

Funerals at St. Anthony Parish

Experiencing the loss of a loved one

The loss of a loved one is never easy. Please contact the parish office 333-5544 as soon as possible so that we may assist you in planning the funeral liturgies. During these times of high emotion and great tribulation, it is comforting to know that your spiritual home is there to guide you and your family.

Funeral Planning

Catholic funeral rites include Visitation (viewing), Funeral Mass and the Committal Service at the cemetery or mausoleum.

Parish Funeral Options

Visitation at the Parish

It is possible to have the visitation at the parish. Families may schedule visitation to take place at the parish in either the small Chapel, or the Church. While we will make every effort to accommodate your request, availability of the chapel and church varies by season and day of the week

Funeral Mass Scheduling Funeral Masses at St. Anthony can be scheduled at 11:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.

We will make every effort to accommodate your request, there may be days or seasons when the church or chapel has been previously scheduled.

Presence of Body or Cremains

The funeral Mass can take place with either the body or cremains present. The Parish staff will assist you in planning the funeral Mass if you desire. If no remains are present, a Memorial Mass can be arranged. This is also true if one wishes to remember someone who passed away outside of Alaska.

Family members are encouraged to be involved in selecting the hymns and scriptures that will be part of the funeral rites.

Hymns sung during the funeral Mass are generally chosen from the parish hymnal. Choosing well-known hymns assists those present in participating fully in the Funeral Mass.

Scripture selections usually include a reading from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and a Gospel. There are occasions when two selections from the New Testament are read in addition to the Gospel. The responsorial psalm, between the first and second readings, is usually sung. The Parish Staff will provide you with a book of suggested Scripture passages, but you are not limited to those included in the book.

Participation

There are many opportunities for family and friends to participate in the funeral Mass. Family and friends may:

- Place the pall (white cover, symbolizing baptism) on the casket or urn
- Read Scripture
- Read the Intercessory prayers (prayers of the faithful)
- Present the gifts (bread and wine)
- Serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

If your family prefers, parishioners may serve in the ministries listed above.

Committal Service (at a catholic gravesite or mausoleum) This can be arranged directly following the funeral or at a later date.

Eulogies or Remembrances

It is the practice of St. Anthony Parish to allow one brief eulogy during the funeral Mass.

The purpose of the remembrance is to assist those who did not know your loved well appreciate his/her best qualities. It can suggest to those present how to honor your loved one's memory by following his/her example.

Remembrances (eulogies) may be offered at these times:

- During the Visitation
- During the Visitation Closing prayer service
- During any reception that may follow the service

Funeral Receptions: *The parish does not have a Funeral reception ministry person at this time.* Receptions are quite often held at locations other than the parish hall. The hall and kitchen may be made available for a reception if friends of the family are able to coordinate for them. It is expected that the kitchen and hall will be cleaned and trash disposed of if there is to be a reception. Arrangements to utilize the hall and kitchen need to be made with the office manager at 333-5544. Quite often there may be a prior reservation of the hall for another event so it is important to contact the office to ascertain availability.