

FUNERAL LITURGY GUIDELINES

Sacred Heart Parish, Gettysburg, SD

Normally, **the pastor meets with the family to plan the Wake Service and the Funeral Liturgy.** *Please, do NOT finalize any details (day, time, music, speaker, etc.) before they have been confirmed with the pastor.*

Floral arrangements are welcome. Occasionally there are more arrangements than the church sanctuary can accommodate. Extra arrangements will be placed in the church entry or parish hall. ***In ordering flowers -- be aware that the pastor has a severe allergy to flowers in the lilly family. Please inform your florist of this!***

Picture(s) of the deceased, memorial cards and other appropriate items may be displayed in the entry.

THE WAKE SERVICE

The **Wake Service normally takes place the evening before the funeral.** If possible, the wake should be held at the Church, rather than the funeral home. A family visitation may take place in the church prior to the wake service. The use of the parish church, hall and lobby area for the wake and funeral are complementary.

The preferred form of the wake is a Scripture Service. This allows participation by both Catholics and non-Catholics alike. *Under special circumstances, with the pastor's permission, a recitation of the Rosary may replace the Scripture Service.* One has the Scripture Service or the Rosary – never both.

If there is a desire for a family recitation of the Rosary, it is suggested that it be done 45 minutes to an hour, before the Funeral Mass or Service. This is a tradition found in many parishes.

FUNERAL MASS or SERVICE

The Funeral Mass or Service is a time of Christian prayer for the deceased, the family and for all God's people. Thus, what is done within this service should reflect and support our Faith.

Non-worship (secular) music may not be used within the funeral Mass. *Secular, but appropriate, music can be used at the wake the evening before, at the cemetery interment or the luncheon.*

Liturgical music should involve the entire congregation and should be appropriate to the liturgical season and the funeral rite. **Congregational singing is the music of choice.** Songs should be taken from the parish's music books. A list of suggested, appropriate music is printed in this booklet.

Soloists have very limited possible roles within Catholic worship. Their role is to assist the congregation in its prayerful meditation on the mystery of salvation. *An appropriate solo, in keeping with the two previous paragraphs, is possible during the presentation of the gifts or after the congregations' communion hymn. Again, use of a soloist is an EXCEPTION not the rule.*

A reading of the obituary or the speaking of a eulogy is not allowed, except in very special circumstances, such as a 'state' funeral. A eulogy recounts some or all of the significant events in the life of the deceased.

The Funeral Rite does allow for "Words of Remembrance". Words of remembrance do not attempt to give a biography, but to share some insight into the faith, values and qualities of the deceased as seen in one or two examples from his/her life.

GUIDELINES FOR LAY SPEAKERS

The following may assist those who speak in remembrance of the dead.

"Words of Remembrance" take place after Communion. Only one person should speak at the Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy outside Mass. Others may speak at the Vigil Service or Committal Service. The reflection **should be brief: no more than 3 – 4 minutes** (one typed page). Speakers keep in mind:

- The time involved in traveling from church to cemetery,
- The church and funeral home which may have another service or other obligation that day,
- The need of some in the assembly to return to work or other responsibilities.

The **reflection should be prepared beforehand, should be in written form** and, ideally, **reviewed by the priest** prior to the funeral. Doing this can avoid undue length or embarrassing situations.

Keep in mind that eulogies and additional words of remembrance may be offered at the wake, at the cemetery or at the luncheon. These are also the appropriate places/times for playing favorite secular tunes or showing slides or PowerPoint displays of photos of the deceased.

POST - FUNERAL LUNCHEON

Sacred Heart Parish offers the use of its parish facilities for a luncheon following the funeral without a rental fee. Our women's group, the Altar Society, offers to help prepare and serve this luncheon. **These are offered as a courtesy, not as an obligation.**

If the burial is local (within 15 miles of the church) –

The pastor will travel to the cemetery and preside at the interment.

The interment takes place immediately after the Funeral Mass or Service and **the luncheon takes place after the interment at the cemetery.** *The family is asked not to spend undue time at the cemetery after the burial* since those who did not travel to the cemetery, those who need to return to work and the ladies serving the meal are waiting for their return. If there is a desire to visit the graves of other family members or friends; returning to the cemetery after the luncheon is always an option.

If the burial is not local (over 15 miles from the church) --

The **pastor is not obligated to officiate at an interment which passes into the parish of another priest.** The pastor, depending on his schedule, will try to accommodate officiating at the burial. However, it may be necessary for the family to contact the pastor where the burial is occurring to see if he can do the interment.

In circumstances **where the burial is not local, the luncheon is to take place after the funeral and before traveling to the place of interment.** This is a courtesy for family and others who are not making the long trip to the cemetery, those who need to return to work and the ladies serving the meal, who volunteer their time and service. Adequate time will be allowed for a leisurely lunch and visitation before departing for the interment. After the interment the family is free to spend as much time at the cemetery as they desire. *If this is unacceptable – the family may choose to not have a luncheon or may arrange to have a luncheon catered at a location near the interment or in another place.*

FUNERAL MUSIC SUGGESTIONS – More titles can be found in our song books.

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| 1. Be Not Afraid | 16. Abba, Father |
| 2. On Eagle's Wings | 17. Seed, Scattered And Sown |
| 3. How Great Thou Art | 18. I Am The Bread Of Life |
| 4. The Lord Is My Light by Walker | 19. Seek The Lord |
| 5. Amazing Grace | 20. Gift Of Finest Wheat |
| 6. I Know My Redeemer Lives by Soper | 21. Glory & Praise to Our God |
| 7. Loving And Forgiving by Soper | 22. Love Devine, All Loves Excelling |
| 8. Prayer of St. Francis | 23. O God, Our Help in Ages Past |
| 9. Precious Lord, Take My Hand | 24. The Strife is 'Or |
| 10. Hail Mary, Gentle Women | 25. We Walk by Faith |
| 11. Ave Maria | 26. Like a Shepherd |
| 12. Hail Holy Queen | 27. Lead Me, Lord |
| 13. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee | 28. Come to Me, All Who Labor ... Give You Rest |
| 14. You Are Mine | 29. Come Back to Me |
| 15. Let There Be Peace On Earth | 30. Alleluia, Alleluia, Let the Holy Anthem Rise |