

Planning Christian FUNERALS

Saint Vincent de Paul
ROMAN Catholic Church



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By means of the funeral rites it has been the practice of the Church, as a tender mother, not simply to commend the dead to God but also to raise high the hope of its children and to give witness to its own faith in the future resurrection of the baptized with Christ. (Decree / Order of Christian Funerals)

On behalf of our Pastor, Father Jerome Karcher, and the Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church community, please accept our deepest sympathy during this difficult time. Please know that our community wants to be of help and support to you. Also, please feel free to call us at any time.

Because you have been given this information, we understand that you are a member of Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

A Bereavement Minister from our parish is available to guide you in planning the liturgy for the Vigil and/or the Funeral Mass for your loved one. The minister will suggest ways for your family and friends to be personally involved in selecting the Readings from Scripture and the appropriate Hymns. We hope you will find planning the Vigil and/or Funeral Mass with your family very rewarding and comforting, as well. If you are not inclined to select the Readings, this can be done by the Priest.

When you have made your decisions regarding the liturgical services please call the Bereavement Minister who is assisting you and give her the selections you have chosen.

Following the Vigil Service or before the Funeral Mass, the Bereavement Minister will give the persons participating as Lectors in the Funeral Mass a copy of his/her reading which will enable him/her to study and prepare for the Mass.

THE VIGIL

This service may take the form of a Scripture service along with the recitation of the Rosary. The Vigil Service usually takes place with the Body of the Deceased present in the mortuary on the evening preceding the Funeral Mass. This service may be conducted by a Priest, Deacon, qualified family member or a Bereavement Minister. The Vigil Service is also the perfect time for members of the family and friends (adults and children) to share special memories of the deceased in the Words of Remembrance. If your loved one prayed the Rosary often, you may want either a decade or the entire Rosary prayed at the Vigil. Readings from the Old or New Testament and Gospel will also be read.

It is important to understand that each family grieves in different ways. Although a Vigil Service is part of the Order of Christian Funerals, some people prefer not to have a Vigil Service. They may prefer to have only a private viewing. That decision is up to you.

THE MASS

Our Funeral Masses are celebrated in the mornings. We encourage you to schedule the Funeral Mass at our daily 8:30 AM Mass. We have many parishioners who attend this daily Mass and they will bring with them much support and comfort for you and your family. They join in the singing, prayers and responses.

On the morning of the Funeral Mass please have all the participants in the liturgy come to the Church about forty minutes early so that the Bereavement Minister can teach each one where to stand, how to direct the microphone, show the Gift Bearers what to do, etc.

Following the Mass, if the burial is at Good Shepherd Cemetery, the priest, family and friends will proceed to the cemetery for the Rite of Committal Graveside Service. When the burial is out of our area your Mortuary will assist you to obtain either a priest or a deacon for the burial site.

FUNERAL EULOGIES AND WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Required Guidelines for Saint Vincent de Paul Church

A Eulogy / Words of Remembrance by a family member or a good friend can contribute an appropriate personal remembrance at the Funeral Mass. It is most effective when it does not try to be a complete history of the individual. It should be no more than three minutes in length. It is best to focus on one or two especially memorable qualities and is not a time to share readings from the Bible. This Eulogy takes place following *the Prayer after Communion* when the Priest sits down. The eulogist will speak at the Ambo which is on the right of the Altar. It is appropriate for other or longer Eulogies / Words of Remembrance to be shared at either the Vigil or a family reception

Please note:

- One Eulogist is allowed for the Funeral Mass. Other Eulogies should be shared at the Vigil or at the Reception.
Keep it brief. The Eulogy should not be longer than 3 minutes. Brevity is the key to a well-received Eulogy. This means no more than two pages (Font Size 13) double spaced when typed.
- Do not quote from the Bible during the Eulogy. The Word of God will have already been proclaimed at the Mass. Do not use this time to preach or make recommendations to people about their lives.
- The eulogy should focus on a virtue or important and edifying characteristic of the deceased. It should NOT be a life story or provide inappropriate information. Highlight an achievement in the person's life or a special memory.
- Concluding Statements can provide an invitation to the family home or the reception if there is one.

NOTES

❑ CREMATION

The Church prefers that cremation take place after the full Funeral Liturgy wherein the body is present. "This is the body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the Bread of Life." If it is not possible for the body to be present at the Funeral Mass, the Catholic Church has granted permission for the celebration of the Funeral Mass with the cremated remains of the body present in the church.

Cremated remains should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel/urn. An Ossuary (which the Church provides) will contain the urn of ashes that is placed in front of the Altar during the Funeral Mass. The urn with the cremated remains is then buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum. Scattering the cremated remains of the body, keeping them at home, or dividing them up among various family members is not the reverent disposition the Church requires.

❑ MUSIC

The Church provides a Cantor and an Accompanist (organ/piano) for the liturgical music for the Funeral Mass. These musicians are very talented and are familiar with the church sound system. These music ministers charge \$125.00 each. Outside organists or pianists do not know the parish sound system and are therefore not permitted to lead the music.

❑ DRESS

The persons either reading or providing the eulogy must be appropriately dressed in the church: Men with collared shirts and full length pants; and Women with either full length slacks or a skirt/dress that is no shorter than an inch above the knees and blouses that cover the shoulders.

❑ DONATIONS

Even though Saint Vincent de Paul Church does not charge a fee for a Funeral or Memorial Mass, a contribution for the on-going ministries of our Church is deeply appreciated, normally \$200 - \$300.

❑ MILITARY HONORS

If desired, Military Honors may be provided AFTER the priest or deacon concludes the burial rites (Rite of Committal) at the cemetery. Please be sure to inform the military (or the mortuary making these arrangements) of this requirement so that they plan their time adequately

Revised October 2013