

Planning a Catholic Funeral Liturgy

For funerals in Moreauville, LA at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, families are asked to read over the following as preparations are made for the funeral.

The day of the Funeral:

At the funeral liturgy the community 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. Through the Holy Spirit the community joined together in faith as one Body in Christ reaffirm in sign and symbol, word and gesture that each believer through baptism shares in Christ's death and resurrection and can look to the day when all the elect will be raised up and united in the kingdom of light and peace.
(Order of Christian Funerals # 129)

***The pastor will not be able to celebrate a funeral mass on Sunday, only a funeral service, since there are already three scheduled masses on Sunday.**

Funeral:

- The body of the deceased will be met at the entrance of the Church by the priest. The coffin will be sprinkled with holy water, and then the funeral pall will be placed over the coffin, along with Christian symbols (e.g. cross, bible).
- **Please note:** The viewing of the body is to be done at the funeral home before it arrives at Church. It is the policy of Sacred Heart Church that there will be no viewing of the body in Church before the funeral.
- You are welcome to have someone sing at the funeral. If you would like to invite someone to sing, please present the selection of songs to the pastor before the Vigil. All songs sung at a Catholic funeral must be from a Catholic Hymnal.
- There are scripture readings for the funeral rite. If the family would like to choose the readings for the funeral, there is a booklet of the approved scripture texts for a Catholic Funeral available at the Church office. The lectionary will be set at the ambo with the chosen readings. **Please note:** For those asked to be lectors, please do not read off of a sheet of paper, but rather out of the Lectionary.
- If the readings are not chosen by the family, then the priest will choose them.

At the end of the Funeral:

- At the end of the funeral, the coffin will be incensed, and the priest will lead the procession to the graveside.
- At the graveside the priest celebrates the *Rite of Committal*, which consists of blessing the place of committal, the prayer of committal, intercessions and the final blessing.
- The Catholic funeral rite concludes with the final blessing at the graveside.