



Lumen Christi CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Funeral Policy During COVID-19 Pandemic

Updated June 16, 2020

For Christians, gathering to mourn the dead, celebrate their life and proclaim the hope of Resurrection are essential practices of our faith. During the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID19 outbreak, our usual mourning rituals have been interrupted. We think of those women on that first Easter, who went to follow their familiar mourning ritual to anoint Jesus's body, to find it disrupted. We remember their initial shock and confusion and feel it too. We're waiting to feel the hope of resurrection. In times of trial like the death of a loved one, we turn to the familiar practices and rituals of our faith and ancestors. And so we know that this disruption for a grieving community is doubly hard. We grieve this disruption with you.

In accordance with continuing guidelines issued by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, along with directives from state and federal government officials, we will be limited in our funeral practices in the following ways until further notice:

Funeral

We are able to have a funeral in the main church, with the following conditions to ensure safety:

- A total of 50 people will be accommodated in the church building.
- A distance of six feet between individuals and each group of persons living in the same household will be kept at all times.
- Any individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, and all those who have been exposed to the virus are asked not to attend the funeral or enter the church building.
- Face masks are required at all times by everyone in the church building. Any individuals not wearing a mask will be asked to leave the building.
- Representatives from the funeral home will assist in moving the casket or cremated remains in the church during the funeral in lieu of pallbearers.
- Musical accompaniment with a cantor will be provided. Unfortunately, due to increased risk of spreading the virus through singing, those attending the funeral will not join in song.
- Parish staff will serve as lector, proclaiming the readings and offering the Prayers of the Faithful from the ambo.

Additionally, the following considerations will be part of the funeral planning process:

- Families may opt for a celebration of a Liturgy of the Word without communion or a Mass with spiritual communion, with the presider receiving communion only, on behalf of all those present.
- Words of remembrance offered by a family representative may take place in accordance with our existing parish policy.
- Families will be provided with the option of livestreaming the funeral service or recording for later viewing.
- Planning meetings will take place via Zoom.

While we are limited in what we are able to do at this time, we are able to plan for memorials after the pandemic has passed. We would welcome the opportunity to have a memorial service for your loved one at a later date when we can all safely gather and celebrate their life.

If your family is interested in such a memorial service, let us know at the time of initial planning and someone from our staff will contact you at a later date to make arrangements.

Graveside at a Cemetery

We are able to have a graveside service outdoors and require that all people practice social distancing of 6 feet between one another. We are able to accommodate 10 people present. This burial service may take place following a funeral in the church or in lieu of a funeral.

Viewing/Wake/Funeral Lunches

We are not able to have any wakes or viewings at the church at this time. We are not able to host a meal at the church following the funeral or graveside service at this time.

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