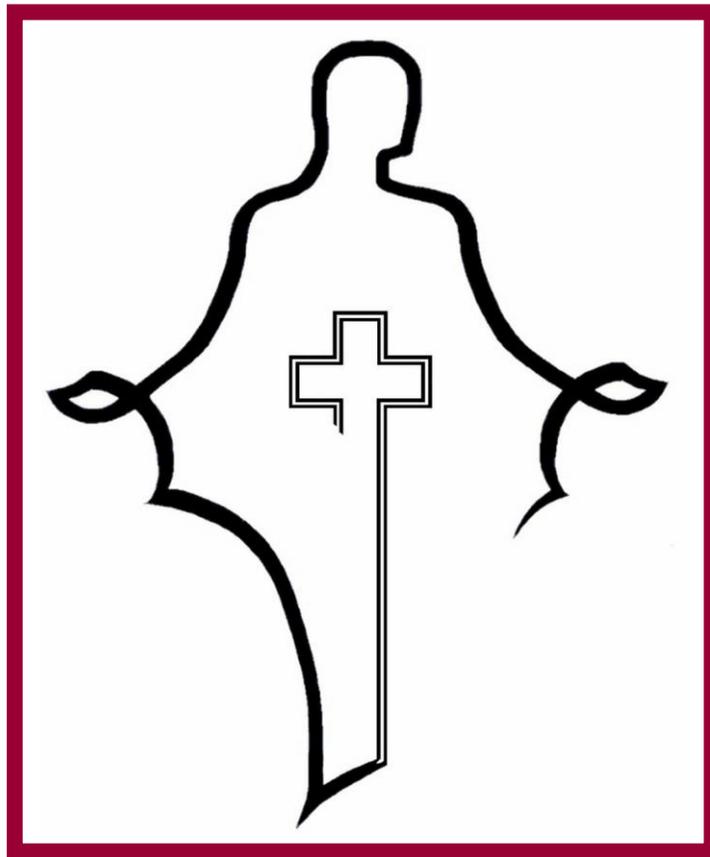


*May the angels lead  
you into Paradise...*



*Planning the Funeral Rites  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church*

Newton, Iowa

# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

## Funeral Celebration

Newton, Iowa

*At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith began in the waters of baptism and was 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.*

The information provided here is given for the funeral of an adult. If the deceased is a child, other options may be available, which should be discussed personally with the parish staff who is assisting you in the funeral planning.

### **First Gathering in the Presence of the Body**

The Church recognizes that the occasion of the family's first viewing of the body of the deceased at the funeral home can be an emotionally difficult time. Accordingly, the church provides a brief prayer service to support the family at the time of the first viewing. This service consists of the sign of the cross, a sprinkling with holy water, the recitation of a psalm, the Lord's Prayer, and a concluding prayer and blessing.

A priest, deacon or pastoral minister will, if desired, celebrate this prayer service at the time of the first viewing if it can be appropriately scheduled.

**Sacred Heart  
Catholic Church**

**1115 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Newton, IA 50208**

**Parish: 641-792-2050  
Rectory: 641-792-4625**

# Visitation and the Vigil Service

## Location

The visitation and the vigil service can be held at the funeral home or at the church. The availability of the church may obviously be affected by the Mass schedule or other liturgies already scheduled, e.g., a wedding, solemn vespers, a penance service, etc. Families who desire to hold the visitation and vigil service in the church should make this known early in the funeral planning process.

## The Vigil Service

The liturgical rite celebrated in conjunction with the visitation is the Vigil Service. This is a scripture based service with an opening and closing hymn, an opening prayer, scripture readings, a brief homily, the Lord's Prayer, a closing prayer, and a blessing.

This rite provides an opportunity for family members or close friends of the deceased to share remembrances and stories of the deceased. This is not, however, a time for thank-yous on behalf of the deceased or his or her family. The intention is for this to be a time to share stories from the life of the deceased that reveal how he or she lived a life of Gospel values.

The opportunity to share remembrances is optional in the Vigil Service. Prior to the Vigil Service, discuss this matter with the minister who will be presiding so he or she will know whether to invite the sharing of remembrances during the Vigil Service. If the Vigil Service is to include remembrances, it is helpful to pre-arrange for a few people to share their stories.

## Praying the Rosary during the Visitation

If the family desires to pray the Rosary during the visitation, the family is encouraged to identify an individual who will lead the recitation of the Rosary. If there is a desire for an individual outside of the family to lead the Rosary the family should make this known during the funeral planning.



Praying the Rosary may not replace the Vigil Service, which remains the principal liturgical celebration during the visitation. The recitation of the Rosary should be scheduled for a time apart from the Vigil Service.

