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Funeral Planning Guide

Sacred Heart Parish



The Parish extends to you our prayerful sympathy during these very painful days and time of decision.

We offer you the services of the parish staff to arrange a funeral and burial that will be a comfort to you and that will be an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ as the “resurrection and the life”. We want to give the family the opportunity to be involved in the planning process for the funeral and wake as much as possible, so we have arranged this planning guide to assist you in making choices for Scripture readings and music.

To honor those who have died with Christian burial is a holy and important action...to offer back to God the life of the loved one who was a gift to us. We will pray together that God will receive the soul of our loved one.

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FUNERAL PREPARATION

To arrange a funeral at Sacred Heart, at the time of death please contact the parish. Please call the Parish Office at 605-225-7065. Members of the family will meet with the Priest to discuss funeral arrangements.

SETTING THE TIME OF FUNERAL LITURGIES

The time and day of the funeral liturgies involve many factors, and are always handled individually. Typically visitations occur the night before the funeral and include a wake service. Funeral liturgies typically occur in the morning around 10:30 am with burial and luncheon to follow. In order to schedule funeral liturgies, please contact a priest. After this consultation, the times of the liturgies can then be communicated to the funeral director. It is best to talk with the priest before scheduling a time for the funeral as there may be other activities at the Church that need to be taken into account.

THE WAKE SERVICE

The Catholic Church has a long tradition of keeping vigil for those who have died. It is a time of public prayer, to gather together family and friends to pray before the funeral. It is a time in which friends can offer support and prayer with the family of the one who has died. During the wake service, there will be some readings from scripture, a short homily, followed by prayers for the deceased.

Normally, the visitation occurs from 5-7pm with a Wake Service beginning at 7pm. If your family wishes to pray the Rosary (before or after the Wake Service), please speak with the priest. Someone from your family or perhaps a friend could be asked to lead the Rosary.

EULOGIES

The grieving process necessarily includes time to remember the life of the deceased loved one. Some families may even desire to do this through the use of a Eulogy. In the Catholic funeral rite, this is most appropriately done during the time of visitation, at lunch, or even at the Wake Service. It is recommended that eulogies last between 2-4 minutes and it is best if the speaker has notes prepared in writing ahead of time and has timed their remarks ahead of time.

Since the Funeral Mass is primarily the time for praise and thanks for God's gift of eternal life in Jesus as well as to pray for the deceased loved one, eulogies are not allowed at the Mass.

FUNERAL WITH OR WITHOUT MASS?

The standard liturgy for a deceased Catholic who was in good standing with the Church is a Mass with the body present. A Mass should always be the presumed format because the mass is the most noble prayer we can offer for our loved ones. If there is question about whether a liturgy without Mass might be more appropriate, this question should be addressed to the presider of the funeral.

FUNERAL LITURGY MUSIC

The Catholic Funeral Liturgy requires song as part of the ritual. The Parish will arrange for an organist for the funeral and a cantor who will lead the assembly in the liturgical song. If the family would like to provide either of these roles for the funeral liturgy, please contact the priest.

You may select the hymns you prefer from the list of hymns provided by the parish. Requests for hymns not included in this list must be approved by the priest presiding over the funeral. Secular music (live or recorded) is not appropriate during funeral liturgies.

The fees for the organist and the cantor are included in the cost of the funeral prepared by your Funeral Director.

READINGS FROM SACRED SCRIPTURE

We ask you to select the Scripture to be proclaimed at the Funeral Liturgy. The Readings are presented in the reading booklet and are numbered. Please note the number of the reading on the planning sheet at the end of the booklet. If you wish, the priest can also make these selections for you.

We ask you also to name someone from your family, or a friend of the family, to proclaim the readings at the funeral. This reader must be Catholic and have experience in reading at Catholic liturgies. The Lector you choose usually sits with the family during the funeral and only steps up to the ambo for the proclamation of the Word and the Intercessions. If no lector can be found, the priest can find one for you.

ROLES NEEDED IN THE LITURGY

Placing of the pall: The Pall is a large cloth which is placed over the casket at the beginning of the funeral Mass. It represents the white garment your loved one received at Baptism. Usually family members will place this on the casket. If you prefer, the funeral directors can do this.

