

Lumen Christi's Policy for Funerals Celebrated at the Parish

At the death of any Christian, the Church ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the Catholic funeral rites with the comforting word of God and the sacrament of the Eucharist. The responsibility for this ministry of consolation rests with the Church community itself. The information below is provided to assist your family in preparing to celebrate the funeral of your loved one:

NOTIFYING THE PARISH

Upon the death of your loved one, please make arrangements with the mortuary of your choice. The mortuary will normally contact the parish to make the proper arrangements. If you do not intend to use a mortuary, please contact the parish office directly [651] 698-5581. There are many personnel, schedules and the rhythms of parish life that need to be adjusted and coordinated in order to assure a prayerful celebration. We will make every reasonable attempt to accommodate your family's needs.

PLANNING THE LITURGY

The Funeral Mass is ordinarily celebrated in the parish church. The Pastoral Staff of Lumen Christi is here for your family to assist in the planning of the funeral liturgy. Do not make arrangements with anyone about anything until you have discussed your wishes at the funeral planning meeting at the parish.

MUSIC

Music for the celebration is planned and celebrated in conjunction with Parish musicians. Normally the parish provides an organist, cantor and a volunteer choir for the celebration. Outside Accompanists and Soloists are permitted only upon approval of the Director of Liturgy & Music. Non-liturgical or recorded music is not appropriate to Catholic liturgy and therefore not permitted at a funeral celebration.

CHURCH FACILITIES AND LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

The liturgical space is sacred because it is the place where our community worships God. It is not to be understood as rental space. Therefore, the movement of liturgical furniture or artifacts is not permitted. The seasonal environment created by our Liturgy Committee is not to be moved or adjusted for funeral liturgies. Please have your funeral director consult with the Pastor before placing floral bouquets and tributes in the Church or Chapel.

Personal artifacts (such as photographs, books, hobby items, etc.) of your loved one are permitted in the Gathering Area and in the Community Room during the luncheon. These items are inappropriate for liturgy and therefore not permitted in the Church or Chapel.

VIGILS IN THE CHURCH OR CHAPEL

Vigils or Wakes usually occur in the mortuary chapel but are permitted in the Church on the evening before the celebration of a funeral if: a) the spaces requested are available for use and b) the rooms and furniture do not need to be moved in order to accommodate the Vigil. Arrangements must be made with the parish for staffing and security of the facility and, for security reasons, the body is not permitted to remain in the church overnight.

EULOGIES

Remembrances and personal tributes of deceased members of our community are certainly fitting within the Rite of Christian Funerals. If family members wish to make time for personal tributes to the deceased, the most appropriate time for such tributes is either at the Vigil or Wake or during the Funeral Luncheon following the Funeral Mass.

The eulogy has a restricted place within the funeral liturgy itself due to the specific function of the Catholic Funeral Mass. The parish has a specific policy for eulogies delivered within the Mass. Please ask for a copy of this policy at the liturgy planning meeting if you desire to have a eulogy delivered during the Funeral Mass itself.

CREMATED REMAINS

The expectation of Catholic faith is that of resurrection of the body. While cremation is now permitted by the Church, the preference is that the funeral Mass would be celebrated in the presence of the full body with cremation following the Mass. We realize that there are circumstances where this arrangement cannot occur, especially if the family needs to be gathered from any distance or that the burial will occur in another part of the country. Nevertheless, *there is no guarantee* that a cremation done prior to the Church service will receive a Catholic Funeral Mass if:

- a) The motivation for cremation is contrary to Christian teaching of respect for the body or the resurrection of the body,
- b) The ashes are to be scattered. They must be either buried or interred in a columbarium,
- b) The ashes are to be divided up (e.g., half of them interred, the rest placed in a sculpture, in jewelry, or kept in home on a fireplace mantle, etc.). The whole of the cremated remains must be interred.

If the cremated remains are not placed in a worthy vessel, they will be suitably covered during the celebration of the Funeral liturgy.

PARISH LUNCHEON

As part of our ministry to the bereaved, volunteer members of our parish can facilitate a luncheon following the Funeral Mass. The parish will provide, at no charge, lunch service, set up, serving, clean up, dessert and beverages. The family is responsible to pay for the food provided by an outside caterer. The staff will direct you to the Funeral Lunch Coordinator should you desire to have a meal following the service.