The whole parish mourns with you and holds you in prayer. We extend our deepest sympathy to you. This is a difficult time for families. Our parish desires to provide some consolation for you, your family, and your friends through the time-honored Church’s rituals that tap into the depth of our faith in Jesus Christ, who conquers death through resurrection and new life.

The three main rituals of the Church assist you in grieving, celebrating the life of your loved one, and saying goodbye are the Vigil (Wake) Service, Funerary Mass, and Gravesite Committal Service. You are invited and encouraged to help in the planning of the funeral services. We request that any decisions be made promptly so that our staff can prepare for your desired funeral services.

1. Vigil (Wake) Service

The Vigil (Wake) Service, which typically occurs the evening prior to the Funerary Mass, is a Liturgy of the Word service. It is a time for “mourners to express their deep sorrow and to find strength and consolation through faith in Jesus Christ and his resurrection to eternal life.” It includes prayers and Scripture readings, and may be followed by several eulogies and/or recitation of the rosary, led by the family or friends. This is an opportune time for family and friends to share stories and remembrances. We suggest that the rosary be prayed after your friends offer their condolences, for the sake of those who have to leave early.

2. Funerary Mass

At the Funerary Mass, “the community gathers with the family and friends of the deceased to give praise and thanks to God for Christ’s victory over sin and death, to commend the deceased to God’s tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the paschal mystery.” This is where our faith in Christ actualizes our hope and joy for our deceased loved one, reaping the rewards of eternal life and peace with God in heaven.

3. Gravesite Committal Service

The Gravesite Committal Service follows the reception or the Funerary Mass and occurs at the cemetery. This ritual is “the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of the deceased member.” Through prayers of farewell, your loved one is committed to his/her resting place. “The deceased passes with the farewell prayers of the community of believers into the welcoming company of those who need no longer but see God face to face.”

Here are a few basic tips to help you and your family prepare for the Funerary Mass:

Time of the Funeral

Please work with the priest in scheduling the time of the funeral. There is a lot of flexibility, but it depends on availability of the church and ministers, in addition to the family and friends’ schedule.

Wake

The wake service is a Liturgy of the Word and is usually scheduled the evening prior to the Funerary Mass. It will include prayers and readings. It may be followed by several eulogies and/or a recitation of the rosary lead by the family or friends. We suggest that the rosary be prayed after your friends offer condolences.

Reading Selections and Readers

Usually two or three readers are needed for the Mass. If you have one or two family members of friends who read at church, please inform the priest. The priest will give you several biblical readings to choose and will discuss the general intercessions. A list of funeral readings can be found by following the link at the bottom of www.calnewman.org/sacraments.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

If you have one or two family members of friends who are commissioned Eucharistic Ministers, please inform the priest. Otherwise, the parish will provide this service.

Gift Bearers

It is customary for two adult members of the family to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine at the Offertory.

Music

Our Music Director, Colleen Lenord, will assist you in making choices for the music at the Funerary Mass. A pianist and a parish cantor will provide all the necessary music at the Mass. Places of the Mass where music is found include Entrance Processional, Preparation of the Gifts, Communion, post-Communion Meditation (optional), and Recessional.

If time permits, the parish will prepare a worship aid. It will include the order of worship and the music for the Mass to assist the assembly.

Reception

A simple reception can be held after the Funerary Service in our Multiversity Room.

At the Church...

Reception of the Body at the Church

The funeral home will bring the casket into the church prior to the Mass. The family should stand off to the side in our Gathering Space while other friends arrive for the Mass.
The pallbearers and family will gather behind the casket as the welcoming announcements are made.

Flags
The national flag may be draped over the casket upon entering the church. The flag is removed before the Mass by the funeral home. A white pall will be draped over the casket calling to mind the deceased’s baptism garment. After the Mass, the casket is returned to the lobby where the pall will be removed and the flag placed upon the casket.

Eulogies at Mass
Most Masses will last about an hour. We request that all eulogies be said at the Wake or at the reception. If a eulogy is to be given, it must be respectful of the sacred Mass and kept to a reasonable length.

Parking
We have limited parking on the north side of the Church.

Fees and Stipends
To compensate folks fairly for their services, our expenses are as follows: Newman-Holy Spirit ($300), cantor ($150), keyboardist ($150), sacristan ($100), and if needed, Reception Hall ($150). Once we know the date, we can provide names. Please let us know if this is an excessive financial burden to the family and we will adjust.

We know this is a lot of information, but we hope that providing these tips will assist you in celebrating your loved one’s life.

With our prayers,
Staff at Newman Hall-Holy Spirit Parish

Rev. 8/19

---

PLANNING WORKSHEET

Readings:
Old Testament Reading: ________________
Read by: _______________________

New Testament Reading: ________________
Read by: _______________________

Gospel Reading: ________________
Read by: _______________________

General Intercessions
Read by: _______________________

Presentation of the Gifts: (optional)
Gifts brought forward by:
______________________________

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (2-3):
______________________________

Altar Servers:
______________________________

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS:
______________________________
______________________________

Expected number to attend the Funeral service: ___
(number of Catholics: _____ )