

Our Lady of Peace Church and Shrine  
2800 Mission College Blvd.  
Santa Clara, CA 95054  
408-988-4585



## Funerals at Our Lady of Peace Church

On behalf of our pastor, Father Jose Giunta, IVE, the IVE priests, our SSVM sisters, and the entire staff at Our Lady of Peace, please be assured of our sympathy, prayers and support during this difficult time. Dealing with the pain of losing a loved one is a difficult thing, but the Catholic funeral liturgy and traditions offer great comfort when confronting the death of a loved one.



In the Catholic funeral, not only is comfort offered to those in mourning, but also prayers for the deceased.

*“Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and intercessions.”*

*-Order of Christian Funerals, No. 6*

The information provided in this document will help in understanding the Order of Christian Funerals and policies at Our Lady of Peace Church and Shrine. Please note that it is customary and reasonable that families make an offering to the church, which would cover the utilities and materials used. This flyer includes a listing of standard stipends. As always, additional donations to Our Lady of Peace Church and Shrine in lieu of flowers would be graciously accepted. Mortuary personnel will go over these items with you as you finalize your arrangements.

# Traditional Services

A standard Catholic funeral, according to the Order of Christian Funerals, includes three separate ceremonies: the vigil service, the funeral liturgy, and the Rite of Committal. The funeral liturgy is the main service.

**The Vigil Service** - It is customary for Catholics to gather in the presence of the faithful to offer prayers of intercession and to share memories of their departed loved one. Usually this is done on the evening prior to the funeral Mass. Ordinarily, readings from Sacred Scripture and the recitation of the holy rosary are part of this vigil Service. The vigil service will ordinarily take place at the mortuary chapel.



Personal touches which would not be appropriate at the funeral Mass, such as eulogies, poetry, reflections, musical tributes, videos or slide shows of the deceased, may be included in the less formal vigil service. Another option is to conduct such tributes at a reception following the committal.

**The Funeral Liturgy** -- The funeral liturgy takes place in the church and may be conducted with or without a Mass. The family of the deceased person may choose to have the liturgy without a Mass in order to make non-Catholic mourners feel more comfortable and to avoid any possible misunderstandings about the proper restrictions regarding Holy Communion.

The Mass of Christian Burial is an act of the church offering the sacrifice of the Mass for the repose of the soul of a departed Christian. One of the priests of the parish will be the main celebrant, unless other arrangements have been made. Catholic priests who are friends of the family are certainly welcome to concelebrate.



The funeral Mass is celebrated with the body of the deceased present. A memorial Mass may be celebrated with the cremated remains or without the body present. Pictures and flowers in moderation are certainly allowed.

With the approval of the presiding priest, members of the family or friends who are confirmed Catholics may serve as readers at the funeral liturgy. A family member may contact the celebrant directly to select the readings used at the funeral Mass and to work out other details.

Since the Mass of Christian Burial is a public act of worship of the church and not a private act of devotion, eulogies or tributes to the deceased are not appropriate. Adding these elements may also cause logistical difficulties, not only for the parish schedule, but for the people attending, the cemetery schedule and others. Ordinarily the time allotted in the church schedule for a funeral Mass is one hour.

## The Rite of Committal

This brief prayer service is celebrated at the cemetery, and includes the blessing of the grave or place of committal, and may be accompanied by tributes, eulogies, readings and songs.



Often families arrange to have special music or mariachis for the ceremony.

# GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

## Setting the Date and Time of the Funeral

Arrangements ordinarily are arranged by the mortuary or funeral home you have chosen. They will contact the parish and make arrangements for the date and time and handle the required stipends for the church. If a resident priest is not available, our rectory staff will make every effort to find a non-resident priest.

## The Church Environment

Our Lady of Peace Parish and Shrine provides a traditional liturgical environment consistent with the liturgical season. You may wish to provide flowers to compliment the liturgy. You may do so at your own expense, provided you comply with the following requirements:

- Flower arrangements may not obstruct liturgical movement or view in the sanctuary. They may be delivered the morning of the Funeral and collected immediately following.
- Flowers should be delivered to the church no later than 30 minutes before the scheduled liturgy.
- The church has candles for the ambo and the altar; use of other candles for the ceremony is not permitted.

