



Planning a Funeral
at
Holy Family Catholic Community
Adult Faith Life
www.holyfamilyparish.org

On behalf of our Pastor, Fr. Terry Keehan, Holy Family staff, and the entire faith community of Holy Family, we pray that the consolation of God is with your entire family. As Catholic Christians, we believe that at the time of death, *life has changed...not ended!* We believe that Jesus has conquered death through the power of the resurrection. As a people of faith, we believe in the resurrection. May your loved one who has died come to know the fullness of the resurrection with our Risen Lord in heaven.

Recommended rituals. Burying the dead is a corporal work of mercy, along with feeding the hungry and visiting the sick. When a person has died, in the Catholic faith there is normally a wake (visitation), a Mass, and a committal service at a Catholic cemetery (interment). The body of the deceased should be present during these rituals.

The wake is a time to remember and share memories and stories of your loved one's life and God's presence in it. During the Wake Service, Holy Family will be available to conduct a Prayer Service, reading from sacred Scripture and offering prayers of comfort and hope. The Mass of the Resurrection is a beautiful way to reverently honor your loved one and be reminded that they are a child of God. At the beginning of the service, the person's body is blessed with holy water and covered with a pall to

remember their Baptism. The readings, prayers and hymns you choose should reflect the faith and values of your loved one. After Communion is shared, the body is blessed with incense to signify that he or she will rise with Christ on the last day. The body is then taken to the consecrated ground of a Catholic cemetery to its final resting place. Holy Family is available to perform the Rite of Committal at the cemetery commending your loved one to God's loving care.

Cremated remains. Since 1963, the Catholic Church has allowed cremation of the body. It is preferable that the body not be cremated until after the Mass of the Resurrection because it helps mourners face the reality of a person's death and allows the Church to express the fullness of its belief during the funeral rites. If the body must be cremated before the Mass, the cremated remains should be present at the Mass so that they can be blessed and incensed. The cremated remains should be taken to the consecrated ground of a Catholic cemetery where they will be interred in the ground or in a mausoleum or columbarium. We discourage the practice of scattering your loved ones' ashes over land or sea, or kept in a container at home or elsewhere. These are the remains of the body of your loved one and should be given as much respect and dignity in death as in life.

PLANNING THE FUNERAL

We will call you promptly after scheduling your funeral with the Funeral Home and set up a time when you can meet with one of our Bereavement Ministers to plan the service for your loved one. Please allow at least two hours for this meeting. Please use this Planning Guide to help you prepare for your meeting. At this meeting, we will gather family information, and then ask you some questions to help us get to know your loved one through your memories so we can share this information with the priest who will preside at the Funeral. You will also select the Scripture readings, readers for these readings, music for the service and a poem or two to be used in the booklet that we will prepare for the service. You are encouraged to give us a picture of your loved one for the booklet and the screens during Mass.



Holy Family Catholic Community
Funeral Planning Guide

Funeral Details and Contact information:

Name of Deceased _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

Cause of Death _____

Contact Person _____ Relationship _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Email address _____

Funeral Home _____

Contact person _____ Phone _____

Wake: Date _____ Time _____

Wake Prayer Service requested _____ Time preference _____

Funeral: Date _____ Time _____

Interment: Cemetery _____

Location _____

Liturgy planning:

Pallbearers for a casket (normally six people) _____

Urnbearer (for cremated remains) _____

Persons to place the Pall (white cloth to place over casket or urn)

Person to place the Book of Scripture _____

Person to inscribe loved one's name in our memory book -we strongly recommend the next of kin _____

Person carrying picture (for urn) _____

Person carrying flowers (for urn) _____

First Reading (Old Testament) _____

Reader for 1st reading _____

2nd Reading (New Testament) _____

Reader for 2nd reading _____

Gospel (Read by Presider) _____

Reader for Prayers of the Faithful _____

Prayers of the Faithful are petitionary prayers prepared by our Bereavement Ministers and will be sent to you after the family meeting for your review.

The readers you choose do not need to be Catholic. Our Ministers can do the readings and/or Prayers if you choose.

Gift bearers (2-5 people) _____

Person giving Words of Remembrance (Eulogy – Please only choose one person to speak) _____

Songs:

Entrance _____ Artist _____

Psalm Response _____ Artist _____

Gospel Acclamation _____ Artist _____

Preparation of the Gifts _____ Artist _____

Communion _____ Artist _____

Meditation _____ Artist _____

Final Commendation _____ Artist _____

Recessional _____ Artist _____

Meditation song is a prayerful time for reflection after communion distribution.

Booklet information:

Cover of Booklet – Photo (must be in jpeg or png format) **or** Image _____

Cover page Poem _____

Back page Poem _____

Family history as it applies to your loved one (please indicate if any of the following are deceased):

Spouse _____

Children (and spouses, if married) _____

Grandchildren _____

Great-grandchildren _____

Parents _____

Siblings (and spouses, if married) _____

Life of your loved one:

Place of Birth _____

Church of Baptism (if known) _____

Church of Marriage (and date) _____

Elementary/high schools (if known) _____

Secondary education/degrees _____

Military Service _____

Career/achievements _____

Hobbies _____

Volunteer work _____

Spiritual Life _____

Music enjoyed (types and artists) _____

Holy Family has a grief support group called To Be Joyful Again. To Be Joyful Again is a support group for people whose spouse or significant other has died. It is lay led and its participants consist solely of those who have lost a spouse or significant other. The group normally meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00pm and welcomes anyone in need regardless of gender, age or religious affiliation. During these unprecedented times, please visit our website for current meeting information.

All Souls Mass is a beautiful Mass each year on November 2, All Souls Day, for all who have lost a loved one, and specifically recalls those whose funerals were held at Holy Family during the previous 12 months. If you had a funeral Mass at Holy Family in the past 12 months leading up to All Souls Day, you will receive a letter in the mail inviting you to this Mass.

For more information on the above or other support groups affiliated with *Holy Family Catholic Community*, please visit our website at www.holyfamilyparish.org or call Adult Faith Life at 847-907-3448.