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FUNERAL INFORMATION

Funerals are usually scheduled at 9:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and are held in either the Church or Chapel depending on the family's wishes and/or the number of people who will be possibly attending.

Fr. John Lyons or Fr. John Gonzales usually will be the celebrant, Gregg Reynolds or Joe Swinson is the organist and Matthew Holter (Director of the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Choir) is usually the cantor. However, if you prefer that one of the other soloists sing at the funeral that can be arranged depending on their schedule.

In addition, one of the adults who altar serves at daily Mass volunteers to serve at funerals.

A funeral is just like a Sunday Mass, except at the beginning the Sprinkling of Water is performed over the ashes or body. At the end of the Mass, Father will offer the final commendation with incense.

It is acceptable practice in the Catholic Church to be cremated and has been accepted practice for many years.

Hymns

Attached are suggested hymns. The hymns are interchangeable in that the processional hymns can often be used as a recessional hymn...and the same holds true for the offertory and communion hymns...in other words, there is a lot of flexibility. And, of course, if you have other favorite hymns, we will make every attempt to utilize them.

Readings

Just as there is at a Sunday Mass, there is a first reading from the Old Testament, a Psalm (usually sung as a solo by the cantor), a second reading from the New Testament, and the Gospel reading which the priest always chooses.

Attached is a packet of suggested readings. The first few pages are the most often requested readings, and the last page lists other choices. If you have other readings that are meaningful to you, those can be used in place of the suggested readings.

A friend or family member (or two) can do the first and second readings, but if you are not comfortable with that, the priest will do all the readings.

As for the Psalm, the cantor very often sings the 23rd Psalm. As can be seen on the list of suggested readings, there are other Psalms listed. If you prefer a different one, the cantor could sing that between the two readings.

Other details/questions to think about

- Will ashes or a body be present?
- Will there be a eulogy? It is not necessary to have a eulogy. We merely ask in order to better prepare for the funeral. If there is a eulogy, the priest requests no more than one lasting a few minutes.
- Family members (2 or 3) should be chosen to bring up the gifts (bread and wine). The priest would let them know when it's time to go to the back of the Chapel or Church and bring the gifts forward.
- Will family member(s) do the 1st and 2nd readings or would you like the priest to do all of the readings?
- Will there be prayer cards and/or a guest book? Again, not necessary...it is merely helpful for set-up purposes.
- Will there be a photo displayed at the altar? If so, it should be no bigger than 14x17.
- Will there be any photos displayed in the narthex? Again, this is not necessary...it is helpful for set-up purposes.
- Will there be a Scripture Service/Rosary the night before the funeral? If so, one of the Deacons would officiate at the funeral home.
- Will there be a burial service following the funeral? If so, one of the Deacons would officiate.

Fees

The fees are as follows:

\$ 50 Scripture Service/Rosary fee (Service optional)

\$ 500 Funeral fee

\$ 50 Burial Service fee (Service optional)

The total fee can be paid with one check payable to "St. Thomas the Apostle."