

## Funeral Mass with Ashes

3 servers

(MC/Thurifer, CB, and A1/Holy Water)

A Funeral Mass with Ashes is similar to a Daily Mass but the ashes will be blessed with Holy Water and incensed. Ashes will be placed on a small table at the foot of the Altar.

### Preparation

- Arrive 20 minutes before the funeral begins.
- *Thurible* and *Incense Boat*- These are prepared in the Priest's Sacristy by the MC, ½ charcoal should be used. Be sure the Boat is filled with incense. **DO NOT LIGHT THE THURIBLE UNTIL AFTER COMMUNION.**
- Fill the *Aspergillum* with a small amount of Holy Water.
- **Credence table**- Water cruet and tray, Chalice set up, finger bowl and towel, Boat containing incense, wine cups if used (**ask Priest if wine cups will be used, typically they are not used at Funeral Masses**).
- **Altar**- Roman Missal should be placed on the Altar.
- **Gift table**- Wine cruet and 1-2 ciboria (**ask Priest if gifts will be brought up by the family**).
- Check with Priest to see what Funeral prayer book will be used and whether or not he would like the MC to hold it for him.

### Eulogy

- A family member or close family friend will usually give a eulogy before Mass begins.

### Procession

- Process in as a Daily Mass, **CB** places the processional Cross in its stand.
- **A1** carries the Holy Water and will stay with the Priest so that he can bless the ashes. **MC** will stay with the Priest as well to hold the Funeral prayer book (if necessary).

## Offertory

- At the Offertory, **CB** quickly gets the Cross and walks around the church and meets the family members at the back of church. **CB** leads the procession of gifts up the center aisle. The Priest and servers stand in FRONT of the urn to receive the gifts. Be aware the **CB** needs a space to step through as they need to place the Cross back on its stand at the Altar.

## After Communion

- After you receive Communion, the **MC** goes back to the Priest's Sacristy to light the charcoal for the Thurible. One half a charcoal is usually all that is needed for a regular funeral Mass. Place the charcoal piece in the Thurible and light all the edges. Please be aware, the charcoal pieces will spark, this is normal and shows that it is lit properly. **BE VERY CAREFUL DOING THIS.**
- Walk back towards the Altar walking around the edge of the church carrying the Thurible and Incense Boat. Stand by the piano in a ready position. The Thurible should be held by the chain or placed on the tile floor (**NEVER place a Thurible with hot charcoals on the Credence table**).
- **When the CB and A1 are cleaning up the Altar, leave the Roman Missal there.**

## Final Blessing and Procession

- **MC** brings the Thurible and Incense boat up to the Priest towards the front of the Altar.
- Priest takes Incense Boat and places Incense into Thurible. Then Priest trades the Incense Boat and takes the Thurible from the server to incense the ashes. Remain standing there, the Priest will give you the Thurible back after the blessing.
- **CB stays in place at the benches while A1 brings the Funeral prayer book to the Priest and holds it for him (if necessary).**
- After Prayer of Final Commendation, the Priest will go up to the Altar and kiss it.
- **CB** retrieves the Cross, **A1** holds the Funeral prayer book (if necessary) and all process out with the Priest in front. **MC** will process out holding the Thurible.
- Altar Servers remain with the Priest until excused.
- Usual clean up of all items. Don't forget the Holy Water under the Credence table. Extinguish the incense charcoals completely in the flowerbed. Tip the Thurible and pour

the charcoal pieces onto the soil, pour a full pitcher of water over them. **Do not walk away until they are completely extinguished.**

- **Leave the Thurible out on the counter to cool off.**

### **Tips on How to hold the Thurible**

- Hold the Thurible in your dominant hand, so if you are left handed, do the opposite of below.
- Put your left thumb through the metal ring and hold your left hand above your head.
- With your right hand palm facing upwards, lift the top of the Thurible between your 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> fingers.
- Pinch the chain with your right thumb and first finger when the top is about 6-8 inches above the base.
- Move your left hand towards your chest.
- Lift your right hand up to the proper level, depending on the height of the Priest/Deacon that is presiding.
- Slowly swing the Thurible as you walk with it.

### **Tips on Lighting the charcoal**

- Don't forget that charcoal is messy and you are wearing a white robe, so be careful.
- Use tongs to hold charcoal and light it.
- Sparks are a good sign.
- Blow on charcoal, you are looking for an orange glow.
- Put lighted charcoal into Thurible with more charcoal.
- Swing Thurible back and forth to get oxygen flowing inside.
- Charcoal will turn grey when hot.