



At every **FUNERAL MASS**, family and friends of the beloved deceased gather to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, to commend the soul of the faithful departed to God's tender mercy, and to comfort each other with assurances of faith until we all meet again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself. Thus, the Funeral Mass transcends a courteous expression of grief, as it is a powerful act of worship and encounter with the Living God.

**1. When are Funeral Masses celebrated?**

Funeral Masses typically are celebrated Monday - Saturday at 10:30am. On Catholic School days, this time is set due to complexities with schedules.

**2. Is visitation possible at church?**

For those interested, we typically are able to provide space for visitation on the day of the Funeral Mass beginning at 9:30am.

**3. Is it possible to have a luncheon at the church after the Funeral Mass?**

For those interested, we typically are able to make available our Fellowship Hall after the Funeral Mass. Rotating volunteer teams known as "Martha's Meals" support families by preparing and serving luncheons after Funeral Masses. Families pay only for the cost of meat, although donations always are appreciated to help perpetuate this compassionate outreach.

**4. What kind of music is appropriate for a Funeral Mass?**

The whole congregation should be able to participate in the music chosen. Solo performances are out of place. Secular music, however sentimental, is not appropriate for our sacred setting (e.g. "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling", "Ol' Man River," "You Lift Me Up," and the like). We are not allowed to perform secular music without appropriate industry licensing which we do not have.

***TIP!** For your convenience, you will receive a listing of recommended Funeral Mass hymns in addition to recommended Scripture Readings that you can select.*

**5. What is appropriate to use in a family's "Words of Remembrance"?**

Optional "Words of Remembrance" can be offered either before the Funeral Mass begins or after Communion. If done, a relative or friend may deliver the "Words of Remembrance" on behalf of everyone. It is not the moment for private sharing of stories or to recount of the entirety of one's life. **These remarks are to be a thoughtful expression of thanksgiving for the life of the beloved deceased that beautifully complement the Funeral Mass which is an act of worship of God. Please limit remarks one speaker and no more than two pages.**

***TIP!** One page, single-spaced, read aloud at a normal pace is four minutes.*

**6. What is the cost for a Funeral Mass?**

A donation of \$300 covers the expense of the use of our facilities along with the expense of our musician who is an independent contractor. This is collected by the Funeral Home and distributed to the parish.

**NOTE:** *If a Funeral Home is not used, the family makes the donation directly to the parish.*