

Holy Eucharist

At a Catholic Mass, the bread and wine offered to God become in a very real way the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus. His real presence in the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith.

During a Funeral Mass, Eucharist is offered to those who are present. People who normally receive Eucharist in their Catholic parish are welcome to receive.

Non-Catholics and Catholics who have been away from the regular practice of the Roman Catholic faith - including not attending regular Sunday Mass - are to remain seated during the Eucharistic procession. They are encouraged to spiritually unite with those who are receiving, praying for the day when all people will be able to gather at the Eucharistic table.



St Michael Catholic Parish

458 Maple Street
Livermore, CA 94550
925-447-1585
www.StMichaelLivermore.com



Funeral services at St. Michael Catholic Parish are provided by Holy Angels Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services located at 3885 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550

For pre-need planning, please call Jayne Archer or Frank Draschner at 925-455-9696.

A Guide to Catholic Funeral Services



For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

At the Funeral Mass

The funeral Mass follows the same pattern as a typical Mass with additional elements that draw attention to the place the deceased person had in the life of the mourners and most especially, the Christian belief in resurrection. Some of these elements are as follows:

- Covering the casket with a pall or white cloth signifies the deceased life in Christ through baptism.
- Sprinkling the casket with holy water is also a remembrance of baptism.
- The Book of Gospels, the part of the Holy Bible which recalls the life and words of Jesus, and a crucifix may be placed on the casket.
- The use of incense signifies our prayers rising to heaven. It shows our special respect for the body of the deceased and the bread and wine that will be used to become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- The Final Commendation includes an invitation to prayer, a moment of silence, the Song of Farewell, prayer of commendation, song and procession to the cemetery, the place of committal.

Rites of a Catholic Funeral

Together the services listed below not only make up the total Catholic Funeral Service, but provide the Church's special prayers for the deceased. These are also intended to meet the many needs of those who are grieving.

Vigil & Visitation

The Vigil is often the first time family, friends and community members gather for prayer and support, in remembrance of a treasured life. The service is held at a parish church or funeral home. Through prayer, scripture, song, and stories, the deceased is remembered and celebrated. It is a time to give strength to the grieving and faith to trust in the promise of eternal life.

Funeral Liturgy

The heart of the Catholic Funeral Rite is the Funeral Mass. It is the ultimate prayer offered for the deceased and for the family and friends. It is not just a respectful prayer service, but it is a sacrificial offering to God for the benefit of the deceased. In addition, it will also help those who grieve to know they have honored their loved one with the highest Sacrament of the Catholic Faith. Sometimes circumstances suggest that this Funeral Service be outside of a Mass. However, most **Catholics should have, and are entitled to have, the Catholic Funeral Mass**, and it should not be denied them, even if the remaining relatives are not Catholic or not practicing Catholics.

The Rite of Committal

Waiting for the final resurrection and the coming of Jesus is the purpose of the burial. Christ made "holy the graves of the just" as he waited for his resurrection, which gives hope to all who await their resurrection. With a short invitation, scripture verse and prayer, family and friends are guided through the challenging process of letting go. Through the comfort and promise of everlasting life, the deceased are left in their peaceful resting place.