*Where will the visitation be held?*

*Stories and remembrances may be shared during the vigil.*

*When the vigil service is at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the parish will provide coffee and cookies in McCann Center after the vigil.*

*Identify who will lead the Rosary.*

# The Funeral Celebration

The Funeral Mass is the principal parish celebration following the death of a Catholic Christian. 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 and to commend the deceased to God's tender mercy and compassion.

In some cases, particularly those in which the deceased has not been faithfully practicing the Catholic faith, or few members of the deceased family are Catholic, it may be preferable to celebrate a Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass rather than a Funeral Mass. The Priest or Deacon involved with the funeral planning will assist in determining whether a Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass or Funeral Mass will be celebrated.

## **Scheduling Concerns**

Due to the special character of the following days, the Church does not permit a Funeral Mass to be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday. The Funeral Mass may not be celebrated on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, or the Easter season, or on these Holy Days of Obligation:

- December 8: Immaculate Conception
- December 25: Nativity of the Lord
- January 1: Mary, Mother of God\*
- Ascension of the Lord
- August 15: The Assumption of Mary\*
- November 1: All Saints\*

\*= Funeral Mass may be celebrated when the obligation is abrogated.

If necessary, a Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass could be celebrated on some of these days, with a Memorial Mass to be scheduled later.

# The Funeral Mass at Sacred Heart

## Entrance

The Funeral Mass will begin with the reception of the body in the gathering space of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

The casket is sprinkled with holy water and then is dressed for the liturgy by covering it with the funeral pall, a large white blanket. The altar servers or the funeral director places the folded pall on the casket.

When the pall is in place on the casket, the altar servers and clergy will then enter the church, followed by the casket and the immediate family. This occurs during the gathering song. The funeral directors will position the casket and will assist the family members as they enter the pews that have been reserved. Family members should remain standing.

When the entrance song is finished, a symbol of the Christian life may be placed on the casket. This may be a crucifix, a cross, a prayer book, a bible, a rosary, or something that was a meaningful symbol of the Christian life for the deceased. Secular symbols (national flags, insignia of associations, etc.) or personal non-religious items are not to be placed on or near the coffin during the funeral liturgy. The opening prayer follows, and then the congregation is seated for the scripture readings.

## Readings

The scriptures at the Funeral Mass include a reading from the Old Testament, a responsorial psalm, a New Testament reading, and the proclamation of the Gospel. The deceased, prior to death, or members of the family, may choose the Old and New Testament readings. The homilist will select the Gospel passage.

A lector proclaims the Old Testament and New Testament passages. The reading of Scripture during a Eucharistic celebration in the Catholic Church is to be done by a Catholic. Permission from the Bishop is required if the reader is a member of another Church. It is of utmost importance that the scriptures be proclaimed well. An experienced lector may find it easier than a family member to perform this ministry at the funeral.

After the scripture readings, the presider, or deacon, will preach a homily. Through the homily, members of the family and community receive consolation and strength to face the death of their loved one. The

*Holy water is used as a reminder of the deceased's being claimed by Christ in Baptism. The pall is a symbol of the deceased being clothed in Christ in Baptism.*

*Family members may unfold the pall, thus dressing the casket for the Funeral Mass.*

*The pallbearers are customarily seated on the right side of the church (east side), but if they are also family members, they may sit with other members of their family.*

*If desired, a family member may place an appropriate religious item on the casket.*

*Carefully consider whether a member of the immediate family should be asked to serve as a lector. This may be too difficult emotionally for a family member to do.*

homily is not a eulogy, but rather dwells on God's compassionate love and the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection present in the life and death of the deceased.

If there is a deacon assisting with the service, he reads the prayers of the faithful. Otherwise, the lector will read them.

## **Eucharist**

The liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the presentation song and the presentation of the bread and wine. A brief presentation song is appropriate.

The liturgy of the Eucharist continues in the same manner as at any weekend parish liturgy. At Sacred Heart, the Eucharist is distributed in the form of both the Sacred Body and the Precious Blood of the Lord.

### ***Regarding the Reception of Holy Communion at the Funeral Mass***

*During the Funeral Mass, Holy Communion, that is, the Eucharist, will be offered to the Catholic faithful. Non-Catholic members of the deceased's family should be reminded that only Catholics may approach the altar to receive Holy Communion. Non-Catholic pallbearers should be reminded of this, so they do not follow a Catholic pallbearer to Communion.*

*Similarly, Catholics who are not in a state of grace, or who are living in invalid unions, should refrain from receiving Holy Communion. Catholics who are in need of celebrating reconciliation, that is, the Sacrament of Penance, are encouraged to ask the priest to celebrate this Sacrament with them in the days before the Funeral Mass.*

## **Final Commendation**

The Final Commendation and Farewell are celebrated, which consist of an invitation to prayer, the incensation of the casket and the paschal candle, the singing of the Song of Farewell (found in the music issue of the church hymn books), and the Prayer of Commendation.

