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FUNERAL MASS INFORMATION AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH *As of August 4, 2025*

Please accept our deepest sympathies for the loss of your loved one. In an effort to answer any questions you might have about planning a funeral Mass at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, please see the information below.

The funeral liturgy is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased. When one of its members dies, the Church encourages the celebration of the funeral liturgy at a Mass. At the funeral liturgy, the Church gathers with the family and friends of the deceased to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, to commend the deceased to God's tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery. Therefore, the funeral liturgy is an act of worship, not merely an expression of grief. *From Order of Christian Funerals, No. 129*

Choosing a Funeral Day/Time

If the family will be using the services of a funeral home, they should contact the funeral home to set a time to meet and make the arrangements for a funeral Mass at St. John the Baptist. The funeral home will contact the parish office to arrange the date/time of the funeral Mass, subject to availability of the Church/Chapel and the priest. Our parish office hours are Monday - Thursday, 9am-3pm, and we are closed on Fridays.

Funerals are generally held **Monday – Saturday, at 10:30 a.m.** (Subject to the availability of the Church/Chapel, and priest).

Planning the Funeral Mass

St. John's arranges for a bereavement minister to contact the family to help choose the readings (Old Testament, New Testament, Gospel, the Psalm, music, as well as asking the family to complete "Notes on the Decedent" to assist the Priest with notes for the Homily).

Music

St. John's provides an organist and cantor and will help you with your liturgical music selections for the funeral service.

Flowers

Flowers are acceptable in our Chapel/Church. However, keeping with the Church's tradition of "noble simplicity" is requested and they must not be in the way of the aisle or altar.

Eulogy

Due to the nature of the sacred liturgy and the purpose of celebrating a funeral Mass for one who has died, the most appropriate place for a eulogy is either at a wake/visitation at a funeral home or at a social gathering in memory of the deceased.

Photos/Collages

No photo collages or portraits are allowed in the worship space.

Fees/Donations

\$150 donation to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

\$200 to the organist.

\$200 to the cantor.

If the family would like to thank the priest for his ministry and service, a suggested gift of \$150 is at the family's discretion.

Visitation at Funeral Home:

The priest will attend, if possible.

Cemetery

The funeral home or family arranges for burial at a cemetery. The priest will attend, if possible.

If there will be a procession to a cemetery from St. John's, please use the parking lot between the Chapel and the School for parking during the Funeral Mass.