

Funeral Guide for Prince of Peace Catholic Church

Making decisions at the time of death can be very difficult and emotionally draining. We hope that this information will be of assistance to you at your time of loss.

You may also use this brochure to “pre-plan” Funeral arrangement prior to the time of death. Rather than doing all the planning the day of or the day after a death, feel free to begin making funeral plans at any time. Doing this may help in numerous ways:

- You may plan and make decisions at a less stressful and emotional time.
- You can know the wishes of the deceased person before death.
- Many of the arrangements can be decided upon well before a funeral thus allowing you more time to be with family and loved ones at a time of death.

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED FOR THE CHURCH AND FUNERAL HOME:

CHURCH

NOTIFY

- Your parish about the type of service and the day and time prior to making arrangements with the Funeral Home to make sure the church and a priest is available.

SELECT

- Wake service with or without Rosary. The wake is the preferred prayer by the Church. Scripture readings.
- One or more persons to read Scriptures for the funeral.
- Musicians or song leaders (or parish can provide).
- Casket bearers.
- People to bring up Offertory (2-4 people).
- People to place the pall on the casket.
- If you would like the parish to prepare a meal for you and those at the funeral. If so, how many might attend.

PROVIDE

- Anything you specifically want the priest to say about the deceased.
- Your own written thoughts about the deceased.
- How Prince of Peace might be included in the will or some memorial for the deceased.

FUNERAL HOME

NOTIFY

- Doctor or coroner and Funeral Director if the death occurs at a residence.
- Insurance Agents.
- Unions and Fraternal Organizations.
- Cemetery (if pre-purchased)

SELECT

- Cemetery property (if not pre-purchased).
- Funeral Service desired (traditional, cremation, direct burial, memorial service, body donation).
- Casket, vault, and flowers

PROVIDE

- Date and place of birth of deceased.
- Social Security Number.
- Occupations and employment dates.
- Information for obituary: Parents names / mothers maiden, memberships, Church affiliation, Spouse's name, date and place of marriage, surviving children, siblings, grandchildren and places of residence, predeceased names of spouse or children and dates of death, name of Church or organizations for memorial contributions, picture of deceased (if desired).
- Names of casket bearers.
- Clothing for the deceased.
- Discharge papers.

OPTIONS FOR FUNERAL LITURGIES

How you want to arrange the Funeral Plans for the deceased is your choice and not the Funeral Home's decision. These are the "usual" options.

- Scripture Wake Service in the Evening (where families stories and personal stories might be shared.), (at the Church or the Funeral Home) with the funeral Mass and burial the next day.
- Scripture Wake Service and the Funeral Mass (at the Church) in the evening with the Burial the next day.
- A Funeral Mass and Burial on the same day. No wake the night before.
- While it is preferable that the body be present for the Funeral Mass even in cases of cremation, sometimes that is not possible. In such cases it is permissible to bring the cremated remains into the Church for the service. One is reminded that the cremains must be placed either in a mausoleum or buried in an appropriate grave. Keeping the cremains at home or spreading them elsewhere is not permitted by the Church.

OTHER

Cremation - While the Church recommends the custom of burying the body, cremation may be permitted. Cremation should ideally take place after the Funeral Mass so the body may be present. If not, the cremains may be brought to the Church. Cremains should be entombed in a mausoleum or buried in a cemetery as part of the funeral. The scattering or keeping of ashes is not permitted by the Catholic Church.

Placing of the Pall - Could be another way to involve immediate family or care-takers at the funeral.

American Flag on Casket - May be placed before or after Funeral, but not during and not in the Church.

Eulogies / Personal stories - Are not appropriate during the funeral, but are encouraged at the Wake Service.

Family Customs / Traditions - These are encouraged during the Wake Service.