Following the Final Farewell the recessional forms. The cross, altar servers, clergy, casket, pallbearers, and immediate family exit in that order. The members of the faithful follow. During the recessional, the final hymn is sung.

## **Procession**

A procession is formed and the body is accompanied to the place of committal. This final procession of the funeral rite mirrors the journey of human life as a pilgrimage to God's Kingdom of peace and light. The Rite of Committal at the cemetery concludes the funeral liturgy.

*Discuss with the priest or deacon assisting you in planning the Funeral Mass how many extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist are needed*

*The incensation signifies respect for the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit.*

*The Easter Candle reminds us of Christ's undying presence among us.*

*Continue to the "Rite of Committal" on page 10.*

# Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass at Sacred Heart

The Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass which is celebrated when there will not be a Funeral Mass (including those few days when a Funeral Mass is prohibited) begins with the reception of the body in the gathering space of the church.

## Entrance

The casket is sprinkled with holy water as a reminder of the deceased having been claimed by Christ in baptism.

The casket is dressed for the liturgy by covering it with the funeral pall, the large white blanket that is a symbol of the deceased being clothed in Christ in baptism. The altar servers or the funeral directors place the folded pall on the casket.

When the pall is in place on the casket, the servers and clergy will enter the church, followed by the casket and the immediate family during the gathering song. The funeral directors will position the casket and assist the family members as they enter the pews that have been reserved for them. Family members should remain standing for the entrance song and for the rites, which will immediately follow.

When the entrance song is finished, a symbol of the Christian life may be placed on the casket. This may be a crucifix, a cross, a prayer book, a bible, a rosary, or something that was a meaningful symbol of the Christian life for the deceased. Secular symbols (national flags, insignia of associations, etc.) are not to be placed on or near the coffin during the funeral liturgy. The opening prayer follows, after which the congregation is seated for the scripture readings.

## Readings

The scriptures at the Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass include a reading from the Old Testament, a responsorial psalm, a New Testament reading, and the proclamation of the Gospel. The deceased, prior to death, or members of the family may choose the Old and New Testament readings. The selection of the Gospel passage is left to the homilist of the liturgy.

A lector proclaims the Old Testament and New Testament readings. It

*Holy water is used as a reminder of the deceased being claimed by Christ in Baptism. The pall is a symbol of the deceased being clothed in Christ in Baptism.*

*Family members may unfold the pall, thus dressing the casket for the Funeral Mass.*

*The pallbearers are customarily seated on the right side of the church, but if they are also family members, they may sit with other members of their family.*

*If desired, a family member may place an appropriate religious item on the casket.*

*Carefully consider whether a member of the immediate family should be asked to serve as a lector. This may be too difficult emotionally for a family member to do.*

is of utmost importance that the scriptures be proclaimed well. An experienced lector may find it easier than a family member to perform this ministry at the funeral.

After the scripture readings, the presider, or deacon, will preach a homily. Through the homily, members of the family and community receive consolation and strength to face the death of their loved one. The homily is not a eulogy, but rather dwells on God's compassionate love and the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection present in the life and death of the deceased.

If there is a deacon assisting with the service, he reads the prayers of the faithful. Otherwise, the lector will read them.

### **Final Commendation**

The Final Commendation and Farewell consisting of an invitation to prayer, the incensation of the casket and the paschal candle, the singing of the Song of Farewell (found in the music issue of the church hymn books), and the Prayer of Commendation begins.

Following the Final Farewell is the recessional, during which the final hymn is sung.

### **Procession**

A procession is formed and the body is accompanied to the place of committal. This final procession of the funeral rite mirrors the journey of human life as a pilgrimage to God's Kingdom of peace and light. The Rite of the Committal at the cemetery concludes the funeral liturgy.

*Continue to "The Rite of Committal" on page 10.*

# The Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass at the Funeral Home

## Entrance

A Funeral Mass will not be celebrated at the funeral home. The Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass that is celebrated at the funeral home begins with the entrance song. The casket is sprinkled with holy water, a reminder of the deceased having been claimed by Christ in baptism.

A symbol of the Christian life may be placed on the casket. This may be a crucifix, a cross, a prayer book, a bible, a rosary, or something that was a meaningful symbol of the Christian life for the deceased. The opening prayer follows and then the congregation is seated for the scripture readings.

## Readings

The scriptures at the Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass include a reading from the Old Testament, a responsorial psalm, a New Testament reading, and the proclamation of the Gospel. The deceased, prior to death, or members of the family, may choose the Old and New Testament readings and the responsorial psalm. The homilist will select an appropriate Gospel passage.

