

Funerals at St. Anthony Parish ~ We extend our condolences for your loss. We hope some of the following information may be helpful to you in planning the service for your loved one. If you are using MS Edge and you wish to print this document press Ctrl P

Funeral Planning

Often funeral arrangements are made for the family by their chosen funeral director. It is important to contact the priest as soon as possible after a death. Catholic funeral rites include Visitation (viewing), Funeral Mass and the Committal Service at the cemetery or mausoleum. The rites which are celebrated with a body present may also be celebrated in the presence of cremated remains. You may wish to be aware that cremains are not to be scattered or kept in the family home, funeral home or separated into multiple urns. Cremated remains are given the same respect as the body is. We request if your loved one is to be cremated before the service, that they be placed in an urn, box or other suitable receptacle before you arrive at the church.

While the Catholic church prefers that cremation take place after the full funeral liturgy with the body we recognize this is not always possible.

The priest who presides at the funeral liturgy is to be consulted regarding all the details of the Mass including the choice of Scripture readings. Father can advise you about different arrangements for larger or smaller funerals. Smaller funerals may be said during our 9:00A.M. weekday Masses. The priest asks that the family contact them to arrange the readings, music, and other aspects of the funeral.

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. Parish viewing/visitation of approximately 2 hours in length, prior to the service is allowable, providing there are no prior scheduling conflicts. Viewing arrangements may be scheduled (if there are no scheduling conflicts) the evening prior to the funeral mass from 5:00-7:00 p.m. if the funeral is planned for the normal Monday thru Friday 9:00 mass.

The pastor may be but will most likely won't be available during the viewing.

Families sometimes find it helpful to spend time together prior to meeting friends and acquaintances. Sometimes they may desire to hold a short prayer service. These can be adapted for your particular circumstances. Families may choose, but are not required, to include prayer times: If your family chooses to hold the visitation at the parish, optional prayer services may be planned before, after or during the visitation at the parish. A Priest, deacon or religious can be invited by the family to coordinate any prayer service.

A short prayer service, outlined below, can ease the transition between the private and public visitation. The optional service may consist of the following: Sign of the Cross, Short Scripture selection, Sprinkling with Holy Water, Lord's Prayer, Blessing.

Presence of Body or Cremains The funeral Mass can take place with either the body or cremains present.

Cremated remains are given the same respect as the body. If no remains are present, a Memorial Mass can be arranged. This is true if one wishes to remember anyone who has passed away.

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 or music issue. 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 can 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 help out before the service, such as being at the church to receive and place floral arrangements (if any) or set up a table and place a cloth on it for cremains. Mind a guest book, bring a basket for any sympathy cards that might be brought to the church. Families sometimes find it helpful to ask someone to take photos of the flowers received with the card so the family knows who to thank. These people can also be assigned to make certain the flowers get to any reception or the family home following the service at the church or cemetery.

At the service, Family and friends may:

Place the pall (white cover, symbolizing baptism) on the casket or urn. If there are pall bearers it is appropriate to ask them to do this for the casket. Family members sometimes find it meaningful to do this as well

Read responsorial psalm, and/or the first and second readings. These folks should be Catholics

Read the Intercessory prayers (prayers of the faithful) Family may also draft some prayers for this if the wish.

Present the gifts (bread and wine) They do not need to be catholic, if they are not ask a practicing Catholic to assist them in the proper way and when to carry the gifts.

Serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, if they are Eucharistic Ministers either at St. Anthony's or their home parish.

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

Eulogies or Remembrances It is the practice of St. Anthony Parish to allow one brief eulogy during the funeral Mass. Talk with the priest who will be performing the service if you wish to have additional memory sharing at that time. It may be appropriate to suggest memory sharing during any reception that may follow the service.

Committal Service (at a catholic gravesite or mausoleum) This can be arranged directly following the funeral or at a later date. The family is able to transport the urn, funeral homes do not need to be involved unless there is a casket. In the case of cremation, the church believes it proper to bury the cremains in sacred (blessed) ground.

Funeral Receptions:

Receptions are quite often held at locations other than the parish hall. There is no requirement that any reception be held.

There are opportunities for family and friends to participate in any reception at the parish or even when held at another location.

Often people will ask if there is anything they can do for the family. If the family so desires, these folks might be asked if they would coordinate/host a reception. Off site or in 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. If the hall is chosen, someone needs coordinate the people that will be bringing food, to be available to receive food, decorations and to set up the tables. We do not have enough staff to have someone available. It is expected that the kitchen and hall will be cleaned and trash disposed if the hall is used. 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. Areas of the kitchen are well labeled, ex: plates, and bowls, serving utensils, cups, etc. and the instruction for using the dish washer are on the machine. If there are questions the office staff can usually answer them.

The parish does not currently have a Funeral reception ministry person however if other options are not feasible, the parish would like to assist.

Other things that you might wish to know.

If the family requests music, the parish can provide names of parishioners who might be available to play the piano or sing. Any arrangements are made by the family directly with those they wish to have sing or play~ Musician can often recommend songs. It is normal for musicians to be paid by the family. A gift for the celebrant is also appropriate. There is no fee for the parish hall use after a funeral. Again, families may make a donation for using it but it is not mandatory.

Programs containing the order of service and/or information about the deceased, prayer cards or a guest book are always optional.

Some families decide to make displays with photos and mementos central to the life of the deceased. These are not necessary but often can be a way to help the family grieve and may help friends with their grief as well. Flowers are also not necessary and can be quite an expense for families. Some families have chosen to have one, or each family member place 1 carnation/rose or other flower next to a photo near the cremains or on the casket after the pall has been put on Usually as they enter the sanctuary following the casket, or just before they take their seats.

If you have people attending who have been away from the church for a while or folks who are not Catholic, they may not receive communion, however if they choose, they can place their hands across their chest and walk up at communion time where they will receive a blessing.

It never hurts to have someone bring a box or two of tissues.

Everything is not covered here. If you have questions please contact the office 333-5544, or ask the priest when you meet with him.