



FUNERAL GUIDELINES (Updated January 1st, 2021)

Basilica – Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

Guidelines for Funeral Mass and for Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass at the Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist - Revised November 5th, 2021

- The Funeral Home will call the Basilica with a contact number for the family when the family of a deceased parishioner contacts them in order to set the date and time of the Funeral Mass or Funeral Service (Liturgy of the Word without Mass) with the Parish – 754-2170
- The Basilica Bereavement ministry will arrange to meet with the bereaved family and will guide the family through the choices of scripture readings and music.
- The Pastor or his designate will preside at the Funeral Mass or Funeral Service (Liturgy of the Word without Mass) at the Basilica.
- The Funeral Mass or Funeral Service and other Funeral Rites - a Vigil Service, Closing of Casket, Rite of Committal - will be offered to the bereaved family.

Music for Funerals

- Music is chosen in the same way as at Sunday Mass and the hymns are chosen from Catholic Book of Worship III &/or Celebrate in Song for which we have a license. These are the hymn books for which we have a license. Songs other than hymns can be sung at the graveside or at a wake vigil.
- The Organist and Cantor (trained musicians) are provided by the Basilica Parish. If the family desires an outside singer, he/she may sing an appropriate hymn at the Offertory or at a part of the Funeral Service. All parts of the Mass are sung and the Basilica musicians are familiar with this music.

LIVESTREAMING OF FUNERALS (NEW)

The Basilica Heritage Foundation is solely responsible for Livestreaming all events in the Basilica. It requires broadcasting, music, and software copyright licenses, as well as trained technicians. Therefore, as of November, 2021, there will be a nominal fee of 100.00 for livestreaming of funerals. Please advise the Parish as soon as you can if you want the funeral livestreamed. Should the family require a video recording of the funeral Liturgy, or for any other information, please contact the parish office or email the Basilica Heritage Foundation.

bhf.inquiries@thebasilica.net.

Examples of Entrance and Recessional Hymns:

For the Beauty of the Earth – Sing with All the Saints in Glory – Day Is Done – O God Our Help in Ages Past – Amazing Grace – Morning Has Broken – We Shall Go Out – Jesus Christ Is Risen Today – Cantic of the Sun – How Great Thou Art – Crown Him with Many Crowns

Examples of Communion Hymns: Bread for the World – One Love Released – Gift of Finest Wheat – Gather Us Together – Eat this Bread – Dona Nobis Pacem

Examples of Offertory Hymns: Healer of Our Every Ill – Shelter Me O God – You are Near – Make Me a Channel of Your Peace – Be Not Afraid – On Eagles' Wings

We read in John 14.1, 3: "Jesus said to his disciples: "I go to prepare a place for you, so that where I am, you may be too." May the 'songs of the angels' welcome and guide your loved one home to their eternal dwelling place.

Fr. Cecil Critch, VG, Rector