

What is involved and where do we start?

Begin by making two phone calls:

1. The mortuary who will be handling the arrangements
2. St. Gabriel's Parish Office: 952-935-5536.

Both places will most likely ask basic questions such as who the deceased is, contact information for relatives who will handle legal and personal matters, and where the deceased is.

Meet with the mortuary staff

Once the body has been taken to the mortuary, you will need to have a meeting with the mortuary staff. Here you will discuss burial options, possible funeral days, obituary items, notification issues and other pertinent issues. They will help you with legal matters such as social security, death certificates, and other notification issues. With them you will schedule days and times for the funeral or memorial service, viewing times, and possible times for wake services. Remember, none of the activities involving the church building or the services provided by the church can be finalized until they have been confirmed with the church. Funeral Masses can be scheduled Tuesdays through Fridays.

Meet with the pastoral minister

Call the office at 952-935-5536 to schedule the meeting. At the meeting, many things will be discussed. This is often a hard meeting for those in grief, but we will do our best to guide you through the process. Here are some of the things that will be discussed:

Scripture readings

There are several options from which to choose. One reading will be from the Old Testament or the Acts of the Apostles, one from the New Testament (letters), and one from the Gospels.

Music selection

We will assist you in selecting appropriate music for the funeral and will look at the following:

Opening litany or hymn

Psalm

Hymn, solo, or anthem for the preparation of the gifts

Hymn, solo, or anthem for communion

Closing hymn

Musicians

Typically we have an organist and a cantor. They are usually parish musicians. We ask that you use our parish cantor, as she understands the liturgy and helps guide the congregation's response. In addition to the cantor, you may have a soloist. The fees for our musicians are listed below.

Involvement in the funeral liturgy

You may have the following:

Pall bearers, or urn bearer (cremation)

People for placing the pall on the casket (usually family)

Up to 2 lectors

Someone to read the petitions (may be done by a lector)

Gift bearers

Eulogist (optional)—One person reading one page that is submitted before funeral Mass

Parish fees

Visitation and/or funeral Mass: Free will donation

Organist: \$175

Cantor: \$175

Resurrection Voices (choir): Optional donation

Other musicians (e.g., violin): Each sets their own performance fees.

Funeral luncheon

The Council of Catholic Women offers a luncheon service for the grieving family. They prepare the room for the luncheon, serve the food, provide refreshments, e.g., coffee and water, and clean up. The funeral family is responsible for purchasing the food. Funeral volunteers will assist the family in their selection.

No one will be denied a funeral for lack of funds. Please contact the pastor if these fees are a hardship.