

St. Norbert Catholic Church

Bereavement Information

The loss of a loved one is a most difficult time for the immediate family and friends of the deceased. At St. Norbert Church, our Bereavement Ministry is available to help you to navigate through the options of a Christian funeral. With faith and compassion, the Bereavement Ministry will assist in the planning of the Vigil, Funeral and Graveside services for the deceased.

This booklet is intended to answer some of the questions that may arise when planning a funeral, and will outline the policies of St. Norbert parish.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WHEN A LOVED ONE PASSES AWAY

At the time of the loss, the family should first contact a mortuary. The mortuary will pick up the deceased either at a hospital, home, or at the coroner's office and take them under their care. A list of some local mortuaries is provided at the back of this booklet.

The family and/or friends of the deceased should then call St. Norbert's to arrange for a date of the funeral services.

A decision about the final resting place for the deceased will need to be made. A list of cemeteries is also included at the back of this booklet.

Each family will need to meet with the mortuary to make final arrangements regarding the final resting place, choosing a casket or urn, and arranging for death certificates and other needed documentation.

Finally, the family will meet with a bereavement minister from our church to help plan the liturgical readings and musical selections for the church service.

SCHEDULING

When the need to schedule a Funeral, Funeral Mass, and/or Vigil arises, please **call the St. Norbert Ministry Center at 714-637-4360 x130**. The Bereavement Director will assist you with determining availability of the St. Norbert Church and facilities.

Funeral Masses are usually scheduled for either 8:30 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. on weekdays. It is very rare for the St. Norbert Church facility to be available for a Funeral Mass on Saturdays due to

the advanced committed calendar of Baptisms, Weddings, Quinceañeras or religious sacraments. **No funeral Masses are permitted on Sundays.**

ELIGIBILITY FOR A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

St. Norbert's Church is a loving and accepting parish who prides itself in working with families and friends of the deceased to assist them in planning the funeral services of a loved one during a trying and difficult time. There is often a question of who may have a service in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Funeral Rites are in accordance with the Diocese of Orange, and are permitted for the following individuals:

1. A baptized Catholic.
2. Non-Catholic individuals, as members of the household of Catholic believers.
3. A child who dies before baptism, or a stillborn or miscarried child, if the parents intended to have the child baptized.
4. A deceased individual who has committed suicide.

CEREMONIAL OPTIONS

VIGIL

If you choose to have a Vigil, it is held the night before the Funeral Mass or Memorial Mass.

1. The Vigil (mistakenly referred to as a Rosary or wake) is the principal rite celebrated by the Church following death, and the evening before the Funeral Mass.
2. A Deacon or trained lay minister will preside at the Vigil, and will lead the Vigil in accordance with the *Order of Christian Funerals* book.
3. The Vigil may be held in the church (if available), at a mortuary, or at a home.
4. It is appropriate for a family member(s) and/friends to speak in remembrance of the deceased prior to the Concluding Prayer at the Vigil.

5. A viewing of the deceased may take place at the beginning of the Vigil.
6. Devotions such as the Rosary are laudable prayers, and are best done before or after the Vigil Liturgy. The Rosary should never replace the Vigil for the deceased.
7. The Rosary or a portion of this prayer may be incorporated into the Vigil following the first Scripture reading and prior to the proclamation of the Gospel.

FUNERAL MASS

The Funeral Mass is the central liturgy of the Christian funeral in the Diocese of Orange. Below you will find our parish directives regarding a Funeral Mass.

1. A Funeral Mass **MUST** take place in the church. Funeral Masses may **NOT** take place in a funeral home, cemetery, mortuary or other such place.
2. Artificial flowers are not to be allowed in the church during a Funeral Mass.
3. Only **TWO** floral arrangements will be allowed in the Sanctuary of the church.
4. The two floral arrangements in the Sanctuary of the church, must not be placed at the altar of the church. They should be placed a great distance from the altar, so that the central thoughts of the Mass are directed toward the altar and the celebration of the Eucharist.
5. Additional floral arrangements will be placed in the vestibule of the church.

A. The Entrance to the Mass

1. The Receiving Rite of the Funeral Mass will begin at the back of the church near the font. If, however, the Vigil has taken place in the church, then the Receiving Rite takes place at the Vigil and the Funeral Mass will begin with the casket or urn at the front of the church.
2. The priest will come down the center aisle and begin the Receiving Rite. He will bless the casket or urn, the pall will then be placed on the casket or urn.

3. The family will then follow the casket our urn, as the procession takes place up the center aisle. The family will then be seated by the Bereavement Coordinator in reserved pews at the front of the church.

B. Words of Remembrance or Eulogy

Words of remembrance should be prepared in writing and should be no more than five minutes in length.

1. Only one person is allowed to offer words of remembrance.
2. Under the direction of the Diocese of Orange, “Remembrances should not include more than two people so that the focus of the service remains on the church liturgy”.
3. The Words of Remembrance will be presented at **the beginning of the Funeral Mass.**

C. Liturgy of the Mass

Following the Words of Remembrance, the Liturgy of the Mass will begin.

