

Funeral Etiquette: All Saints of North America Antiochian Orthodox Church

- When a loved one has died, the first person that should be called, after the immediate family, is **the priest**. It is a courtesy to alert the priest a.s.a.p. This allows the priest to adjust his schedule and make his own arrangements to best serve your family.
- As Orthodox Christians believe in the resurrection of the dead, it is not necessary to purchase an expensive casket. A simple wooden casket is all that is required.
- If there is a viewing in the evening at the funeral home, it is customary for the priest to come to the visitation and do a Trisagion memorial service.
- Make sure the funeral home is aware that this is an Orthodox Christian funeral and, if necessary, they should contact the priest with any questions about the funeral service, etc.
- On the day of the funeral, the casket, flowers, etc., should arrive one (1) hour before the funeral. This allows for an appropriate amount of time to position the casket and to make sure any floral and food arrangements are in place before the arrival of family and guests.
- At the funeral service, family and friends are not permitted to eulogize the departed. The priest will preach a homily; any eulogies are to be reserved for the family's memorial meal, i.e. the *markaria*.
- *Even in the summer*, appropriate dress is expected. Men do not wear shorts and should wear appropriate shoes and socks. Women are asked not to wear crop tops, spaghetti strap tops, or other revealing clothing. Additionally, if women choose to wear a skirt, it should be knee-length or longer. **NO miniskirts**. *This rule also applies to teens and young adults*. **Modesty** is the key word.
- At the end of the funeral, the priest pours oil and sand in a crosswise manner over the body before closing the casket. This is the ancient custom; don't worry, your loved one will not be needing that suit or dress in the resurrection.
- After the funeral, the priest will travel to the cemetery for the interment. There, the priest will do a Trisagion service.
- The *makaria* or memorial meal after the funeral
 - This is the appropriate time for family to give their eulogies.
 - Depending on the priest's personal schedule, he may or may not be able to attend the post-funeral memorial meal.