



Funeral Planning Guide:

The parishioners of St Michael's and our parish staff extend to you our prayerful sympathy during these difficult and painful days. Be assured of our prayers for you and your loved one. We stand ready to assist you in planning a funeral liturgy and burial that will prayerfully express our confidence in the abundant mercy of Christ while imploring Him to show that mercy on your beloved and on all of us.

As the family, you will be asked to assist in making some of the decisions for the Funeral Mass and Wake Service. This planning booklet is meant to help you in making those decisions.

SCHEDULING

The date and time of the Funeral Mass and Wake Service are to be scheduled in consultation with the Pastor or Associate Pastor. This time and date is then communicated to the Funeral Director. While we do give priority to funerals, there may be other activities scheduled that need to be taken into account.

THE WAKE SERVICE

The Catholic Church has a long tradition of keeping vigil for those who have died. It is a time of public prayer that gathers and binds family and friends alike. Normally, the Wake Service will take place at the funeral home the night prior to the Funeral Mass. One of the priests or deacons will lead this service of Scripture and prayer. The Pastor or Associate Pastor will describe the wake in greater detail and will ask if you desire to have someone lead the Rosary for the deceased.

EULOGIES

Oftentimes, eulogies or memories are shared of the deceased person at the Wake Service. These eulogies should focus on the deceased person and be very respectful of that person's memory and of their family members.

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE FAMILY

A family member may deliver a personal message after Communion at the Funeral Mass. This should be a brief personal remembrance and should be a message that is helpful to the family and friends at this time of loss. Statements should be from the heart and may even be humorous at times. This recollecting is a way for the family to put remembrances into the context of faith. The best messages are about 5 minutes in length.

PLACE OF BURIAL

The Funeral Director will assist you in making plans for the burial of your loved one. Depending on the place of burial (distance from Sioux Falls), a priest or deacon from St Michael Parish will lead the Committal Service.

THE FUNERAL MASS

The Catholic Mass is a time spent focusing on the redemptive act of Jesus Christ as he willingly died on the Cross for us. In the Funeral Mass, we earnestly pray that our beloved dead might participate in the heavenly glory of Christ's Resurrection. It is a time of personal encounter with our Lord and Savior who says to us: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." (Mt. 11:28)

SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS

There are numerous Scripture passages to choose from in this planning guide. The Funeral Mass contains four readings: One from the Old Testament, the Responsorial Psalm is sung, there is one from the New Testament Letters or the Book of Revelation, and the fourth is taken from one of the Gospels. You can choose from the readings listed in this booklet or you can allow the priest to choose them.

Also, you may appoint Lectors from your family or friends to read the Old Testament and New Testament readings. The priest or deacon will proclaim the Gospel. You may also choose someone to lead the Prayers of the Faithful.

MUSIC SELECTIONS

Some possible appropriate music choices are included in this guide and on the music guide sheet. We suggest that the music selections be God-centered and faithfully express the meaning of the funeral liturgy.

PLACING OF THE PALL

The Pall is a large piece of fabric that is placed over the casket at the beginning of the Funeral Mass. It represents the white garment your loved one received at Baptism. Oftentimes, family members place this on the casket. If you prefer, the funeral directors can do this.

BRINGING UP THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE

Immediately following the Prayers of the Faithful, two (or more) gift bearers are usually asked to bring up the water, wine, and unconsecrated hosts. If family members are not available to do this the priest or altar servers can assist.

REFRESHMENTS OR LUNCHEON

Depending on the family's wishes, a luncheon can be served following the Funeral Mass or burial. Members of our parish will furnish cakes and beverages. The family has the choice of menu and is responsible for the expense of the luncheon served. The food is ordered from the caterer the family chooses and billing is given to the funeral director.

The luncheon or refreshments will be discussed when you meet with the priest and parish staff. The family will have to determine the approximate number of people attending so that the appropriate amount of food can be ordered.

FUNERAL LITURGY PLANNING WORKSHEET

Funeral Date and Time: _____

Gathering Song: _____

Old Testament Reading: _____

Psalm Response: _____

New Testament Reading: _____

Gospel Reading: _____

Communion Song(s): _____

Recessional Song: _____

The Lector(s) will be:

OT Reading: _____

NT Reading: _____

General Intercessions: _____

Gift Bearers Will Be: _____

Personal Message Given by: _____

Estimated Number of Persons: _____