

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
Regarding the Celebration of
Catholic Funeral Rites
Our Lady of Victory Church

I. Types of Liturgies

Families are always encouraged to hold a funeral Mass (Mass of Christian Burial) for their deceased loved ones. They are specifically celebrated for the repose of their soul, and it emphasizes that their death is not the end but the beginning of eternal life.

A funeral Mass is always celebrated in the church. Occasionally the family will request a liturgy of the word to be held in the church, but it is not encouraged. If a chapel service is requested, it will be held at the funeral home. Although permitted, it is not encouraged to just have a graveside service.

Cremation is allowed but usually, the body of the deceased is present during the mass. If for some reason the cremation takes place before the mass, the ashes should be brought to the Mass.

II. Funeral Rites

In coordination with the parish office and the funeral director chosen by the family, the family of the deceased arranges the place and sets the time for the funeral rites.

It is recommended, when choosing a Combo Service; Rosary, Funeral Mass, and Graveside; to be in that order and proximity regarding time.

Viewings are permitted in the church if they are 30 minutes before the Rosary or Funeral Mass. If the family would like to request something out of the ordinary, they will need to give an additional donation of \$250.00 for the use of the facility and it is subject to the availability of the church.

III. Stipend

The donation to the church for any funeral rite is \$250.00. If the family requests for a Deacon to assist or an outside Priest

to celebrate, the family is responsible for the Priest or Deacon's stipend. The donation for a Deacon to assist it's usually \$50.00 and a donation for a Priest to celebrate it's usually \$250.00. All checks must be made out to **Our Lady of Victory Church.**

IV. Celebrant

The Pastor assigned to the Parish will celebrate the Mass unless there is a scheduling conflict or an issue outside of the family's control. If the assigned Pastor is unable to celebrate, the church is responsible to assign a priest for the celebration. If the family requests an outside Priest or Deacon, by courtesy they must request permission directly to the Pastor or administration of the parish.