

# CATHOLIC FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Saint Daniel the Prophet Church – 630-384-0123 – [www.StDaniel.org](http://www.StDaniel.org)  
101 West Loop Road, Wheaton, Illinois 60189-2004

## Funeral Arrangements

- Our heartfelt condolences to you on the death of your loved one! May our Catholic Christian faith bring you consolation during this difficult time!
- Please meet with our priest right before or right after you confirm the date and time of the funeral liturgy with the funeral home of your choice.
- Our priest will pray with you, and will go over all the details about the wake prayer service, the Catholic funeral liturgy, and the cemetery rites.
- Requests for outside clergy and musicians are decided on a case by case basis by our priest, according to our parish and diocesan standards.
- St. Daniel Church does not charge any fees for funerals. We appreciate any contributions that you may choose to give us at any time.

## Three Parts of a Funeral

- There are three parts to a funeral: the wake, the church liturgy, and the family gathering afterward. Each of these parts has a special character.
- The Wake at the funeral home is a celebration of the life of your loved one. It is a time for people to gather and share both memories and eulogies.
- The Liturgy at church is a celebration of eternal life in Jesus Christ. It is a time for people to pray for their loved one and to renew their faith.
- The family gathering after the cemetery prayers is a celebration of the lives that continue in gratitude for the many memories to be cherished.
- By reflecting on these three parts of a funeral, we can appreciate the spiritual character of what is done in the church at the Funeral Liturgy.

## Four Funeral Symbols

- Through four traditional sacred symbols, the funeral liturgy in church is a celebration of the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our God and Savior.
- **Water:** recalls the waters of baptism in which we are cleansed of sin and are immersed in the life of God's grace as a new creation in Jesus Christ.
- **Pall:** recalls the baptismal garment in which we were clothed with the holiness of Christ, and are prepared for the robe of glory in the life to come.
- **Candle:** recalls the light of Christ which we received at the time of our baptism, as a guiding light throughout our mortal lives upon the earth.
- **Incense:** recalls the baptismal anointing with sacred Chrism, because of which we are called Christians, that is, anointed ones, like Christ.
- Each of these four religious symbols invite us to dedicate our lives to Christ, so that we may be ready for him, whenever he calls us to himself.

## Thoughts for Prayer

- We loved them in life, let us not forget them in death, until by our prayers we bring them to the very gates of heaven itself. – St. Ambrose
- It is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be released from their sins. - II Maccabees 12
- I go before you to prepare a place for you, that where I am, one day you may be. – John 14
- Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them forever. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## **STEP BY STEP THROUGH THE FUNERAL LITURGY**

- The priest may come for prayers at the funeral home during the wake, to prepare for the funeral liturgy at church. If anyone needs to go to Confession in preparation for Communion, the priest is available for this purpose.
- The Funeral Liturgy begins in the narthex with the blessing of the coffin or the urn. After being covered with a special funeral pall, the coffin or the urn is brought in procession to the Easter Candle at the altar steps.
- Two floral arrangements may be brought into church beforehand. Other pictures, decorations, and personal memorabilia are for use at the funeral home, but are not part of the Funeral Liturgy in the church.
- The church provides participation pamphlets for the Funeral Liturgy. The Scripture readings are selected from the official church ritual book for funerals. Trained lectors may assist with the first two readings.
- The homily is given by the priest, who includes information about the person who has died. In church, there are no other speakers. Eulogies may be given in the funeral home or at the luncheon, but not at church.
- If there is a Mass, people may bring up the bread and wine at the Offertory. At a Mass, Catholics who are spiritually prepared by traditional penance and fasting may come forward to worthily receive Holy Communion.
- In the final prayers of the liturgy, the coffin or urn is blessed with incense. The priest usually accompanies the people to the cemetery for the Rite of Christian Burial. Otherwise, the cemetery prayers are said at church.
- Approved sacred music accompanies the funeral liturgy as part of our prayer. Music always serves the liturgy, and never delays the liturgical action. There may be a congregational hymn at the offertory and at Communion.
- If there happen to be any photographers and video personnel (which is rare), there are special protocols for them to follow in our church. The church staff will instruct them where they may record the funeral liturgy.
- Our church does not charge for the celebration of the sacraments. We are grateful for whatever donation you choose to give us for the support of our parish and its spiritual, educational, and charitable programs.
- Unfortunately, we are unable to host any wakes, luncheons, food, or beverages at our church for funerals. Please consult your funeral director for practical options that may be readily available to you in our local area.
- Our parish staff can recommend bereavement groups to assist you in the time of transition after the death of your loved one. Your local funeral director also has a list of bereavement groups in our area as well.
- Your loved ones are enrolled in our parish prayer list. We pray for all the faithful departed throughout the year, but especially on All Souls Day, November 2, each year. May they rest in peace!
- Each time you come to Holy Communion, please remember your departed loved one in prayer. On special days, you may also want to enroll them in our parish prayer list as well.