

Funeral Guidelines

Introduction

The Death and Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ give a positive meaning to the Christian death. He links faith in the resurrection to his own Person: "I am the Resurrection and the life (Jn 11:25). Saint Paul proclaimed that saying: "if we have died with Him, we will also live with Him (2 Tim 2:11). And the Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasizes it: "*We firmly believe, and hence we hope that, just as Christ is truly risen from the dead and lives forever, so after death the righteous will live forever with the risen Christ and he will raise them up on the last day. Our resurrection, like his own, will be the work of the Most Holy Trinity*" (CCC 989). Accordingly, the Christian vision of death receives privileged expression in the liturgy of the Church: "*Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven (Roman Missal, Preface of Christian Death I).*"*It is Jesus himself who, on the last day, will raise up those who have believed in Him, who have eaten his Holy Body and drunk his Precious Blood*" (Maronite Liturgy, Ginnaz).

Thus, when we lose a loved one, the sadness of death should give way in to the joyful hope of Resurrection and our celebration of a person's life should reflect our conviction that in Jesus Christ we have the eternal life beyond earthly life. Although our loss is irreplaceable, yet it is important that we turn to our Hope and Faith as well as to our community for support. Our Lady of Lebanon Church wishes to offer you that support in your time of grief.

Guidelines

- 1.** All funerals liturgy will be celebrated according to the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church and the Norms and Tradition of the Maronite Catholic Church.
- 2.** A date shall be set for the funeral in consultation with the Pastor of Our Lady of Lebanon Church.
- 3.** If the funerals is arranged to be celebrated at Our Lady of Lebanon Church and the family of the deceased is planning to invite a visiting priest, the family must consult the Pastor of Our Lady of Lebanon Church before making any arrangement with the visiting priest. All expenses of the visiting Priest(s) such as travel, lodging, stipend and the like are the responsibility of the family having the funeral.
- 4.** All hymns and music for the funeral Liturgy must be liturgical. Favorite secular songs and music may be performed or played at the funeral home.
- 5.** We welcome flowers and wreaths as part of the funeral celebration.
- 6.** A customary donation to the Church is highly appreciated to cover the expenses incurred by the facilities operation and to continue the Church's ministries.
- 7.** The fees of the organist, the cantor, the choir and the like are the responsibility of the family having the funeral.

Memorial Gifts

You may wish to encourage friends and family members to make memorial monetary gifts to Our Lady of Lebanon Church. These gifts are gratefully received in the name of the one who has died, and the immediate family is notified of them. Memorial gifts may be designated for Mass stipend or may a specific purpose requested by the donor.

Wakes

Upon the recommendations of our Pastor, the Illinois Health Department and the Mutual Catholic Group Insurance Policy, we conform to the laws of no further wakes in our Parish facilities. We may be allowed to permit viewing for a brief time prior to a funeral Mass at Our Lady of Lebanon Church. Thank you for your understanding in this sensitive matter.