

ST. BLASE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Order of
Christian
Funerals*

For more information or to plan a funeral, please contact
Mary Dumm in the Parish Office.

12151 E. 15 Mile Rd. Sterling Heights, MI 48312

(586)268-2244 | STBLASE.ORG

The Order of Christian Funerals

Parishes often receive notice that a member of their assembly has died when the local funeral director calls to make arrangements for the funeral liturgy. It is our hope that this brochure gives you a greater level of understanding as to what outreach is available to you from St. Blase Parish.

“At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of Baptism and strengthened at the Eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life.” (Order of Christian Funerals # 4)

In union with all Christ’s faithful people, the prayer of the Church brings spiritual help to our loved one and consoling hope to those who mourn as we give witness to our faith in the future resurrection of the baptized with Christ.

The staff here at St. Blase would be very happy to work with you individually to plan your loved one’s funeral. After meeting with the local funeral director, please call the parish to make an appointment with our Pastoral Associate, Dr. Mary Dumm to discuss the celebration of the funeral rites.

We have four movements with the prayer for the Order of Christian Funerals (to the right)

Cremation Information

Can Catholics be cremated? Yes. Since 1963 Catholics have had the choice to be cremated.

When should the cremation take place? The Church prefers that the cremation take place after the full funeral liturgy. However in American culture, cremation often takes place immediately after death.

If the cremation takes place immediately after death, what about the funeral liturgy? If this is the case, then the cremated remains should be brought to the Church for the funeral liturgy in a worthy container. There are prayers in the Order of Christian Funerals for cremation.

May we scatter the ashes? No. “The practice of scattering cremated remains...or keeping cremated remains in the home...are not the revert disposition that the Church requires. (Order of Christian Funerals, Appendix II)

So what should we do? Respectful disposition of cremated remains involves interment or entombment. Your funeral director is able to explain these options.

The Vigil Service

The night before the Eucharistic Liturgy is celebrated, you will gather your family and friends at the funeral home for a time of remembering. Our Church tradition teaches us that “at the vigil the Christian community keeps watch with the family in prayer to the God of mercy and finds strength in Christ’s presence.” St. Blase Parish enters into this process of remembering by offering the prayer of the Church which is a scripture service calling us to an awareness of God’s mercy.

Some families do have a long tradition of praying the rosary together as a family. If this is your tradition, then our parish wants to respect that tradition. Since we do not have ministers prepared to lead a rosary, we encourage different family members to lead the different decades of the prayer, and perhaps offer scriptural references to Christ’s message of comfort. The parish staff can assist you in resources for planning the rosary.

Gathering Rite

On the morning of the funeral, it is our tradition to gather with your family and friends at St. Blase Church, not the funeral home. These gathering rites allow us the time to be with you and pray with you on the morning of the funeral. The procession of cars is formed here at St. Blase, and the family is given private time with their loved one prior to the procession into church.

Eucharistic Liturgy

When you meet with our Pastoral Staff they will want to discuss your special memories of your loved one. Then, together you will discuss choices for music and Sacred Scripture. Some members of your family may be Lectors or Eucharistic Ministers. If they are, this is an appropriate time to incorporate their ministry into the Rites for Christian Burial. Your family may also wish to place the pall on the casket at the liturgy or present the bread and wine at the preparation of the gifts. All these choices are discussed at the meeting with our staff.

Please remember in choosing music that only Church songs and hymns can be used. Another common question regards a eulogy at mass. This is not a part of the Catholic funeral liturgy. We encourage families to offer remembrances at either the wake service or at a funeral luncheon.

Cemetery: Rite of Committal

The fourth phase of the Rites of Christian Burial are the prayers that are offered at the cemetery. Our tradition teaches us that “the rite of committal marks the separation in this life of the mourners from the deceased, and through it the community assists them as they complete their care for the deceased and lay the body to rest.”