

RECEPTION OR REPAST

though this is not a part of the liturgical rites of the Church, it is encouraged, because it allows time for fellowship, consolation and strengthening of family bonds and ties of friendship. Depending on the availability of staff and space, the parish St. Francis Hall may be used for the repast. Please consult with your Priest or a staff member to discuss this possibility.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO FUNERALS

CREMATIONS – Since 1963, cremation has been an acceptable option for those of the Catholic faith. Whenever possible, however, the Church always prefers the interment or embalment of the body because it gives fuller expression to our Christian faith. When cremation is chosen, the preferred sequence for the final rites is cremation to take place after the funeral Mass. Whether cremation takes place before or after the funeral rites, the Church expects the families to seek an appropriate final resting place for the cremated remains of the body. The scattering of the cremated remains or keeping the cremated remains in a home is not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. The Catholic Cemeteries offer the following options for those who choose cremation:

- Niches – an above ground burial crypt, sized for an urn containing the cremated remains of the body and allowing for identification and remembrance.

- Graves – smaller size graves that allow for a grave marker to be placed identifying and remembering the deceased.

PRINTED PROGRAMS - We can show you samples or give you a guide sheet to help you complete a program. However, the Parish cannot print the programs.

FLOWERS - Modest use of them is traditional at a funeral. If a Wake Service is held in the Church, flowers may be placed around the casket for the duration of the Wake. However, they will have to be moved for the Funeral Mass, so as not to obstruct the Liturgical Rites.

FUNERAL MONETARY OFFERING

The family is asked to give a minimum donation of \$150.00 to the Church, to help cover the cost of utilities, maintenance, and personnel.

HALL REPAST OFFERING

- Hall repast – Parishioners: families may offer a donation for use of Hall
- Hall repast – Non Parishioners: \$200.00

AFTER THE FUNERAL

Both before and after a death occurs in a family. St. Mary's Church Parish members are here to offer a word of comfort or to just walk with you in silence. Remember the importance of prayer during your grief. Even if you have forgotten how to talk with God, only one small conversation will get you started again.



The Order and Planning of A Catholic Funeral

Information You Will Need



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Dear Parishioner

The death of a loved one is one of the most profound events in the life of a family. Whether that death is sudden or follows a prolonged illness, the Church is here to help you prepare and to pray with you during your sorrow. If you or your loved one wishes to be buried in the Catholic Church, the following are answers to some questions you may have.

Upon the Death of A Loved One...

Contact a Priest of the Parish and seek his prayers and guidance. The Priest or staff member can give you a general idea of the availability of the Church and clergy. A specific time for the Mass cannot be set until the funeral director has been contacted. Once you have chosen a day and time for the funeral, the funeral director will call the church and the cemetery to confirm the arrangements. The funeral Liturgy planning involves the selection of Scripture Readings and music, as well as the involvement of family members in the Mass. Catholic family members can assist by Proclaiming the Scriptures, and presenting the Gifts of Bread and Wine.

ORDER OF A CATHOLIC FUNERAL.....

WAKE SERVICE – The Wake Service is also called the Vigil. The Wake Service may include prayers, reflections, recitation of the rosary, readings from Scripture by Church organizations or a brief sermon by the Priest or Deacon. If the family wishes additional reflections or rituals, these can be added at the discretion of the Priest or deacon. Traditionally, the Wake Service is held the night before the funeral at the funeral home or the Church from 6:00-8:00 p.m. However, many families choose not to have a Wake Service, but rather have a VIEWING an hour or two before the Funeral Mass in the Church.

FUNERAL LITURGY – The Funeral liturgy is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for your loved one, commending your loved one to God's tender mercy. The Funeral Mass is usually celebrated in the morning; on the day burial is to take place. Other times can be arranged by consulting with the funeral director and Church staff. There is a rich symbolism in the Funeral Liturgy. The tall candle, which burns near the casket, is called the Paschal Candle. It is blessed at Easter and used throughout the year as a symbol of the Risen Christ who is the Light of the World and who gives the light of life to all who call upon him in faith. During the Funeral Mass, it is common to use incense.

Liturgical CELEBRATION

The Incense symbolizes our prayer rising to God and His blessing descending down upon us. The casket is always closed during the Funeral Liturgy.

RITE of COMMITTAL (BURIAL SERVICE) – After the Funeral Mass the family and friends, accompanied by the Priest or deacon proceed to the cemetery with the body. The graveside service is usually quite brief and ends with prayer requesting God's mercy upon the soul of the departed and His consoling grace upon the family and friends. The graveside service concludes the formal liturgical rites for the burial of a Catholic. However, family and friends should not neglect to continue to pray for the dead at every opportunity. They can do this by arranging to have Masses offered for them. You can contact the Parish to arrange for Memorial Masses.

*May the Souls of
the Faithfully Departed
Rest in Peace...Amen*

