

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the customary donation to the Church?

It is highly commendable to make a donation to the Church for use of the Church for funerals. These donations help offset costs incurred by the parish for facility usage and staff. Families may also wish to make a donation to the priest who celebrates the funeral Mass. These donations are highly appreciated. There are also fees involved for the use of the parish musician. Families in genuine financial distress may discuss this privately with the Pastor. The fees and recommended donations are listed below.

Recommended donation to the Church: \$150.00
Recommended donation to the Priest: *Your discretion*
Pastoral Musician Fee: \$150.00

May we have the wake in the Church?

Evening viewings/wakes in the Church are not permitted. One may, however, be permitted a morning viewing/wake in the Church, 1/2 an hour prior to the funeral.

How do we choose music for the funeral?

According to the liturgical rubrics of the funeral Mass, the dignity of the liturgy demands music at a funeral liturgy. Silent funerals or funerals without music are not permitted. It is also required that vocal accompaniment be provided. Only pastorally appropriate music will be permitted at funeral liturgies. The parish staff will provide recommendations and must approve all final selections.

What are the fees for musicians? May we have outside musicians perform?

The decision of musicians at a funeral belongs to the Pastor and staff alone. The staff of St. Maria Goretti Parish have the first right of refusal to play at all funerals. If they are unavailable, and only if they are unavailable, the family may request another musician to provide music. However, all outside musicians must be approved by the Pastor and/or the parish staff. Pastoral musicians rely on fees received for their services as part of their livelihood. The fee for the Pastoral Musician is \$150. These fees are expected to be rendered either prior to or at the funeral.

How do we choose Scripture readings?

Scripture readings for funeral Masses must be from the approved texts. These texts will be provided by the parish so families may select from them. Archdiocesan policy also requires that lectors at funeral Masses be practicing Catholics. These readings can be found by visiting the parish website.

May we have a eulogy at the funeral Mass?

*A eulogy is a 'speech of writing in praise of a person, a commendatory oration', and thus has never been a part of the Catholic liturgical tradition. Because eulogies have been part of the funeral rites of other traditions, some Catholics now expect them – and expect to deliver them – at Catholic funeral liturgies. Per Archdiocesan guidelines, **eulogies or words of remembrance will not be permitted during funeral Masses at St. Maria Goretti Parish.*** The appropriate time for family or friends to speak in memory of the deceased will be at another time, for example, the viewing/wake at the Funeral Home or the reception after the funeral.

Who will perform the burial?

The pastor is the only one assigned to St. Maria Goretti Parish. He will make every effort to perform the burial rites at the cemetery. However, it may at times not be possible for him to attend the burial. If that is the case, he will work with the funeral director, who will make every effort to find another clergyman to perform that important duty. While this will always be a last resort, if a priest or deacon is unavailable, it is permissible that a layperson perform the burial rituals.

The Clergy and Staff of St. Maria Goretti Parish are here to assist you during your time of sorrow. If we can be of any assistance to you at this time or in the future, please contact the parish office at 313.562.5356.