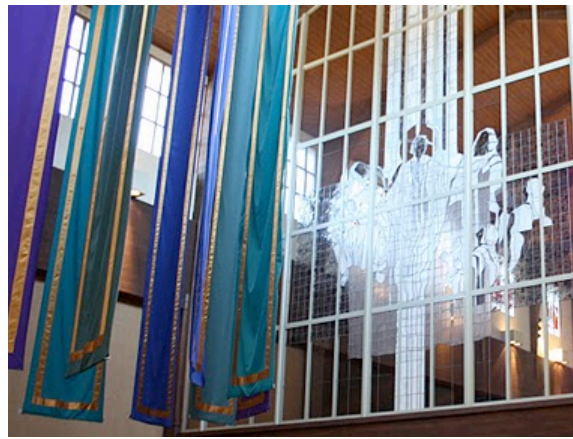


**PRE-PLANNING
YOUR FUNERAL**
at St. Luke Catholic Church





IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE BROUGHT TO LIFE

– 1 Corinthians 15:22b

A Catholic Funeral

The Funeral liturgy has a three fold purpose: to commend the deceased to the Lord, to raise the hopes of the faithful, and to give witness to the Church's faith in the resurrection of the dead (*Congregation for Divine Worship*).

This purpose is present in each part of the liturgy, but especially in the celebration of the Eucharist at the funeral Mass. The offering of the Eucharistic sacrifice allows the community to intercede for the deceased and to minister to those in mourning.

The Church expresses its faith and care through the normal forms of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Whenever possible, music is an integral part of the liturgy, since the Mass is an act of worship in praise of God for the life of the deceased. Funerals may take place outside of the Mass, but the Church encourages the celebration of Mass.

Specific rites & symbols are added to the Mass during a funeral. These recall the baptism of the deceased and the spiritual bond which exists between the deceased and the rest of the community.

Structure of the Funeral	
Rite:	Includes:
Introductory	Sprinkling, Placing the Pall, Procession, Remembrance
Liturgy of the Word	Old & New Testament Readings, Psalm, Gospel Reading, Homily, Petitions
Liturgy of the Eucharist	Offertory, Eucharistic Prayer, Communion
Final Commendation	Prayer for the Deceased, Song of Farewell, Prayer of Commendation
Procession to the Place of Committal	Burial

How to plan in advance

St. Luke is happy to assist you with pre-planning your funeral should you choose to do so. Many people choose to do so to ease the emotional or financial burden on their families. St. Luke has forms available to plan the details of the liturgy and can arrange for a consultation to help with music selections. Contact the Pastoral Associate in the parish office for more information.

What should I plan?

Parishioners should expect to select the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalm and Gospel Readings. A form of petitions, the prayers of the liturgy, and music may also be selected. Arrangements can be made to communicate with a funeral home.

Can I be cremated?

Until 1963 the Church prohibited cremation. Though it still prefers burial in the ground or in a tomb, cremation is now permitted "in case of necessity" as long as it is not chosen out of denial of Christian teaching.

Can I hold a viewing there?

Viewings can be held at St. Luke directly before the funeral liturgy. If you would like to arrange this, please contact the funeral home which keeps your plans.

How do I know what I can choose?

Planning booklets will be provided to you to help you select readings, petitions and prayers. These booklets follow the format of Mass and correspond to the liturgical books used by the priests.

Can I designate the presider?

If you have a friend or family member who is a member of the clergy and will plan to preside at your funeral you are welcome to designate that person as presider and homilist. If you are aware of any concelebrants, you may designate them as well.

Who should I contact?

To speak to a priest call:

Fr. Noah Casey

Pastor

(317) 259-4373

Fr. Joseph Newton

Associate Pastor

(317) 259-4373

To discuss music planning:

Mr. John Gendvilas

Director of Music Ministries

(317) 259-4373 ext 227

jgendvilas@stluke.org

To discuss liturgy planning:

Mrs. Shannon Schmidt

Pastoral Associate

(317) 259-4373 ext 218

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