



**PREPARING TO CELEBRATE
THE FUNERAL MASS
WITH CREMAINS**

**ST. MARY QUEEN OF CREATION
New Baltimore, MI**

ITEMS NEEDED FOR A FUNERAL SERVICE IN CHURCH

In most cases, families planning a funeral, work with a local funeral home in order to best coordinate the many details involved in a funeral service. For those families who have used a cremation service, without the help of a funeral home, this outline should assist you in the planning process.

St. Mary's provides a display table (45" x 16") crafted just for cremains that will be placed in the front of the church near the altar. The cremains are placed in the center of this table. We recommend you obtain an 8 x 10 standing framed photo of the deceased to be placed on one side of the cremains, and a small floral tribute to be placed on the other side. It can be a simple bud in a vase or a more elaborate arrangement. All of these items should be brought with you the day of the service.

In order to remember those who attended the ceremony, we recommend that you purchase a guest book or registry. A stand for this book is available in the church gathering area for visitors to sign as they enter the church. We also recommend remembrance cards which usually have a religious picture printed on one side, and the name, date of birth and death for the deceased, and a short prayer on the other side. These items can be obtained from religious articles stores or through local funeral homes.

We invite the family to select the Scripture/Bible readings for the funeral service from a booklet which has been prepared by St. Mary's for this purpose. St. Mary's will schedule a volunteer lector for each service. Because of the emotional nature of the service we do prefer and recommend that the parish lector do the readings at the service.

We invite the family to select appropriate funeral service music, and provide gift-bearers for the Mass who will bring up the bread, water and wine. A selection sheet is provided to record your selections. The presider and music minister of the service needs this completed selection sheet the day before the service. Please drop it off at the parish office, fax to 586-725-3647, or scan and email to Funerals@smqoc.com. Please call the office to confirm receipt of faxes and emails at 586-725-2441.

Providing a short biography of the deceased makes the homily more personal. Eulogies are no longer permitted at Catholic funeral services.

VISITATION – St. Mary's provides its gathering area in the church for families and friends to meet up to 30 minutes prior to the funeral service. Here you may place 1-2 memorial photo display boards and additional floral tributes. Please be sure to take all of these items with you following the funeral service. Anything left behind will be discarded.

What do we do with the cremated remains after the funeral?

The cremated remains must always be treated with respect, the same respect we attribute to the body. After the funeral they are to be interred or entombed, preferably in a Catholic cemetery, mausoleum or columbarium. The Rite of Committal should accompany this action. They should never be separated or scattered or disposed in any way other than a dignified interment or entombment. (*Excerpt: Directives for Catholic Funerals*)