

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church

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Funeral Policies

Funeral services held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church are conducted according to the forms and prescripts of the Sacred Liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church. Practices not in conformity with the sacred rites of the Catholic Church are not allowed. The determination of the Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish is final.

Scheduling the Funeral

Funeral services are typically scheduled on Mondays-Saturdays. During the school year, morning funerals are typically scheduled at 11 a.m. and afternoon funerals at 1 p.m. Saturday morning funerals may be scheduled between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. All other times are subject to the approval of the Pastor. In an *exceptional* case, a Priest may agree to schedule a funeral on a Sunday. However, such a service will not include a funeral Mass.

The Wake or Vigil

The wake or vigil is usually held at a funeral home. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church does not allow the exposition of the deceased in the church building itself.

Readings for the Funeral

Readings from Sacred Scripture are taken either from the Old Testament (OT) or the New Testament (NT). Other texts, even of a spiritual or sacred nature, are not permitted.

In accordance with the liturgical season, families may select from the approved readings either:

- a first reading (OT or NT) and a responsorial psalm,
– OR –
- a first reading (OT), a responsorial psalm, and a second reading (NT).

It is recommended that families consult with the Priest celebrant prior to selecting readings in order to ensure that the selections are liturgically appropriate.

If the family wishes, readers may be chosen. Those selected to serve as readers for the funeral must be at least 18 years of age, practicing Catholics, and familiar with reading at Holy Mass. If no readers are available, the Priest can proclaim all the readings or can arrange for a suitable reader.

Gift Bearers

Gift bearers are optional. The family may select two (2) to four (4) persons to serve as gift bearers for the funeral service. These persons are to be practicing Catholics.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will be used at the discretion of the Priest celebrant. They will be selected only from among the EMHCs commissioned by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish.

Music for the Funeral Service

Music, while not required, is recommended at funeral services of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. Music is provided by our parish musicians. The organ is the approved instrument for funeral services in the church. Neither the use of pre-recorded music nor any popular or pop Christian music are allowed at the funeral service.

Visiting Clergy

Priests not assigned to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish are typically welcome to preside at funerals. In order to avoid misunderstandings and difficulties, it is best to obtain the permission of the Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish prior to asking another Priest to preside at the funeral. Visiting clergy must adhere to and respect in spirit and in letter the policies laid out in these guidelines.

Reception of Holy Communion during the Mass

Practicing Catholics, namely those who attend Sunday Mass weekly and are free from serious sin, may receive Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. The remaining congregants who are not Catholic, or who are not practicing Catholics, are encouraged to remain in the pew and make a spiritual communion.

Eulogy

Eulogies are generally best done at the funeral home. If the priest agrees for one to be done in church it must be less than 4 minutes. Each priest is free to decide if he will allow it or not.

Burials at Sacred Heart Cemetery

Burials that take place at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery are to be scheduled through the parish office before any work may commence. Please see the *Polices and Procedures for the Cemeteries of Sacred Heart of Jesus*.

This guide is not exhaustive and is intended for general informational purposes. Other questions that arise must be addressed to the Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. His determinations will be final.