

# Funeral planning checklist

## General arrangements

- Person's preferred name (ie, 'Jim' vs. 'James') \_\_\_\_\_  
Please include first & last name
- Preferred funeral date(s) (Thurs/Fri only) \_\_\_\_\_
- Vigil service (night before) **yes/no** (circle one)
- Rosary (30 minutes before Mass) **yes/no** (circle one)
- Reception desired (assuming availability) **yes/no** (circle one)

## Funeral Mass choices

*Readings for the Mass (chosen from book 'Through Death to Life' booklet)*

- First reading (Old Testament only) \_\_\_\_\_
- Responsorial psalm \_\_\_\_\_
- Second reading (New Testament only) \_\_\_\_\_
- Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

*Music for the Mass (chosen from Saint Michael Hymnal)*

- Offertory hymn \_\_\_\_\_
- Communion hymn \_\_\_\_\_
- Recessional hymn \_\_\_\_\_

*Special roles for the Mass*

- Gift-bearers from among family/friends **yes/no** (circle one)
- Pall-bearers from among family/friends **yes/no** (circle one)

## Graveside service choices

- Eulogy by a family member or friend **yes/no** (circle one)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**To reach Father with any questions, please use the emergency voicemail:**

**(206) 364-7900 extension 9**

(See reverse side for frequently asked questions) →→→

## Frequently asked questions about funerals

### How much do funerals cost?

One of the corporal works of mercy is burial of the dead – as such, we take seriously the responsibility and privilege of celebrating funeral rites for those who need them. At our parish there is only **one required fee**, along with several typical stipends. These allow our volunteers, ministers and the parish to continue in their work, alleviate costs and express support for the effort offered:

#### Required costs

- **Organist fee**, \$175
- **Visiting clergy stipend**, \$200 (*only if inviting guest clergy*)

#### Suggested stipends (*optional – NOT required*)

- **Parish stipend\***, \$200-\$500 (*optional*)
  - o We wish to emphasize the *voluntary nature* of giving a stipend to the parish. Give as you are able and called, confident of our gratitude!
- **Altar server stipend**, \$5-10 (*optional*)
- **Cantor stipend**, \$35 (*optional*)

**\*Please note: donations are made out to Saint Mark parish, not the priest**

### Can a family member or friend read or sing at Mass?

We have trained lectors and cantors for all of our liturgies. This assures that the liturgy & prayer is properly provided for and that the family & friends may focus on being ministered to rather than themselves ministering to others. Exceptions are rare and must be individually approved by the pastor in advance.

### Can a eulogy be offered at the funeral?

In short, no. The Church gives instruction on this topic: “A brief homily based on the readings should always be given at the funeral liturgy, but never any kind of eulogy” (*Order of Christian Funerals*, #141).

Though the Church allows for a member or friend of the family to speak in remembrance before the final commendation (*Ibid*, #197), we have found that this distinction inevitably gets lost (remembrance vs. eulogy). **We instead invite friends & family to speak at the reception or graveside, if desired.**