

GUIDE FOR CHRISTIAN FUNERALS DURING COVID19

For Christians, gathering to mourn the dead, celebrate their life and proclaim the hope of Resurrection, through our celebration of the Eucharist, are essential practices of our faith.

During the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID19 outbreak, our usual mourning rituals have been interrupted. We think of those women on that first Easter, who went to follow their familiar mourning ritual to anoint Jesus' body, and Peter with the other men who found the tomb empty. We remember their initial shock and confusion and feel it too. We're waiting to feel the hope of resurrection they experienced when they met the Risen Lord."

As have generations of the faithful before us, we turn to our family of faith to celebrate our life in Christ, through those practices and rituals that are so familiar to us and bring us such comfort during times of trial. And so we know that this disruption for a grieving community is doubly hard. We grieve this disruption with you.

In light of announcements made by Minnesota's Governor and the Centers for Disease Control regarding the COVID19 Pandemic, the Archbishop has recommended that we have no gatherings larger than 250 people.

Until further easing of restrictions in Minnesota, we will be limited in our funeral practices in the following ways:

Visitation/Funeral:

We are able to host a visitation and funeral service, with a capacity of 250 people seated in the Church.

Parish Funeral Lunch:

We are not able to host a meal or hospitality following the funeral at this time.

Graveside at one of The Catholic Cemeteries

We are committed to following the guidelines of our local authorities as well as the guidance of the CDC and other medical professionals during this unprecedented time.

For your protection as well as for Funeral Directors and Cemetery staff, it is necessary to ask that everyone who visits Resurrection, Gethsemane, St. Mary's, St. Anthony's or Calvary Cemetery follow these rules:

- We strongly recommend and ask anyone with underlying COVID-19 health symptoms NOT to attend burial services.
- Graveside burial services may be attended by immediate family members; however, only ten (10) persons will be allowed at the graveside.
- While on Cemetery grounds, we ask all attendees and staff to observe proper social distancing, always maintaining six (6) feet between each other.
- Because we have limited field staff, most of the full body burials will have set ups at the roadside, as close to where the actual burial will take place as we can get. The body will be carried from the funeral coach to where the grave liner is located and the body will be placed on top of it. Those gathering may remain in their cars or may stand in the area, limited to 10 individuals, maintaining a 6 ft. distancing from each other. Prayers will be done at this site and lowering of the body into the grave will not occur until all family members have returned to their cars. Families can remain in their cars if they wish to see the body placed in the grave.

Fort Snelling National cemetery, and all other cemeteries may have additional guidelines. Your Funeral Director will have the most up to date information.

Please call the Parish Office at (952)890-0045 if we can help answer questions you may have.