

PARISH FUNERAL GUIDELINES

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION - PARK CITY, UTAH



The Funeral Rites of the Church (Vigil, Funeral Mass, and Committal) are moments of solemn prayer and Christian hope. Out of reverence for the sacred liturgy and one another, please observe the following:

I. FUNERAL MASS

WHAT IS PERMITTED IN CHURCH

Sacred Liturgy Only: The Funeral Mass follows the Roman Catholic Rite of Christian Funerals. Scripture readings, prayers, homily, and sacred music form the heart of this celebration.

Liturgical Music: Hymns and responses should be taken from the Church's liturgical tradition. Families may request approved hymns, coordinated with the parish music director.

Reception of Holy Communion: Practicing Catholics who are properly disposed are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Those not receiving may remain in place or come forward with arms crossed for a blessing.

WHAT IS NOT PERMITTED IN CHURCH:

Eulogies or Personal Tributes: These are not part of the Catholic liturgy. They may be shared at the vigil, graveside, or reception hall.

Secular Music or Readings: Popular songs, poetry, or non-scriptural readings are not permitted during Mass.

Food, Drink, or Chewing Gum: Please do not bring food, drink, or chewing gum into the church.

Cell Phones and Socializing: Phones must be silenced. Please do not make or answer calls inside the church. Maintain a prayerful silence before, during, and after Mass.

Unauthorized Photography or Filming: Discouraged unless arranged with the pastor.

RESPECT FOR THE SACRED

The church is the House of God, where Christ is present in the Blessed Sacrament. Please enter and conduct yourself with reverence.

Dress modestly and respectfully, mindful that we gather to worship God and commend a soul to His mercy.

If you are not a practicing Catholic, please do not receive Holy Communion. Your respectful presence and prayer are a true gift.

II. VIGIL IN THE CHURCH

The Vigil for the Deceased is a time of prayer, Scripture, and remembrance before the Funeral Mass. If held in the church, the following norms apply:

WHAT IS PERMITTED

Structure of the Vigil: Opening prayer, Scripture, homily/reflection, intercessions, and concluding prayer according to the Order of Christian Funerals.

Music: Sacred music may be included, coordinated with the parish music director.

Sharing of Memories: Brief remembrances or eulogies (2–3 speakers, 3–5 minutes each) may be offered. *Eulogies are not given from the pulpit (ambo); a movable stand will be provided in front of the sanctuary.*

Rosary or Devotions: The Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, or other Catholic prayers may be prayed as part of or following the vigil.

WHAT IS NOT PERMITTED

Secular Music or Readings: Popular songs, poems, or non-scriptural readings may not replace the prayers and Scripture.

Excessive Length: The vigil should not exceed one hour.

Even during the vigil: Phones must be silenced. Please do not talk on the phone or carry on conversations inside the church. The church should remain a place of silence and prayer; socializing belongs in the hall. Also, no food, drink, or chewing gum.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Schedule: Must be arranged with the parish office.

Leader of Prayer: Normally led by a priest or deacon; a trained lay minister may lead if arranged.

Candles, Displays, and Photos: One photo of the deceased and modest floral arrangements are permitted. No slideshows or large displays in the sanctuary.

Casket Placement: If present, the casket is placed near the sanctuary and remains closed.

III. COMMITTAL AT THE CEMETERY

The priest or deacon will lead prayers as the body is committed to its resting place. This is a brief but solemn moment, entrusting the deceased to God's care.

FINAL NOTE

The Funeral Rites are above all a prayer of Christian hope in the Resurrection of Christ. By observing these guidelines with silence, reverence, and respect, you help preserve the dignity of the liturgy and honor your loved one in the most fitting way.

