



Saint Joseph Cathedral

THE CATHEDRAL OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

It is our fervent desire to commend your loved one to the Lord with all the dignity and grace which the Catholic tradition affords us in these moments, and which without a doubt your loved one deserves. In a Catholic Church, proper reverence is shown through actions and attitudes that acknowledge the sacredness of the space and the presence of God, especially during the Mass.

A Funeral Liturgy Book will be provided to you by a member of our Bereavement Ministry Team in order to plan the funeral Mass for your loved one. Please be aware of the following requirements when scheduling a funeral Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral. By scheduling a funeral Mass at St Joseph Cathedral, you are agreeing to the guidelines set forth below.

Vigil

A period of visitation and viewing generally takes place at the funeral home. It is a time when family and friends are gathered together for visitation, to remember the life of the deceased and to commend him/her to God. Families wishing to have vigil services at St. Joseph Cathedral instead of the funeral home must arrange in advance with the parish. Vigil services will take place in the narthex of the church (vestibule). In the absence of a scheduled vigil, doors to the church will open 20 minutes prior to the funeral Mass.

Words of Remembrance

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. The funeral liturgy, therefore, is an act of worship, and not merely an expression of grief.

Words of Remembrance (eulogies) are encouraged to be done at the funeral home during visitation, at the graveside, or at a memorial gathering following the funeral services. As the purpose of the Mass is to give glory to God, no words of remembrance will be allowed during a funeral Mass.

Music

Funeral music reflects not only the grief of the family, but the whole truth about the life and death of a Christian, for God's love for them and the promise of eternal life. This is why the Church insists that only liturgical music is used and that the primary focus should be on the assembly's song. The leadership of a cantor is required at the funeral liturgy. Music options are included in the funeral planning book. No non-liturgical music selections will be allowed at the Cathedral.

Images

Please notify us in advance if you wish to display images of your loved one. Modest images, veteran flags, etc. may be displayed in the vestibule only with prior approval. Only the casket/urn and flowers will be displayed in the nave of the church.

Proper Dress Required

We believe that modesty and appropriate attire are necessary, especially in church out of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament. As Christians we should come to the sacred liturgy appropriately dressed in a modest manner, wearing clothes that reflect our reverence for God and that manifest our respect for the dignity of the liturgy and for one another.

For family or friends who will be participating in the funeral Mass as a reader, the following minimum standards of dress are required:

- Women must wear modest slacks, dresses or skirts that cover the knee completely when sitting or standing. Shorts, sleeveless, spaghetti-straps, tight or low-cut clothing or dresses with long cuts or slits are to be avoided. Shoulders must be covered.
- Men should wear suit coats and ties. (Except in very hot weather). Jeans, sports logo and other casual attire are inappropriate for attendance at church services.
- For both men and women, dress shoes are encouraged. No flip-flops.

Burial of Remains

The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. Prior to scheduling the funeral Mass, arrangements must be made for a proper burial of remains following the funeral Mass.