Bringing up the gifts of bread and wine: Immediately following the Prayers of the Faithful, two gift bearers are usually asked to bring up the wine and unconsecrated hosts. If family is not able or does not desire to do this, the altar servers can assist.

Altar Servers: Sacred Heart provides altar servers for your funeral. If you choose to provide your own servers, they should be experienced servers. If they are not from Sacred Heart Parish, they are to meet the priest at least 30 minutes in advance of the funeral to run through the ceremony. It is requested that they wear dress pants and black shoes.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Sacred Heart provides extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion for your funeral mass. If you choose to provide your own EMHC, they must be installed as an EMHC in one of the parishes of our diocese. If they are not from Sacred Heart Parish, they are to meet the priest at least 30 minutes in advance of the wedding to run through the ceremony.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ABOUT THE FUNERAL LITURGY

During the funeral liturgy, it is prohibited to replace the pall with an American flag or any other non-Christian covering. An American flag can be placed on the casket at the conclusion of the funeral liturgy immediately before the casket is placed in the hearse.

Liturgical additions that are not a part of the Church's liturgical rites are in general prohibited. If you have questions about anything with regards to the liturgy, please speak with the pastor or the associate.

Only an ordained Catholic priest or deacon is allowed to preach at the funeral liturgy.

PLACE OF BURIAL

Your Funeral Director will help you make all the plans for the burial. He can arrange burial in our cemetery or any other cemetery you wish. If the body has been cremated, someone from the parish staff can be present for the burial of the remains.

Although Catholics may be buried or interred in non-Catholic cemeteries, burial in a Catholic cemetery reaffirms that we remain brothers and sisters in Christ, united even in death. Indeed, when the Church gathers at a Catholic cemetery to commend the deceased to God, we find ourselves surrounded by the graves and tombs of those who died in the hope that they, too, may share in new and everlasting life.

Sacred Heart parish is blessed to own its own cemetery. If you would like to be buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery, please either speak with the funeral director or contact the parish office at 605-225-7065.

As of July 1st, 2020, rates for a burial plot at Sacred Heart cemetery are \$500 for the first burial and \$250 for the second.

COMMITTAL

The Rite of Committal should follow the Funeral Liturgy as soon as possible. Military services are also permissible at the cemetery and occur after the Priest or Deacon has finished the committal rite.

FLOWERS

Flowers may be delivered or brought to the Church on the day of the Funeral or Memorial. Flowers should not be placed on the altar or underneath the tabernacle. The funeral director can help the families with floral decorations. After the service, the Funeral Home or family members normally remove the flowers from the Church.

LUNCHEON AFTER THE RITE

Members of your parish community are organized to provide a luncheon after the funeral. They will donate punch, pickles, cakes or bars to be served at this time. The family has the choice of menu and is responsible for the expense of the meal served after the funeral. Volunteers from the parish will serve the funeral luncheon.

CREMATION

Our Christian faith teaches us that the human body is inextricably associated with the human person. The body of a deceased Christian is the body that was once washed in Baptism and the means by which the Christian communicated his or her love to family, friends, and to God Himself. The body of the deceased brings to mind the Church's conviction that the human body is in Christ a temple of the Holy Spirit and is destined to be glorified at the resurrection of the dead.

Thus, because of this reverence to the human body, the Church clearly prefers and urges that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites, since the presence of the human body better expresses the values which the Church affirms in those rites.

If extraordinary circumstances make the cremation of the body the only feasible choice, the Church does allow for cremation of the body given that cremation is not done as a denial of our Christian faith. It is the Church's strong preference that cremation of the body would occur after the funeral mass.

The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. Thus:

- The remains are to be placed into one urn. The practice of placing the remains into multiple urns or into lockets is strictly prohibited as it does not give proper reverence to the dignity of the human body.
- The Urn used should be a simple yet worthy vessel that reflects the dignity of the human body. The Urn should not be in the shape of or decorated by signs and symbols of secular nature (such as sports hobbies, etc.) as they do not convey the full dignity of the human person.
- The manner in which they are carried, transported, and displayed should be reverent.
- The cremated remains should be buried or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium.
- The practice of scattering cremated remains or keeping cremated remains in the home is strictly prohibited for this does not reflect the dignity of the human body nor of our Christian faith.

SACRED HEART CONTACT INFORMATION

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