

## Funeral Service Policies under Phase III St. Michael, St. Joseph, Most Sacred Heart

**Protocols in place since July 1, 2020** (The Diocese of Baton Rouge requires the Funeral Mass to follow Sunday Mass protocols.)  
**have changed minimally.**

1. No viewing or visitation in the church itself to insure the 6 foot social distance protocol is observed. A wake or visitation, if desired, must take place at the funeral home before coming to the church. Any eulogies or personal memorials must take place at the funeral home at this time. NOTE: The priest or deacon can offer visitation prayers at the funeral home prior to the procession to the church.
2. ALL people attending the funeral Mass MUST wear face masks inside the church throughout the Mass and MUST observe the social distance protocol, sitting in household groups according to the blue tape markings in the church.
3. Upon arrival at the church, all family and participants must enter the church and find their places in the pews. Parish volunteers will assist with the seating of funeral Mass participants. If the number of participants exceeds the capacity of the church, some might be required to remain outside.

	<b>Sacred Heart</b>	<b>St. Joseph</b>	<b>Prompt Succor</b>	<b>St. Michael</b>
<b>seating capacity</b>	16 singles 24 couples 16 families (4 per) 128 person max.	14 singles 52 couples 16 families (4 per) 182 person max.	38 singles 29 couples 96 person max.	17 singles 29 couples 29 families (4 per) 191 person max.

4. After participants are in the pews, the Entrance Procession with Celebrant and casket will take place. *Pall bearers who assist bringing the casket in will have rejoined their families.* NOTE: Music provided by piano/organ with cantor and minimal choir members.
5. The Mass will proceed as normal under coronavirus protocols:
  - a. The family can provide a Reader, or the church can provide one if needed.
  - b. There is no offertory procession with the Bread and Wine at this time.
  - c. Holy Communion (Hosts only) will be distributed by the Celebrant.
  - d. Church volunteers will assist the congregation to enter the aisle for Communion.
  - e. Because of the current restriction on altar servers, incense is not recommended.
6. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Celebrant will lead the casket with pall bearers out to the hearse. Church volunteers will direct family and other participants when to leave their pews, maintaining the social distance requirement. Family and others may drive or walk (each's personal preference) to the place of burial. Those walking are to remain in household groups observing the social distance protocol.
7. At the burial, the wearing of face masks and the social distance protocol are still in effect.
8. Our CDA can provide limited bereavement food for local families.

**These protocols were updated October 1, 2020,  
and remain in effect until modified by the Pastor.**