

YOUR FUNERAL QUESTIONS ANSWERED

What can you expect from the Church?

All the baptized are entitled to the full Rite of Christian Burial. You and the members of your family will experience the Rite of Christian Burial in three distinct and important gatherings.

The night before the funeral the Parish Priest will lead a prayer service called the vigil. The family may choose to say the rosary or other devotions prior to the prayer service. The casket or urn may remain in the church overnight. Tributes and the eulogy are very appropriate to share at this service. A microphone will be provided for this purpose. The service will conclude with the opportunity to pay last respects and offer silent prayer. The casket may remain in the church overnight.

It is preferred that any flowers are brought prior to the church in advance of the undertaker bringing the beloved family member to the church. Pall bearers should be prepared to meet the undertaker and the hearse prior to the vigil service.

The Funeral Liturgy is the centerpiece of these Rites. This will take place at the church and is usually, but not necessarily, celebrated in the context of the Mass. The bodily remains of the Christian are honored by being brought to the parish Church. The memory of the deceased is joined to the greater mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

The committal takes place at the cemetery of your choosing and concludes the prayerful respect given to the body of Christian people. This graveside service brings closure to the Rite of Christian Burial.

Our Lady of the Annunciation memorial buffet

A memorial buffet held at the Gathering centre is offered to families of deceased parishioners after the committal at Fairview cemetery or immediately after the funeral liturgy if committal will take place in another cemetery. If you choose not to host at home or another venue, the Catholic Women's League is available to provide a reception at the church.

Families choose either to order meat, cheese, vegetable, fruit and dessert trays, from Save On Foods, Safeway or Maverick Mart and/or have entrees catered by a local restaurant or choose to make their own traditional foods. Many parishioners bring baking to funerals. Food can be delivered to the gathering centre at 9:00 am the day of the funeral or the evening before. Families are requested to bring coffee cream or milk as the parish purchases milk only for soup kitchen.

The CWL volunteers will provide serving utensils, plates, cutlery, glasses, cups, tea, coffee and centre pieces for the tables. A large cooler is available to store trays during the funeral liturgy. Chafing dishes are available upon request for hot foods as is the oven. The members will wash all dishes and linen.

The gathering centre is equipped with a smart tv to display a powerpoint tribute or photo display. A USB memory stick is sufficient. Tables are available for photo albums.

A microphone is available for any tributes during the reception.

It is recommended that the USB is brought to the church the day before the funeral to test for compatibility. After the vigil or the practice is an appropriate time.

How can the Family and Friends be involved at the Funeral

Choosing the scripture, placing the white pall and other religious symbols on the casket, serving as pall-bearers, and presenting the gifts of bread and wine are the most appropriate ways of involving loved ones. Our bereavement minister will be contacting you to help assist you in all areas.

When and where can we have a funeral liturgy?

A funeral, according to the teaching of the Church in our Diocese, may be celebrated on any day of the Church year except for Sundays or a Holy Day. It is preferred that the funeral liturgy of all Christians take place in the Parish church even if Mass is not celebrated. If cremation is to take place, it should follow the liturgy at Church.

How much does a funeral cost?

The stipend for child altar servers is \$5 each. Adult altar servers are performing a corporal work of mercy and do not expect to be paid. Separate donations can be made to the choir, Catholic Women's League and parish priest.

What about after the Funeral?

Weeks, and perhaps months after the funeral, many people who are grieving often find that it is helpful to talk. Prince Rupert Hospice Society offers grief support groups

If your beloved departed was a member of the CWL or KOC, you will be invited to memorial services masses for deceased members. You are invited to write the name of your family member in the book of Life during the month of November. The parish celebrates All Souls Day with a blessing of the graves at Fairview Cemetery on the first Sunday of November.

What about cremation?

The preferred church practice is celebration of the Funeral Liturgy with the body, and then the burial in the ground or entombment. Cremation, however, is permitted when requested, if the reasons are consistent with Catholic teaching (economic, geographic).

