

Simple Guide for Funerals

In the Diocese of St. Paul, AB.

All arrangements for Funeral celebrations: Vigil Service, Funeral Mass, Funeral Liturgy outside Mass or Memorial Mass is to be made through the pastor of the parish by the family (not by Funeral home)

1. Funeral Rites

Vigil service: Also called Prayer Vigil:

Time: Usually in the evening before the Funeral Service.

Place: May be in the Church or in a funeral home or in some other suitable place.

Liturgy: Reception of the body – Bible readings – brief Homily – Prayer of the faithful – Meditation – with some proper Christian hymns.

Funeral Mass:

Time: Any day except Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, Holy Thursday and Easter Triduum.

Place: Parish church of the deceased. Otherwise, permission must be sought from the proper pastors.

Service: Mass with Final Commendation and farewell.

Funeral Liturgy without Mass:

Time: Any day except Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, Holy Thursday and Easter Triduum if Funeral Liturgy without Mass is held in the Parish Church.

Place: in the Parish Church or in a suitable place for pastoral reasons and in juridical territory of the pastor.

Liturgy: Liturgy of the Word with Final Commendation and farewell.

Memorial Mass: In the absence of the Body or Ashes

Time: Any day except Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation, Holy Thursday and Easter Triduum.

Place: in the Parish Church or in a suitable place for pastoral reasons and in juridical territory of the pastor.

Liturgy: Mass, that is Liturgy of the Word and liturgy of the Eucharist.

2. Eulogy

It is a short speech of remembrance and thanksgiving to God for the life the deceased.

Time and place: During the wake service at the funeral home. If the family wishes to do the Eulogy at the church, it should be done right before the Funeral Liturgy, with the agreement of the pastor.

3. Right to Ecclesiastical Funerals

Baptized Catholic – Catechumens – Non-baptized Infants (whose Parents had intended to have them baptized but who died before baptism)- Baptized non-Catholic if permitted by the Chancery Office

4. Special Circumstances:

The presence of another Christian minister is acceptable, but he is not to be seated in the sanctuary and not allowed to provide a prayer or a speech during funeral Mass (more participation is allowed with Funeral Liturgy without Mass)

Cremation should take place after the Funeral Rites. If done before, cremated remains may be brought to the Church for Funeral service.

5. Fees

\$200 for the Church, for one or two services (Prayer Vigil and/or Funeral Service)

\$100 (for each service) to the priest, deacon, or lay minister providing the service. If the family invites another priest or deacon, the family pays him \$100 plus the mileage expenses.

6. Jurisdiction

It is the Pastor who ministers in his juridical territory (parish or mission). To minister instead of the Pastor, another priest should seek permission from the proper pastor or he should inform him respectfully. The invitation of the family does not satisfy that request of the law.

April 1, 2011
Fr. Peter Tran, J.C.L.
Chancellor