

Preparing for a Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish

Dear friend,

In this time of loss and mourning, we extend to you our deepest sympathy and our heartfelt prayers. As you prepare to honor the life of your loved one through the celebration of the Funeral Mass, we are here to accompany you with care, respect, and the peace of our faith.

To help guide you through this process, we offer the following information:

1. **Scheduling**
Funeral Masses are celebrated on weekdays, but not on Saturdays or Sundays. We will work closely with you to find a suitable date and time.
2. **With the body or cremated remains**
The Funeral Mass may be celebrated either with the body present or with the cremated remains (ashes). Both are treated with equal reverence and respect.
3. **Language of the Celebration**
The Mass can be celebrated in **English, Portuguese, or Spanish**, according to your family's preference.
4. **Rosary Before the Mass**
Some families choose to pray the Rosary before the Mass. This is a beautiful and optional tradition that can be arranged if desired.
5. **Visitation and Final Farewell**
Before the Mass, you may wish to have a time of quiet visitation with the body. We usually offer this moment of farewell in the baptistery of the church, a peaceful and prayerful space.
6. **Photograph of the Deceased**
If the body is present, a photo may be placed at the entrance of the church. If the funeral is with ashes, the photo may be placed next to the urn.
7. **Words of Remembrance**
If someone from the family would like to share a few words in memory of the deceased, this may be done *before* the Mass begins. If the Rosary is prayed beforehand, the words can follow the Rosary and precede the Mass. Please know that this is optional — a choice made according to your comfort and desire.
8. **Length and Setting of the Tribute**
If a tribute is offered, it should be brief (no more than five minutes) and given by **one person only**. We kindly suggest that any additional sharing of memories and stories take place during the reception or family gathering afterward.
9. **Participation in the Liturgy**
The readings during the Mass are proclaimed by trained parish lectors. However, if a family member would like to participate in a special way, they are warmly invited to lead the Prayer of the Faithful.

Please know that we are here to serve you during this sacred time. May Our Lady of Fatima intercede for you, and may Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, give you comfort and hope.

With prayer and compassion,

The Parish Staff of Our Lady of Fatima