***St. Joseph Parish – Cottleville***

***Funeral Guidelines***

*“Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just. The Mass, the memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral.” USCCB*

*Through the Mass of Christian Burial we strengthen our faith and hope, comfort those who mourn, and bury the bodily remains of the deceased with care befitting what was the Temple of the Holy Spirit. A parish priest will work with those who have chosen to celebrate the life of their loved one with a Mass.*

The St. Joseph Bereavement Ministry

 A compassionate group of volunteers will prayerfully represent St. Joseph Parish at the visitation and welcome friends and family of the deceased person in the Gathering Area of the church for the funeral Mass. They are also available to act as lectors, extraordinary ministers, ushers and whatever else the family needs at the funeral Mass.

In addition, the committee offers an opportunity for grief support through the Seasons of Hope Ministry.

Funerals with a Funeral Home

The standard procedure for a funeral at St. Joseph is that a funeral director (funeral home or mortuary) work with St. Joseph parish staff to set up the details of the visitation, funeral Mass, luncheon and interment.

The funeral home provides a comfortable visitation space for greeting family and friends and allows the family to select the best time frame for the visitation.

They also provide valuable assistance with writing and placement of obituaries in local newspapers, ordering death certificates, easels for pictures and memory displays, guest books, prayer cards, and programs. We encourage families to take advantage of the resources that are offered by the funeral home.

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Funerals Without A Funeral Home

There are times when a family chooses not to utilize the services of a funeral home. In these instances the family is asked to call the Parish Office to arrange dates and times of events.

St. Joseph will strive to ensure your loved one is honored and has a proper Christian liturgical celebration.

Please be aware of the visitation guidelines below and the limitations of the resources we can offer.

Items such as prayer cards, programs, and guest book must be provided by the family and can be purchased either at a funeral home or a Catholic book/supply store.

Visitations At St. Joseph

Visitation at St. Joseph is limited to one hour before the funeral Mass in the Gathering Area. The limited resources available for use include the following: tables with table cloths for flowers, prayer cards and programs; two or three easels to display picture boards; and a lectern for the guest book. If an urn is present, a small square table with a cloth is provided.

Audio/Visual equipment is not available for a Life Tribute video to be shown. The family is welcome to have a video of this type if they, or the funeral home, provide and operate the necessary equipment.

Arrival time to set-up for the visitation is 15 minutes prior to the scheduled visitation time. A representative from the Bereavement Ministry will be present to ensure that set up goes smoothly.

The family members will need to make arrangements to have all of the flowers/plants removed from the church after the funeral Mass.

*Our church is a sacred and holy place; therefore, food and drink are not allowed in the church building. You will be asked to remove or dispose of any such items if they are brought in.*

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Words of Remembrance

Words of Remembrance for the deceased are best done during the luncheon following the funeral. This provides a more informal setting and will be more conducive to sharing personal aspects of your loved one’s life.

If the family determines that they would like one person to speak at the end of Mass, please talk to the priest who will be celebrating the funeral Mass. He will provide the guidelines and the time frame for such remarks.

Interment

Clergy will accompany the family to the place where the remains of your loved one will be interred unless otherwise instructed.

Funeral Luncheon

If desired, a luncheon can be arranged in most cases after the funeral. This must be coordinated through the Parish Office. An estimate of how many people are expected is required. An offering to defray the cost of food is suggested. We use the Parish Hall for the luncheon when it is available. If our hall is not available, we attempt to schedule the Knights of Columbus Hall (one mile from the church on Highway N). The Parish Hall offers audio/visual equipment so that a Life Tribute can be shown during the luncheon. It is recommended that one or two family members arrange to receive a short training regarding the operation of the audio/visual equipment one or two days prior.

*On behalf of the staff and parishioners of St. Joseph, may the peace and consolation of Christ be yours.*

**Funeral Costs**

Church $100, by check made payable to the church.

Priest $50, by check made payable to the individual.

Cantor $100, by check made payable to the individual.

Organist $100, by check made payable to the individual.

Deacon $25, by check made payable to the individual.

Servers 3 @ $10 each – cash.

Luncheon An offering to defray the cost of the food is

 requested. Please make check payable to the church.

 Suggested amount: $1 to $3 per person.