

Planning a FUNERAL LITURGY AT SAINT TERESA OF AVILA CHURCH



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The parish priests and staff of Saint Teresa of Avila Church wish to extend to you, the family and friends our deepest condolences and heart-felt prayers for your deceased loved one. Please know that we are aware of how stressful and draining this time of preparation can be, but rest assured that we are here to do everything we can to assist you. That is why we have prepared this preliminary guide for your review, so that you can make an informed decision about how to proceed with planning a funeral liturgy at a Catholic church.

The celebration of the Eucharist is the most important thing we do as Catholics, and all else is secondary. That is why it is of the utmost importance to preserve the solemnity of the sacrament, especially in the context of a funeral mass. As you review the following parameters, please know that they are not put in place to diminish the memory of your loved one, but rather to magnify the fundamental belief that those who have died with Christ will rise again to new life in the Spirit, and keep the focus solely on the Resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

In accordance with the Archdiocesan policy stated below, the following will not be permitted, without exception:

- 1. Spoken eulogies or readings of the obituary in the church before, during, or after a Funeral Mass or Memorial Service.**
- 2. Spoken “Words of Welcome”, “Words of Thanks”, or “Words of Remembrance”, in the church before, during, or after a Funeral Mass or Memorial Service.**
- 3. Preselected music or musicians without consultation and approval of the Music Director.***

**Music selections should be appropriate to the liturgy and sacred in nature. (Please refer to the Liturgy Planner for a list of suggested music selections)*

EULOGY POLICY - ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

According to the Order of Christian Funerals, “A brief homily based on the readings is always given after the gospel reading at the funeral liturgy and may also be given after the readings at the vigil service; but there is never to be a eulogy.” (OCF, 27) In the Archdiocese of Newark, no eulogies are to take place within the context of any of the funeral liturgies including the vigil service, funeral Mass or the rite of committal. Eulogies may be delivered during the time of visitation outside of the vigil service itself or at the cemetery following the rite of committal.

We at Saint Teresa's understand that due to certain pastoral needs, a different service with eulogies by the family or friends, outside of the celebration of mass, may be necessary. The following options may be considered by the family in consultation with the parish staff.

- 1. Memorial Service with Eulogies in the Church:** this service would include the Liturgy of the Word (*readings from scripture*), homily by the presider, eulogies (*maximum of 3*), prayers and final commendation, with music. (*No Holy Communion is distributed*)
- 2. Memorial Service with Eulogies in the Memorial Hall:** this service would include the Liturgy of the Word (*readings from scripture*), homily by the presider, eulogies (*maximum of 3*), prayers and final commendation, with music. (*No Holy Communion is distributed*) Additionally, it may be permitted that music of a secular nature can be used, prerecorded or otherwise, within reason, and only with the approval of the Music Director. Audio/visual presentations may also be permitted on the screens with the Music Director's approval of the content. (*No Holy Communion is distributed*)

We encourage you to contact our parish staff with any questions regarding our policy and we want you to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. We look forward to honoring your loved one with dignity and devotion as they go forth to meet the Lord in heaven.

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