

Frequently Asked Questions about Funerals

What is the difference between a Mass of Christian Burial and a Memorial Mass or Service?

- ◆ A Mass of Christian Burial takes place with the remains of the deceased person present.
- ◆ A Memorial Mass/Service is held in memory of the deceased person, but no remains are present.

How is the Mass of Christian Burial or Memorial Mass/Service Scheduled?

- ◆ The time of the liturgy is arranged by the family in contact with the parish and the funeral home director. Times ought not to be published or announced until all three groups have reached consensus.
- ◆ A Mass of Christian Burial or Memorial Mass/Service is most frequently scheduled Monday through Friday at 11:00 am.
- ◆ No Mass of Christian Burial or Memorial Mass may be scheduled on Sundays, Holy Days, or during the Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday evening through Easter Sunday).

What does the Catholic Church say about cremation?

- ◆ Cremation is accepted by the Roman Catholic Church.
- ◆ It is preferred that the body of the deceased be present at the funeral liturgy and cremation take place afterward, but it is also acceptable for the cremation to take place first and the cremains to be present at the funeral liturgy.
- ◆ The Catholic Church requires that the cremains be buried, or interred, as a whole following the funeral, just as a body would be interred.
- ◆ If you have other questions about cremation, please call the parish office at 763-424-8770 or the Catholic Cemeteries at 651-228-9991, or visit the web site www.catholic-cemeteries.org/cremation.aspx.

What about visitation?

- ◆ The most commonly chosen schedule for visitation includes two-three hours at the funeral home on the evening before the funeral liturgy and one hour at St. Gerard just prior to the funeral.

What about burial or entombment?

- ◆ Burial is scheduled according to the requirements of the cemetery chosen by the family.
- ◆ The preferred time for a burial is either immediately following the funeral liturgy, or following a luncheon. The presiding priest will usually accompany the family to the cemetery for the Rite of Committal. If burial is delayed, the presence of the priest at the internment cannot always be guaranteed.

What about a meal or refreshments?

- ◆ St. Gerard has a funeral meal ministry that provides a lunch or light refreshments for the family and friends of the deceased.
- ◆ Arrangements for this are made at the same time the funeral liturgy is planned.

What fees are associated with funerals at St. Gerard?

- ◆ The only set fees for funerals are for the church (\$125) and the musicians (\$200). A cantor /accompanist will be provided for the funeral liturgy.
- ◆ Free will donations are accepted for meals or refreshments.
- ◆ Memorials/donations to the Parish are also encouraged.

What resources are available for advance funeral planning?

- ◆ A funeral planning booklet may be requested by contacting the parish office.