioner at a parish?
- Does the family have any connection to a parish?
- What is the closest parish geographically?

Because funerals connect grieving families with the faith, archdiocesan policy requires that Catholic funerals are celebrated in a parish church, ideally the parish church of the deceased (*Archdiocesan Policy FR 8*).

WHAT IF THE PARISH DOESN'T HAVE SOMEONE TO CELEBRATE THE FUNERAL?

If a parish does not have a priest or deacon available to celebrate a funeral, local deacons may be available. Follow these steps if you need help.

- Contact the parish that can provide the best pastoral care for the family. Usually, the parish will be able to support the funeral and care for the bereaved.
- Sometimes a parish priest is unavailable to support a funeral. When this happens, the staff will work with archdiocesan deacons to find a minister.
- If a deacon is available, he will communicate directly with the parish contact.

WHAT ABOUT A CATHOLIC CEMETERY?

Associated Catholic Cemeteries can help. Go to **www.mycatholiccemetery.org** to find a cemetery near you. Their dedicated team will help answer your questions about burial, internment and more.

If you need help reaching a deacon to help with a funeral, please contact Deacon Eric Paige at eric.paige@seattlearch.org or (206) 382-4864.