



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada
Українська Католицька Єпархія Торонто й Східної Канади
Éparchie Catholique Ukrainienne de Toronto et de l'Ést du Canada

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Eparchial Cremation Policy

effective August 22, 2023*

As cremation becomes a more frequent choice among the faithful for various reasons, we wish to clarify the following:

1. In light of the Incarnation and Resurrection, due respect and reverence is to be given to the human body upon death. Also, experience shows that the grieving process is more difficult when funeral services are conducted without the presence of a physical body. For this reason, the norm for the Catholic Church and all Eastern Christian traditions remains **a full body burial**.
2. That being said, the Catholic Church does allow for the cremation of the human body, but does not encourage it.
3. As a form of accelerated decomposition, cremation essentially constitutes a type of "burial" and, therefore, the funeral service (Чин Похорону) must be celebrated before cremation.
4. The norm is to have the funeral service (Чин Похорону) in church before cremation. Accommodation can be made to celebrate the funeral service in a funeral home.
5. Undivided cremated remains should be interred in a cemetery and not scattered outdoors or permanently kept in the home.
6. A panakhyda should be held on site when the cremated remains are interred at the cemetery.
7. As a general principle cremated remains are not to be brought into church for services. If a church service is planned on the day of interment, the recommendation is to first inter the cremated remains, and then return to the church for a memorial service.
8. An exception to this policy may be granted to a pastor/parochial administrator by the chancery office in extreme cases of accidental death where a casket burial is no longer an option and cremation is a necessity (e.g. a house fire, car accident or war), if cremation is required by health authorities for another reason, or in particular pastoral circumstances (e.g. a death abroad).

9. It should be noted that cremation by fire is the only technology acceptable at present. Cremation by alkaline hydrolysis (aquamation) is not acceptable as some of the remains are simply processed into municipal sewage.

10. For a more in depth reflection on death and funerals, we refer you to the CCCB document: *Burying the Dead, Grieving Well: A Guide for Catholics on Bodily Disposition and Grief*, which is available online:

(<https://www.cccb.ca/document/burying-the-dead-grieving-well-a-guide-for-catholics-on-bodily-disposition-and-grief/>)

With prayers and blessings,



+ Bishop Bryan Bayda CSsR, Eparch
of Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy
of Toronto and Eastern Canada

Notary:



Rev. Zenon Walnyckyj - Chancellor



Given in the City of Toronto,
On the Feast of Holy Apostle Matthias,
On the 22nd day of August, 2023rd Year of our Lord

* Motion to support this policy and recommendation to promulgate it by His Excellency Bishop Bryan was passed by the Eparchial Presbyteral Council on June 1, 2023.