

Celebration of Life

Funerals Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church

The death of a loved one is a very difficult time in the life of a family; it can also be a grace filled time. The Parish of St. Joseph has a team of Priests and parishioners who are prepared to assist you at this time of separation and love. The following may be of assistance when planning a funeral:



General Information

1. Please call the Parish Center when it's known that there is a terminal illness. This will enable us to begin regular visitation, which includes Anointing and Holy Communion.
2. Please call the Parish Center as soon as possible after the death. Hopefully before you have your appointment with the mortuary, so that we can confirm the possible dates and times for a funeral Mass.
3. In general, funeral Masses are celebrated on a weekday at one of the three time slots:
 - a. 9:30am: This time is the preferred time since the Church parking lot is available. The Parish school uses the lot as a playground after 11:30am.
 - b. 11:00am: Limited Parish Center Parking.
 - c. 12:30pm: Limited Parish Center Parking.Depending on the Church calendar and on a rare occasion, it might be possible to have a funeral Mass on a:
 - a. Saturday morning or at 7pm on weekday night.
4. In general, all Funeral Masses should be celebrated at our Church. Holy Cross Cemetery provides a chapel for Funeral Masses for persons who are not active or associated with a Church.



Vigil Services

1. The Vigil Service is generally at the mortuary.
 - a. When hundreds of people are expected at the Vigil and the Parish calendar permits it, it might be possible for the vigil to be in the Church.
2. In order to best prepare for the Vigil service and Funeral Mass we ask that the family make an appointment with a Priest and team member from the Parish, who will be with you during the services.
3. A member of the Parish Bereavement Team will lead the Vigil Service, which is usually at 6:30pm.
4. At the Vigil service, it is common that family members or a family friend give a Eulogy.
 - a. Eulogies are not normally given at the Funeral Mass, however if it is important to the family, one or two individuals could give one.
 - i. It should be written/typed and be less than 300 words and would be given at the very beginning of the Funeral Mass.



Funerals Mass

The Priests of St. Joseph Parish have the privilege and responsibility to serve you in all the aspects of the funeral arrangements. If the family has another Priest, who is relative or friend, he would be most welcome to concelebrate.

1. Readings

- a. Please scroll down and you will find a large selection of suggested readings for a Funeral Mass. Feel free to select the readings from the PDF provided. In many cases, a member of the family or friend would proclaim the readings during the Funeral Mass.

2. Music

- a. The family can invite any Catholic group from the Parish community or another Parish to sing at the Funeral Mass. If none is requested, then the Parish will provide CD music.

3. Large Picture

- a. It is common that a picture of the deceased be placed next to the Pascal candle. The Parish will provide an easel.

4. Eulogies

- a. Eulogies are generally given at the Vigil Service; however, if necessary they can be given at the beginning of Mass and:
 - i. It should be written/typed and be less than 300 words.

Depending on availability, the Parish can provide a room at the Parish Center for a reception after the Funeral Mass or cemetery service.



Post - Funeral

1. Novena

- a. There are volunteers who can lead the 9 day novena at the family home.

2. A Parish Volunteer minister will accompany the family to the cemetery. There will be two short prayers in the name of the Community of Faith.

3. Bereavement meetings

- a. There is a universal bereavement process that each person lives. Generally it lasts for about one year. The Parish has group meetings twice a month for mutual support in this grieving process.

- b. Meetings are on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, from 7:00pm - 8:30pm in the Providence Chapel at the vestibule of the Parish Church.