## Music Guidelines

The Mass of Christian Burial is always accompanied by music. Special requests of family members may be accommodated; keeping in mind that music must always be sacred in nature and not secular or popular music heard on the radio. Mariachis may be arranged for cemetery rites, but are not part of the funeral Mass, nor are they permitted outside the church after Mass.

The Music Director will confirm your music selections. It is to your benefit to use the parish organist, musicians and cantors as they are familiar with the liturgy, the church acoustics, and parish personnel.

Following are available options:

### ORGANISTS:

Mike Joyce [bassmike1017@aol.com](mailto:bassmike1017@aol.com)  
Sukyoung Cho [sykcho@gmail.com](mailto:sykcho@gmail.com)

### VOCALISTS:

Alphonse Gokey [alphonsegokey@yahoo.com](mailto:alphonsegokey@yahoo.com)  
Jennifer Paulino [jenniferpaulino@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferpaulino@gmail.com)

### VIOLINIST:

Eric Finley [biber392@yahoo.com](mailto:biber392@yahoo.com)

Family members or musician friends may participate only by prior arrangement with the Music Director. They may sing or play sacred music during the Mass but our church cantor should still be leading the rest of the music for the liturgy. The Music Director will ensure that all musicians are properly rehearsed (\$50/hr. for rehearsal, payable at time of rehearsal) to ensure the quality of the music.

A listing of appropriate music selections and recommendations on the selection of instrumentation is provided. Exceptions are subject to advance approval by both the Priest and Music Director. All music arrangements must be made through the Music Director. Choice and placement of music should be based on:

- Is the music's text, form, placement & style congruent with the liturgy?
- Is the music technically, aesthetically and expressively good irrespective of musical idiom or style?
- Will it help this assembly to pray?

## Photography

Photographers are permitted to take still photography during special liturgical events only according to the following guidelines:

1. Activities of the photographer may in no way intrude upon or distract from the liturgy itself.
2. **Flash photography is NOT allowed** from the time of the Preparation of the Gifts until after the Communion Rite. Only the existing lighting of the worship space may be used during the funeral liturgy.
3. Video cameras may be used to record the Mass provided that:
  - a. A single camera is stationed on a tripod near music area.
  - b. Any other camera is situated behind the last pew where the assembly is seated.Again, only the existing lighting in the worship space may be used.

As a common courtesy to all your guests, please inform them that flash photography is not permitted in the church during the liturgy.

# PLANNING WORKSHEET

There is no charge for the Rite of Christian Funeral. The Sacraments are not for sale. However, in keeping with our Christian tradition, it is right and fitting that you take part in the stewardship of the community and make the following offerings:

## The Church Offering:

The suggested offering to the church (includes church use, music director, and stipend for the resident priest celebrating the funeral liturgy) is \$250 and payable to the funeral home (or directly to the parish if no funeral home is

chosen). Additional musician fees are payable to Our Lady of Peace Church.

## Altar Servers:

Our rectory staff can assist in scheduling altar servers. Your gift of \$20.00 cash per Altar Server would be appreciated on the date of the funeral.

## Presiding Priest:

If a non-resident priest presides over the Funeral liturgy, vigil service, or rite of committal, the parish will cover the stipend of \$50/service.

## Approved Music Selections

Music selections are approved by the Music Director for the funeral liturgy. If you have any questions, call Bernadette Arnold, Music Director (408) 988-4585 ext. 2124 or email her at; [olopmusicdirector@yahoo.com](mailto:olopmusicdirector@yahoo.com).

Financial Planning Worksheet for the Funeral Services	
Services	Fees
A. Church Offering (includes cleaning fee, priest stipends)	\$250 donation
C. Altar Servers	\$20pp
D. Music Options	
Rehearsal Fees for alternate musicians or vocalists	\$50/hr
Parish Organist	\$150 to \$200
Parish Vocalist	\$150 to \$200
Parish Violinist	\$175
Parish Schola Choir (4-6 professional singers)	\$500
Parish String Quartet (2 violins, viola, cello)	\$600