

We are so sympathetic to the loss of your family member, and we want to help you. Planning a funeral in the midst of personal grieving is difficult and can be challenging, so we are here to guide and be of service to you in order to lessen your burden.

This funeral planning guide highlights the following three main elements:

1.) WAKE SERVICE

On the day of the wake service, we focus on the person's life on this earth.

2.) FUNERAL MASS

At the funeral Mass we focus on the spiritual aspect, namely the resurrection of the deceased person with the risen Christ. Therefore, we are focusing exclusively on the spiritual aspect of death, not the earthly aspect.

3.) COMMITTAL/CEMETERY

The committal, or burial, is when we focus on the deceased person's life after death with Jesus Christ.



Weekly Mass Schedule

SATURDAY	4:30 PM
SUNDAY	8:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Monday	9:00 AM
Tuesday	9:00 AM <i>Devotions after Mass</i>
Wednesday	9:00 AM
Friday	9:00 AM <i>Adoration after Mass</i>

Confession
Saturdays at 3:45 pm

Planning a Funeral



St. John Bosco Catholic Church

23830 Front Avenue
Mattawan, MI 49071

Phone: (269) 668-3312

Office Hours:
M-F 8:30 to 3:00

www.stjohnbosco.com

THINGS TO CONSIDER . . .

When planning a funeral liturgy, it is important that the family meet with the pastor. During this meeting, the family will be given an opportunity to bring some personalization to the Mass as far as selecting the readings and music. Family members may participate during the Mass by bringing the gifts forward during the offertory hymn.

FUNERAL LITURGY/MASS

The Funeral Mass is the center of the funeral services for your beloved which is the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It brings enormous spiritual comfort to the family. We as Catholics want to be comforted by the fact that Jesus died and rose and will come again. We believe that your loved one will also rise with Jesus Christ. Let us focus on the spiritual aspect of death. Anything else that can creep in during the Mass celebration can spoil this focus.

READINGS

Many people may have difficulty choosing readings on their own. The priest will help guide you in your choices with the *Through Death to Life* book that is provided. If you do not want to choose the readings, the priest will do that for you. If you decide to have three readings, the first reading should be from the Old Testament, the second from the New Testament, and the last from one of the Gospels. The responsorial psalm is usually sung by a cantor.

LECTOR/READER

We don't usually encourage family members to be the Lector at this time of grieving, but if you think they are specially trained in a Catholic Church and are doing this ministry as a Lector periodically in their own parish, then only those family members may be chosen with the permission of the pastor.

EULOGIES

Eulogies are discouraged immediately after the Mass so that we will not be distracted from the spiritual focus. The readings, homily and the celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection during the funeral liturgy lead the grieving family to hope, faith and spiritual consolation. That wonderful faith experience would be distracted by focusing on the life of your loved one while they were on earth. A eulogy could be done more practically at the funeral home or at the luncheon.

HYMNS/MUSIC

During the funeral liturgy, the family is welcome to choose hymns. Please remember only hymns that are appropriate to the liturgy are allowed. Our Music Director will play for the Mass and can advise you of suitable hymns for the appropriate moments in the Mass.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

For the funeral, payments can be done through the funeral home or by the family, whichever is feasible for you.

- The fee for the organist/cantor is \$150.
- For the priest, it is up to the discretion of the family.
- For the church, there is no fee but if you decide to make a donation, it is at your discretion, not mandatory.
- If there is a deacon who assists at the funeral mass, an honorarium for his service is also recommended at your discretion.

FLOWERS

We welcome flowers as part of the funeral celebration. However, during the Lenten season flowers are not used on the altar.

LUNCHEON

We are glad to provide a luncheon and would like to know how many people will participate so we can prepare accordingly for you. A donation may be suggested for the purchased food. (*Refer to Funeral Luncheon pamphlet provided.*)