



0S233 Church Street
Winfield, Illinois 60190
(630) 668-0918, ext. 0 Fax 630.668.1074

FUNERAL MASS INFORMATION AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

As of October 12, 2023

Please accept our deepest sympathies for the loss of your loved one. In an effort to answer questions you might have about planning a funeral Mass at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, please see the information below.

The funeral liturgy is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased. When one of its members dies, the Church encourages the celebration of the funeral liturgy at a Mass. At the funeral liturgy, the Church gathers with the family and friends of the deceased to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, to commend the deceased to God's tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery. Therefore, the funeral liturgy is an act of worship, not merely an expression of grief. *From Order of Christian Funerals, No. 129*

Choosing a Funeral Day/Time

The funeral home arranges the date/time of the funeral Mass with the St. John's parish office, 630-668-0918, ext. 0. Our parish office is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 9a-3p, Wednesday, 12p-3p, and closed on Fridays.

Funerals are usually held in the mornings, 10:30, Monday through Saturday, subject to the availability of the worship space and the priests.

The family may choose the Chapel or Church, depending upon availability.

Planning the Funeral Mass

Please view the readings and music selections on our website: www.stjohnwinfield.org>funerals, or phone the parish office and we can provide a notebook of the readings.

St. John's arranges for a volunteer bereavement minister to telephone the family to help choose the readings (Old Testament, New Testament, Gospel, the Psalm, prayers of the faithful, music, as well as asking the family to complete "Notes on the Decedent" to assist the Priest in preaching a personalized homily).

Music

St. John's provides an organist and cantor. Our Director of Liturgical Music is Mike Berger, he can be reached at the parish office at ext. 607, by cell at 815-922-8651, or by email at mberger@stjohnwinfield.org.

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Flowers

Flowers are acceptable in our Chapel/Church. However, keeping with the Church's tradition of "noble simplicity" is requested and they must not be in the way of the aisle or altar.

Eulogy

Due to the nature of the sacred liturgy and the purpose of celebrating a funeral Mass for one who has died, the most appropriate place for a eulogy is either at a visitation at a funeral home or at a social gathering in memory of the deceased. For this reason, **we cannot accommodate eulogies and/or words of remembrance during the funeral Mass at this time.**

Photos/Collages

No photo collages or portraits are allowed in the worship space.

Fees/Donations

\$150 donation to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church;

\$200 to the organist;

\$200 to the cantor;

If the family would like to thank the priest for his ministry and service, a suggested gift of \$150 is at the family's discretion.

Visitation at Funeral Home:

The priest will attend, if possible.

Cemetery

The funeral home or family arranges for burial at a cemetery. The priest will attend, if possible.

If there will be a procession to a cemetery from St. John's, please use the parking lot between the Chapel and the School for parking during the Funeral Mass.