

St Anselm Parish Funeral Guidelines & Policies

Preplanning Funeral Services

- What Funeral Home do you want to handle the arrangements for the funeral?
- Where would you like the services to be held?
- Do you want a visitation prior to the service, and if so where, at church or funeral home?
- If you have a visitation prior to service, do you want open or closed casket?
- Would you like music during the services?
- Who should participate in the service as Pallbearers, Readers, Gift Bearers, or the person to give the Word of Remembrance?
- Where do you want the remains to be interred?

Notifications

- If St. Anselm Parish is the home parish for the deceased, notify the parish office as soon as possible.
- Funeral arrangements cannot be finalized until the family is aware of the Catholic funeral and burial requirements.
- Another parish church can be utilized, but only with the prior consent of that pastor, and the notification of St. Anselm.

Eligibility of Funeral Rites

- Most baptized Catholics can be given the Funeral Rite. Canon Law does deny the Funeral Rite in some incidences. Consult the priest or deacon if there are any questions.
- An unbaptized child of Catholic parents is eligible, if the parents intended on baptizing the child.
- Catechumens are eligible, due to baptism of desire.
- For all other cases, please consult with the priest or deacon.

Catholic Rite of Funerals

- This rite usually consists of three parts. The family should consult with the priest or deacon for guidance.
 1. Vigil for the Deceased (Wake)
 - Usually conducted at a funeral home, but can be held at the church preceding the Funeral Mass.
 - Following the Vigil for the Deceased, the priest or deacon can celebrate the Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass in lieu of the Funeral Mass.
 2. Funeral Mass
 - The Funeral Mass is celebrated with the body or a Memorial Mass if ashes are present (See Cremation).
 - If a Funeral Mass is not elected, consider a Memorial Mass at a later date.
 3. Rite of Committal (Burial)
 - This rite is celebrated at the place of interment or entombment.
 - The family needs to coordinate with the celebrating priest or deacon if they wish to include a military or cultural honoring at the gravesite, as to insure the integrity of Rite of Committal.

Scheduling

- Sundays – No funerals can be celebrated. Wakes are permitted.
- Holy Days of Obligation – Celebration of Funerals are permitted, but not within the context of the Mass or the Eucharist.
- Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Holy Saturday – Celebration of Funerals are permitted, but not within context of the Mass or the Eucharist.

Eulogy

- The Archdiocese of New Orleans does not allow eulogies as part of the Rite of Funerals, but does allow Words of Remembrance.
- Words of Remembrance focus on the “Faith Life” lived by the deceased, as opposed to reminiscing of old times. This is usually given by one individual appointed by the family.
- Consult with the priest or deacon as to the appropriate time for the Words of Remembrance within the Rite of Funerals.

Internment – Entombment

- The first choice for the final resting place should be a Catholic cemetery. If a Catholic cemetery is not possible, the chosen cemetery’s interment or entombment site should be properly blessed.
- The final resting place should be properly memorialized with an appropriate marker, placard or headstone.
- For information regarding local Catholic cemeteries visit the Archdiocese of New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries website at www.nolacatholiccemeteries.org

Cremation

- Cremation is allowed by the Catholic Church, but only if it is done in accordance with the teachings of the Church. Consult the priest or deacon if there are any questions.
- The Church’s preference is for the body of the deceased to be present for the Rite of Funerals, but the cremated remains are permitted.
- The Catholic Church does not allow for any portion of the remains to be separated. Also, the Catholic Church does not allow for any portion of the remains to be scattered (air, sea or land) or retained at home.
- Before the priest or deacon will consent to celebrating the Rite of Funerals, the family of the deceased must be informed of the proper internment or entombment process of the complete cremated remains following the conclusion of the funeral.
- The ashes, like the body, must be treated with dignity, to include an appropriate containment vessel.

Masonic Organizations

- Although membership in a masonic organization is prohibited by the Catholic Church, some in the Catholic faith have ignored the Church’s position.
- If the deceased was a member of a masonic organization a Catholic funeral can be celebrated, but the presiding priest or deacon cannot be present when a masonic rite is administered.

Church Logistics

- A free will offering is made at the time of the Funeral.
- Consult with the priest or deacon if an organist, cantor or both are needed. The cost of the musician is to be paid directly to the musicians.