

Funeral FAQs

Does the Catholic Church allow cremation?

Yes. In May 1963, the Vatican's Holy Office (now the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith) lifted the prohibition forbidding Catholics to choose cremation. This permission was incorporated into the revised Code of Canon Law of 1983 (Canon # 1176), as well as into the Order of Christian Funerals.

The Catholic Church does ask that the ashes remain together in the urn, and not separated or parsed out to family or friends. The rationale is the body (ashes) is sacred and they should be treated with respect in a final burial location.

What days of the week are funerals conducted at SJC?

Funeral services are typically held on Monday, Thursday or Friday at 11am. This timeframe is typically free from other church services or school activities, and allows for ample service parking, availability of priest/staff/volunteers and other services needed.

What kind of funeral liturgies are there?

There are two types of funeral services: Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy of the Word. The Funeral Mass is a full mass with offertory and communion service and requires a Priest to conduct the service. The Liturgy of the Word does not include offertory and communion service and can be conducted by a Deacon or Priest.

A Funeral Mass is about 60-75 minutes in length and a Funeral Liturgy of the Word is approximately 45-50 minutes.

How long does it take to get a funeral service scheduled?

It typically takes 2-5 days for finalizing a date for everyone. There are many factors in finding a mutually agreeable date such as:

- Availability of priest, church, key family members and Funeral Home (if needed)
- How quickly contact with both the Church & Funeral Home are made following the death
- Burial Availability (sometimes military cemeteries are backlogged)
- Holidays – Catholic and Federal
- Prep of Body (cremation or embalming)
- Reception (optional)

We recommend considering family member travel when working with the Lazarus Ministry focal as time off work can be a driver for family and why we suggest Thursdays or Fridays. The focal will ask for 2-3 options on different days of the week and weeks of the month to help reduce the iterations.

Should a Funeral Home be involved?

A Funeral Home is required if the service will be with a casket. The Funeral Home is not required for cremation/urn service. We understand the cost for services; however, we encourage families to consider the conveniences that a Funeral Home can help with such as: Program Design/Printing, Prayer Cards, Flowers, Conduct of the services at the church and cemetery. During a time of grief, it is often hard to focus on specific details and logistics, and the Funeral Home cost for bridging the gaps may be worth the extra cost.

We do not provide services for flowers, programs or prayer cards. We can provide examples and suggest local businesses to use.

Can I plan my funeral or a family members funeral mass and services before death?

Yes. If you are interested as an individual or on behalf of a loved one in planning the funeral mass or liturgy, then we are more than happy to help you through the planning process. Sometimes your loved one is on hospice and you are beginning the prep for their end of life service or you may want to plan your own funeral so that your family is aware of your wishes.

We encourage you to look at the readings, music and mass process that are linked within the main Funeral Service Web Page and set-up a time to meet with one of Lazarus Ministry focals at your convenience.