Reason contrary to Catholic teaching would be "no belief in the Resurrection". Celebration of the liturgy may take place with the body and cremation afterward. This is the desired practice.

Celebration of the liturgy may also take place without the body with cremation taking place before the liturgy.

Celebration may take place with the ashes which are placed in a worthy vessel. The vessel containing the remains is placed on a table or stand in the church, in the place normally reserved for the coffin.

It is recommended that cremation take place following the funeral liturgy. In such a case, a priest will accompany the remains to the cemetery for a proper committal after cremation.

All Christians, including those who are cremated, are to be buried immediately after the funeral service in consecrated or blessed ground/tomb.

The practice of dividing, scattering, or keeping ashes at home is not in keeping with the Church's teaching.

Are pre-arrangements binding upon the church?

You may be dealing with some special requests of your deceased loved one concerning the wake and funeral. The parish together with the funeral director will do its best to comply with such requests.

It is important to keep in mind, however, that any requests made by the deceased that do not respect the Rites and traditions of the Church may have to be compromised.

OPTIONS FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY

The funeral liturgy reflects our Christian belief that death is not an end but a beginning. The Prayers, blessings, readings and songs offer comfort and hope in the midst of our tears because during the liturgy we recall Jesus' victory over death and our share in that resurrection.

The practice of offering a "eulogy" is normally not part of the Funeral Liturgy. Such meaningful tributes are best incorporated into the vigil or at the reception after interment.

PLACING OF THE PALL ON THE CASKET

The white funeral pall is a sign of our baptismal garment. Family members or individual designated by the family are encouraged to place the funeral pall on the casket before Mass. The priest and funeral home director will assist to direct the family and pall bearers in the procession immediately following the blessing.

If your beloved family member was a member of the CWL or KOC you may be requested by the council president or grand knight to permit an honor guard by the membership

READINGS: You may select one of two readings from the Scriptures. If you choose to have two readings, one should be from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If you choose to have one reading, it may be from either the Old or the New. The Gospel is chosen by the Priest. A pdf is available with selections for Old and New Testament readings.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The psalm follows the first reading. It is sung whenever a cantor is available, but may be read.

READERS: You may ask family member and friends to proclaim the readings. If they are not trained lectors, a practice will be made available. If you prefer, there are lectors in the parish community who would be honored to perform this service for your loved one. The selected readings will be labelled and tabbed for each reader. Copies of the selected readings will be provided and a practise time is available for family or friends who are not trained lectors the day before the vigil in order for them to prepare.

MUSIC: The parish can guarantee a choir for Saturday funerals. The choir has a list of appropriate music from their repertoire that you may choose from. You should not feel compelled to pick music. The music ministry will be happy to choose the hymns for you. Please note that accompanists and singers are less available on weekday funerals during the school year. The parish is able to offer music by CD when the choir is not available.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL are said after the homily. The priest will use the standard intercessions available in the Roman Missal for the funeral liturgy. You may wish to have family or friends read them at the liturgy

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS: Family members or friends may bring the bread and wine to the altar during the liturgy. Altar servers are provided by the parish to assist with the funeral liturgy.

Flowers are permitted in the church during the seasons of ordinary time , Advent and Easter. Due to their highly allergenic pollen and strong scent, live lilies are prohibited in the church. Flowers should be delivered prior to the vigil or prior to 10 AM in the morning of the funeral . A member of the liturgical art and environment committee will place the flowers beside the tabernacle and in front of the statues of St Joseph and our Lady of the Annunciation. Additional flowers will be place in front of the other statues or on the back table. Flowers are not permitted on top of the casket once the pall is place. Any coffin sprays will be placed on a table at the back of the church just prior to the placing of the pall.

The parish priest or a member of the bereavement ministry would be most willing to assist you in planning the liturgy. The information will be presented to the priest, musicians, Catholic Women's league volunteers by the pastoral assistant or beareavement committee volunteer.