



Guidelines for Funerals in Light of COVID-19

In keeping with county, state, and Archdiocesan guidelines, the following need to be observed for all funeral liturgies.

Records and Numbers of Attendees

- The number of people in the building cannot exceed 25%; we are capping the number of guests for any event at 200 people in the Church and 50 in the Social Hall.
- There can be no receptions or gatherings before or after. Funerals are typically very “high-touch” events, so special attention will need to be given to maintaining social distance throughout (i.e. no hugs, no handshakes!).

Social Distance and Masking

- Social distance of six feet must be observed between family groups, both during the liturgy and as people gather before the funeral and afterwards. A Safety-Team member is needed to welcome attendees and seat them appropriately in keeping with these guidelines.
- This means that it will not be possible for the family to greet visitors as usual—no hugs!
- One suggestion would be for family to stand outside in the breezeway and greet people as they enter.
- Masks/face coverings must be worn at all times by all attendees and liturgical ministers, with the exception of the priest presider during the funeral liturgy itself.
- At the end of the liturgy, guests need to leave the Parish immediately, maintaining social distance. Unfortunately, gathering is not permitted.

Impact on the Liturgy

- The procession with the family from the font is to be omitted. The remains, if present, are already in place in the Parish. If the casket is present, it is handled by the funeral home only, no pallbearers.
- Incense is not used at this time.
- Congregational singing is not permitted at this time, so many parts of the liturgy will be spoken rather than sung. Since music is still a priority for these liturgies, families should discuss this with their funeral coordinator and the music director.
- Holy Communion is given only in the hand. Communion from the cup is not possible at this time.