

Planning for Funerals at Saint Joseph Catholic Church

The materials herein are in conformity with the pastoral guidelines issued by the Diocese of Kalamazoo entitled, "Comfort those who mourn and weep."

General Information

Upon the death of a loved one, the funeral home normally makes the initial contact with the parish regarding funeral plans. This is so that proper and accurate scheduling may occur between the parish, the priest or deacon, the funeral home, and/or the cemetery.

Phone numbers to call:	Saint Joseph Church	962-0165
	Fr. Christopher Derda, Pastor	962-0165
	Fr. Benjamin Huynh	962-0165
	Fr. Raul Gomez	962-0165
	Deacon Jim Nelson	962-0165
	Deacon Al Radford	964-0165

Scheduling the Rites

There are three rites that normally take place as part of a funeral for the deceased.

The first Rite takes place at the funeral home, and entails either the recitation of the Holy Rosary or a Vigil Prayer Service for the Deceased.

The Recitation of the Rosary

The recitation of the Rosary is one of two options to be prayed the night before the Funeral Liturgy. This occurs in the funeral home, and is normally led by a member of the parish's Legion of Mary, or one of the parish's permanent deacons.

The Vigil Prayer Service for the Deceased

Another option is to celebrate a prayer service for the deceased the night before the funeral. This prayer service is normally led by one of the parish's permanent deacons.

The second Rite is the Funeral Liturgy. For Roman Catholics, the Funeral Liturgy normally takes place within the context of the Holy Mass. Funeral Liturgies outside of Mass can be held at the funeral home under some circumstances.

The Funeral Liturgy within Mass

The Funeral Liturgy within Mass is a celebration for the living, while remembering the loved one who has died. The parish priest will be happy to discuss the details of the Mass with family members. Family members may also be asked to select readings from Sacred Scripture to be used during the funeral. The Funeral Mass is normally celebrated only for practicing Roman Catholics. Under special circumstances, a Funeral Mass may

be held for a baptized Christian who is non-Catholic, but the pastor must seek the special permission of the Diocesan bishop in order for this to occur.

Arrangements for music can be made by contacting the Director of Liturgy and Music, James Zalewski.

Special Note: It has been the practice of the parish for some time not to conduct Eulogies during the Funeral Mass. Instead, the Mass is a time of prayer and to celebrate our hope in the resurrection. Eulogies may take place at the funeral home the night before, following the Rite of Committal, or at a luncheon following the Rite of Committal.

The Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass

The Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass may also be arranged, and normally takes place at the funeral home or the cemetery. This relatively brief service contains a Liturgy of the Word, and some prayers. Eulogies are permitted during the Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass.

The third Rite is the Rite of Committal. The Rite of Committal normally follows immediately after the Funeral Liturgy and takes place at a gravesite, a tomb, a mausoleum, columbarium, or at sea.

The Rite of Committal is a very brief service that takes place before or during interment. The Rite of Committal is normally celebrated by one of the parish priests, or one of the permanent deacons.

Funeral Luncheons

Funeral Luncheons or gatherings following the Funeral Liturgy may be arranged for parishioners of our parish. Please contact the parish office for further information.

Memorial Contributions and Flowers

Saint Joseph Parish is grateful for remembering the parish when designating memorial contributions. If you choose to include the parish, please list the church as "Saint Joseph Catholic Church."

Also, if you would like to donate flowers that have been sent to your family as a memorial, we are happy to accept them and they will be utilized at our parish or in our church.

For More Information, contact: Saint Joseph Catholic Church,
61 23rd St. N. Battle Creek, Michigan 49015 269-962-0165