

COSTS

A vigil service and/or funeral service held in the parish church is provided as a pastoral service to the departed and family. There are no set charges. Any memorial offering made by the family to the parish will be gratefully received . (and generally would be tax deductible)

Services held at a funeral home or cemetery should be arranged through the funeral home or cemetery. The family should consult with those parties as to costs.

Music in the parish church does require a fee of \$250.00 for the musician, and is payable to the parish. If an outside musician is used, the fee should be handled directly with that musician. A coordination fee of \$75.00 is payable to the parish to cover set up and technical support.

The use of parish facilities for a reception is provided as a pastoral service to the family. There is no set charge. Any donation the family would care to make will be used by the parish for facility maintenance and upkeep. (and generally would be tax deductible)

Any special catering or rental of furniture or equipment for a reception is the responsibility of the family.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

Funeral Planning Guide



“What we have once enjoyed, we can never lose.

All that we love deeply, becomes a part of us.”

~ Helen Keller

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As Christians we believe that death is not an end, but a new beginning to a life closer to God. Funerals can be a wonderful tribute to those we have lost. They are an opportunity for family and friends to express their grief as well as to give thanks for a life which has now completed its journey in this world.

We want to assist you in putting together a fitting tribute for your loved one that honors their life and provides those who remain the closure they need to continue on.

Scheduling the Funeral Mass

Please contact Our Lady of Guadalupe Church to find a date the priest or pastoral assistant is available ***before*** making funeral arrangements with family, at the parish or at a funeral home. We will work with you and the Funeral Home of your choice to decide on the day and time of the funeral and burial.

The Vigil

A Vigil Service can be held at the church or Funeral Home and is a time for honoring the deceased by sharing memories and expressing our sense of loss with those who remain. The Vigil consists of reading scripture, inviting shared memories, and is also an appropriate time for a eulogy. If the family requests, it is also an appropriate time to pray the Rosary.

The Funeral Liturgy

The Funeral Liturgy is a celebration of your loved one's entry into eternal life with God. The emphasis is on our faith and is appropriately Catholic in the fullest sense. In celebrating a Catholic Funeral there are four options to consider:

1. **The Funeral Mass**, held in the parish church, presided by a priest, with Eucharist and the deceased's body or ashes present.
2. **The Memorial Mass**, held at the church, presided by a priest, with Eucharist, and *without* the presence of the deceased's body or ashes.
3. **Memorial Service**, presided by either a priest or a delegated lay minister - held at the church or the Funeral Home, with scripture readings, homily, and prayers for the deceased.

Whenever possible, whatever option you choose, it is preferred to have the deceased's body or ashes present.

Cremation

The teaching of the Catholic Church states "While the Church recommends that the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead be observed, cremation is permitted as long as it has not been chosen for reasons contrary to Church teaching." Cremated remains are to be treated with the same respect given to the remains of a human body and should be buried or entombed. Please discuss this decision with the priest ***or layperson delegated by the pastor*** in advance to assure all concerned are comfortable with this option.

The Committal

This is the blessing of the site of internment (burial), with rituals to help those who remain say their goodbyes in a spirit of prayer and reflection. The pastor, another priest, a deacon or layperson appointed by the pastor may perform the Committal Rite.

Music

The parish would like to recommend our pastoral musician, Ann Sager, for music during a Funeral. Music should be chosen in consultation with Ann to ensure its appropriateness for church liturgy. She is experienced and has a wide variety of abilities and repertoire.

Reception

The Walmesley Center is generally available for receptions following the funeral service. Our Lady of Guadalupe's volunteer Funeral Committee will supply coffee, tea and punch service. We also provide set-up and takedown of facilities, linens, dishes, and table decorations.

To prepare, we would appreciate the family informing the Priest during their initial meeting, of the estimated number of attendees. The Funeral Reception volunteer will contact the family for more details.