



St. Ignatius of Loyola Church

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OUR CONDOLENCES

On behalf of St. Ignatius Parish, please accept our heartfelt prayers and sympathy as you remember and celebrate the life of your loved one. We are here to help you in preparing for and celebrating a Funeral Mass. Your involvement in planning the shape of this liturgy can help to reflect the life of your loved one.

FUNERAL PLANNING

If you are working with a Funeral Director, they will coordinate arrangements with us regarding the place and time of the liturgy. They can also assist you with programs, prayer cards, flowers, and any other requests you may have. Note that there are no funerals on Sunday.

This sheet will offer guidance to help family and friends plan the Mass. Working on planning the Mass together can often offer a way to comfort and support one another.

If you would like assistance with planning, you may arrange to meet in-person with one of our funeral ministry coordinators. Someone from our team will be happy to meet with you. Please contact the parish office to arrange for this assistance.

WAKE vs VIGIL vs VIEWING

A Catholic vigil, also known as a wake, typically takes place the evening before the funeral Mass at the funeral home. During this time, those in attendance offer prayers and condolences to the family. A priest or deacon may attend to preside over a brief service consisting of an opening prayer, scripture proclamation, homily, and intercessions for the deceased. We do not hold wakes at the church.

If you are not having a wake at the funeral home, you may have a viewing or gathering at the Church directly before the funeral Mass.

PRESIDER

You are welcomed to have a priest of your choosing to preside or a St. Ignatius priest will be assigned. You may want to provide information to your presider to help him prepare his homily.

If you have your own priest and he is not part of the Archdiocese of Boston, he will be required to send a **Letter of Good Standing** from his diocese or religious community.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Words of Remembrance, briefly describing the ways in which the deceased demonstrated his or her Christian values are sometimes offered at the Funeral. We recommend they be given at the beginning of Mass by one family member or friend. We find that giving them at that time provides an opportunity for the person delivering these words to engage more fully in the Mass and not to worry about delivering them at the end. We ask that the speaker prepare and write out their remarks in advance. It is important that the remarks focus on the deceased's faith and that they be respectful of that fact that we are in a church, in the presence of God. We have more detailed guidelines to help in preparation.

MUSIC

Music is an integral part of worship during the funeral Mass and can be helpful in the grieving process. Secular music is not appropriate. There will be a cantor and organist at the Funeral Mass to assist the congregation in singing all the hymns and acclamations. Additional musicians are available at an additional cost. Your music selections would include the following hymns:

Gathering
Responsorial Psalm
Preparation of the Gifts/Offertory
Communion
Post Communion Hymn (optional)
Song of Farewell
Recessional

Use this link of suggested hymns as a reference:

https://www.stignatiuschestnuthill.org/_files/ugd/3d2253_131763c082474f458bed9a086454fd82.pdf

CREMATION

Cremation is becoming a more common choice and Christian Funeral Rites are celebrated for persons who choose to have their bodies cremated. The Church prefers that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites and the cremation take place after the funeral.

If the cremation takes place earlier, the ashes are brought to the church. The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they came. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the cremains, the manner in which they are carried, and the final disposition. The vessel may be carried to its place during the entrance procession or placed on a table in front of the altar before the liturgy begins. A small floral arrangement and framed image is appropriate to place near the cremains. The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The Church does not permit the spreading of remains on earth or sea.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH

Flowers may be brought from the funeral home to the church on the day of the funeral. The church isn't always open or may already be scheduled for flowers to be delivered for other services. Please have the florist contact the parish office at 617.552.6102 or email Carol Russo at russocu@bc.edu. to make arrangements. Flowers may not obscure the altar or block passage of ministers in the sanctuary. Casket sprays are removed before the casket is brought into the church and may be replaced at the end of the funeral.

CHURCH FEE

Church Fee is \$750 and includes the organist and cantor. If you are working with a funeral home, they usually will handle payment. If planning on your own, payment should be by check made payable to St. Ignatius Church or may be made online with a credit card at our website.

If you are having a viewing in the Church before the funeral Mass, we ask for an additional fee of \$200.

LIVESTREAM SERVICE

St. Ignatius can provide a livestream feed for the funeral. Michael Sennett, our Director of Communications, will create a link that can be viewed at the time of the funeral and at any future date. The livestream fee is \$250. A separate payment would be made directly to Michael Sennett. Please contact Michael directly at sennettm@bc.edu.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

We encourage family members or friends to be involved in the liturgy. There are five parts to the Funeral Liturgy.

THE GATHERING RITES

Gathering Hymn

The priest and ministers will greet you at the center entrance of the church. The priest will bless the body with Holy Water as a memorial of baptism and the pall will be placed on the casket.

Placing of the Pall

A funeral pall, reminding us of the white garment given at Baptism and therefore symbolizing our life in Christ, is draped over the casket at the beginning of the Funeral Mass. Family members are invited to participate in placing the pall, though it may also be done by pall bearers at the direction of the Funeral Director.

The procession will continue up the main aisle. At the head of the main aisle, after everyone is in place, family members may place a symbol of the person's faith and prayer life (e.g. a cross or bible) on the casket. The symbol(s) should be carried in the procession.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Examples of these Readings, Gospels, and Prayers of the Faithful are available on our website, <https://www.stignatiuschestnuthill.org/funerals-and-bereavement>.

Readings from Scripture

Two scripture readings are chosen, the first from the Old Testament and the second from the New Testament, except during the Easter Season when both readings may be from the New Testament. It is appropriate to have family or friends read the scriptures, preferably two different readers. The readers chosen should be able to read comfortably in a large church service. Lectors from the parish are also available to read if family members are not comfortable speaking in public or if it would be too emotionally upsetting. Readers do not have to bring up the readings with them, these will be in a book at the ambo already prepared for them.

Responsorial Psalm sung by cantor

Gospel

The Gospel is selected and proclaimed by the presider. If you have a suggestion or the deceased had a favorite, please let the presider know for his considerations.

Homily

The homily is given by the priest. It focuses on God's compassionate love and on the Easter mystery of death leading to resurrection.

General Intercessions/Prayers of the Faithful Prayers are offered for the deceased, the family, all who mourn, and those gathered. We will provide samples of The Prayers of the Faithful. You can select one, or customize one to personalize it more towards the deceased. It is appropriate to have a family member or friend read the intentions. Again, a reader does not have to bring up a sheet with these prayers; they will be in a book at the ambo. A lector from the parish is also available to read.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

As the Offertory hymn is sung, two or three family members may bring the gifts of bread and wine to the priest, but it's not required. The gifts will be on a table in the middle aisle of the church. A funeral minister will assist you at the appropriate time.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

The Sign of Peace

Communion

FINAL COMMENDATION

The final commendation is a final farewell by the members of the community, and an act of respect for one of their own members, whom they entrust to God. This act of last farewell also acknowledges the reality of separation and affirms that the community and the deceased, baptized into the one Body, share the same destiny: resurrection on the last day.

The Song of Farewell

This hymn is the climax of this rite and should affirm hope and trust in the Paschal mystery.

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITMENT

Recessional Hymn

At the conclusion of the funeral liturgy, the procession is formed and the body is brought to the place of committal. It is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of the deceased. It may be celebrated at the grave, tomb, or mausoleum. A priest or funeral home representative will accompany the family to the graveside and offer prayers.