

Funeral policies for Our Lady of Victory

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After much discussion with parish council over the years about providing access for funerals in the age of a priest shortage and celebrating the Mass in accord with the Church's liturgical norms which we must follow, Fr. Reutter has enacted the following policies regarding funerals.

- Funeral Masses will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.
- Funerals may not be possible on the desired day, depending on the availability of a priest and other funerals scheduled in the parish.
- If more than one funeral request occurs at the same time, first preference of dates will be given in order to registered parishioners or family members of same, those living in the parish boundaries, and then others who are not directly affiliated with the parish.
- Funerals may be celebrated on any weekday. However, there may be limited availability on Wednesdays (priest's day off) or Saturdays (due to celebration of multiple Masses on the weekend, with only one priest assigned to the parish).
- If the family wishes to celebrate the Mass at a time other than 11:00 a.m., they will have to provide for a visiting priest in good standing with the Archdiocese and a musician. (An additional charge to the family will be incurred to cover these stipends). The Mass can not be scheduled until these arrangements have been made.
- Evening funerals are generally not possible. The only exception is if the family provides their own priest and musician as above and if no cancellations of parish activities are necessary to accommodate the funeral. (There will be no exceptions).
- Funeral eulogies are not permitted during the funeral Mass itself. They are given most appropriately during the visitation, during the committal prayers (graveside service) or at a reception. If the family wishes to give such a remembrance in the church, they must be conducted as follows.
 - They can be given immediately before or after the funeral Mass.
 - Only one family member may give the remembrance.
 - They are delivered from an area immediately adjacent to the sanctuary (not from the ambo (pulpit), since they are not part of the Mass).
 - They must be reverent and respectful, avoiding any inappropriate language and anything which contradicts the teaching of the Catholic Church
 - Written notes must be given in advance to the priest celebrant or bereavement representatives so they can be reviewed for appropriateness for the sacred setting.

As always, our bereavement ministers will work with the families to help them prepare for the funeral rites and help console the family. They can be reached via the parish office, at 922-4460.