1. Family members or friends of the deceased are invited to participate in the mass by being a lector for either a reading selected from the Old Testament, or a reading selected from the New Testament.
2. A family member or friend of the deceased is also invited to lead the congregants in the Prayer of the Faithful.
3. Members of the family or friends of the deceased may bring up the gifts of wine and bread, at the appropriate time during the Mass.
4. It is customary for ONLY those present at the Mass who are practicing Catholics to receive Holy Communion (or Eucharist). However, non-practicing Catholics or those not Catholic who are present are encouraged to cross their hands across over their chest to signify to the priest that they would like to receive a blessing.

MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass is similar to a Funeral Mass, except the body of the deceased is NOT present. Therefore, there is no Receiving Rite at the beginning of the service. All other directives of Funeral Mass are followed. A picture of the deceased may be placed on a table at the front of the altar.

MUSIC SELECTIONS

Music is integral to the funeral rites. It allows the community to express feelings that words alone may not convey. It has the power to uplift the mourners and strengthen the unity of the assembly in faith and love (OCF, no.30). The St. Norbert Church directives for the selection of music are listed below.

1. Because sung music is considered “sung prayer”, secular music (live or recorded) is NOT allowed or deemed appropriate at funerals.
2. In the Diocese of Orange, it is a practice to have an instrumentalist, and a cantor in singing the songs, responses and acclamations of the funeral rites.
3. The family and friends of the deceased are invited and encouraged to choose four musical selections to be used at the funeral;
 - a) a song to be played and sung during the Procession into the church,
 - b) a song to be played and sung during the Presentation of the Gifts (wine and bread),
 - c) a song to be played and sung during Communion, and
 - d) a song to be played and sung during the Recession out of the church.
4. The Responsorial Psalm, the Gospel Acclamation, the three acclamations (the Eucharistic Prayer, the “Lamb of God” litany and the “Song of Farewell”) should all be sung by the assembly.
5. The approved list of musical selections to be used at a funeral is comprised from the recommendations from the *Order of Christian Funerals*, and documents from the Conference of Bishops that provide pastoral norms for the use of sacred music.

6. Popular songs, sentimental ethnic music, or songs from Broadway hits are never to be used as a substitute for the music of the Funeral Liturgy.

COMMITTAL (INTERMENT)

The Rite of Committal is celebrated at the burial or interment. The Rite of Committal whether at an interment, a chapel, a mausoleum, or at a graveside, is a gathering of faithful prayer.

1. Military services and certain cultural or social rites are permissible at the cemetery.
2. The presiding priest should be notified of any additional services in advance, so that the presentation of the service does not disrupt or distract from the integrity of the liturgical committal service.
3. Words of Remembrance are appropriate at the time following the Rite of Committal by the priest.

CREMATION

The church recommends the custom of burying the bodies of the deceased be observed. However, cremation is permitted as long as it has not be chosen for reasons contrary to Catholic teaching. The St. Norbert directives regarding cremation are as follows.

1. The cremated remains of the deceased are to be placed in a worthy vessel (urn).
2. The cremated remains **MUST** be kept in vessel (urn). Cremated remains (ashes) may **NOT** be separated into multiple urns to be given to members of the family.
3. Cremated remains should be treated with the same respect given to the remains of a human body and should be entombed or buried, whether in the ground or at sea. The scattering of cremated remains on the ground or sea, or keeping any portion of the remains in individual containers as remembrances is **NOT** the reverent final disposition the Church directs.
4. The cremated remains will be placed on table at the front of the church at the altar.

5. The vessel or urn may be carried up by family members during the procession into the Church. The urn will be placed on a table at the altar.
6. A picture of the deceased may be placed on the table (at the altar) where the urn shall be placed. The picture should be 8.5" x 11" or smaller.
7. It is the preference of Catholic teachings that the cremated remains be interred immediately after the Funeral Mass. If however this is not possible, the vessel should be placed in a place of honor until such time as the interment can take place. For example, the vessel should not be placed in a garden or on a closet shelf, but should be placed on a mantle or table where it may be observed and honored.

MISCELLEANOUS DIRECTIVES

1. In the pastoral care of persons who are in a same sex union, two values are at work; respect for the wishes of the deceased, and protection of a Catholic's right to a funeral.
2. A non-Catholic may be buried in a Catholic cemetery.
3. A deacon, priest or layperson may preside at a Vigil.
4. A deacon, priest or layperson may preside at the Rite of Committal.
5. A cantor, and organist or pianist must be present and perform at a Funeral Mass or Memorial Mass.
6. Only a priest or deacon may preach the homily at a funeral.

REFERRALS

Mortuaries

Shannon-Bryan Mortuary
137 E. Maple Avenue
Orange, CA 92866
714-771-1000

Brown Colonial Mortuary
204 West 17th Street
Santa Ana, CA 92706
714-542-3949

Cemeteries

Holy Sepulcher Catholic Cemetery
7845 E. Santiago Canyon Road
Orange, CA 92869
714-532 6551

Christ Cathedral Cemetery
13280 Chapman Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92840
714-489-6102

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