The Old Testament and New Testament readings are proclaimed by a lector. Of primary importance is the scriptures being read well. An experienced lector may find it easier than a family member to perform this ministry at the funeral.

After the scripture readings, the presider, or deacon, will preach a homily. Through the homily, members of the family and community receive consolation and strength to face the death of their loved one. The homily is not a eulogy, but rather dwells on God's compassionate love and the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection present in the life and death of the deceased.

If there is a deacon assisting with the service, he reads the prayers of the faithful. Otherwise, the lector will read them.

*If desired, a family member may place an appropriate religious item on the casket.*

*Carefully consider whether a member of the immediate family should be asked to serve as a lector. This may be too difficult emotionally for a family member to do.*

## **Final Commendation**

Following the Lord's Prayer, one or more family members, or friend of the family, may speak in remembrance of the deceased. This tribute should not detract from the prayerful solemnity of the liturgy. Discuss this with the minister who will be presiding.

The Final Commendation and Farewell are celebrated, including an invitation to prayer, the singing of the Song of Farewell, and the Prayer of Commendation.

Following the Final Farewell, a recessional hymn may be sung.

## **Procession**

A procession is formed and the body is accompanied to the place of committal. This final procession of the funeral rite mirrors the journey of human life as a pilgrimage to God's Kingdom of peace and light. The Rite of the Committal at the cemetery concludes the funeral liturgy.

*Continue to "The Rite of Committal" on page 10.*

*If someone would like to share remembrances, it is helpful to pre-arrange the sharing with the minister in advance.*

# The Rite of Committal

The Rite of Committal, the conclusion of the funeral rites, is the final act of the community of faith in caring for the body of its deceased member. If there are military or other rites celebrated at the cemetery these should be celebrated first, with the rite of the church to be celebrated last.

When the casket is appropriately positioned above the grave and the mourners have assembled, the Rite of Committal begins with an invitation to prayer, the reading of a scripture verse, and a prayer over the place of committal, which includes a sprinkling of the grave with holy water. Next is the act of committal, in which the casket is lowered into the vault. Following the committal are intercessions, the Lord's Prayer, concluding prayers, a blessing, and a dismissal.

This liturgical action is called the Rite of Committal, and presumes that the body will actually be buried during the celebration of the rite. The option to bury the body during the Church's rite is something that many families have not realized was available to them. Not all families want to be present when the casket is lowered into the ground. Some families or individuals may find it too emotionally difficult to be present at this time.

You may have the casket and/or vault lowered during the committal rite, as the church presumes the ritual action to occur, or the family may prefer to have the casket and/or vault lowered into the ground after the mourners have departed the gravesite.

Even though the Church's Funeral Rite presumes that the body will be buried during the funeral rite, this is not the common custom in the United States.

If the family elects to have the burial occur during the Rite of Committal, some ritual gesture of leave-taking is appropriate at the end of the committal. An example would be the sprinkling of the vault with dirt as people depart the gravesite.

Following the Rite of Committal, the family and mourners usually gather for a funeral meal served at McCann Center by the Church Life Commission of Sacred Heart parish.

*This option should be carefully considered and your choice made known to the funeral home staff and the clergy assisting in the funeral planning.*

# Suggested Music for Funerals

(with song numbers from 2011 Heritage Missal)

## Gathering Songs

Be Not Afraid	#428
As the Deer Longs	#118
Keep In Mind	#357
How Great Thou Art	#400
The King of Love, My Shepherd Is	#452

## Preparation of Gifts

Prayer of St. Francis	#461
Amazing Grace	#432
I Know My Redeemer Lives	#353
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	#340
I Heard the Voice of Jesus	#451

## Communion Songs

Eat This Bread	#511
I Am the Bread of Life	#504
The Lord is My Light	#354
On Eagle's Wings	#435
The Supper of the Lord	#510

## Recessional/ Sending Forth

Jesus Remember Me	#257
Shall We Gather at the River?	#539
Only This I Want	#479
I Know My Redeemer Lives	#260
City of God	#522
*Soon and Very Soon	#551

## Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is My Shepherd	page 113-114
Shepherd Me, O God	#100
Because The Lord is My Shepherd	#356

## Final Commendation:

Song of Farewell	#358
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*\*Not to be used during Lent*

***Pre-recorded music is never preferred at the funeral liturgies of the church.***

Sacred music has an integral role in the funeral rites. It should express the Paschal Mystery and the Christian's share in it. Secular music even though it may reflect on the background, character, interests, or personal preferences of the deceased or mourners, is not appropriate for the Sacred Liturgy.

Recorded music is not permitted at any funeral rite celebrated in the church. Recorded music might be tolerated at a vigil service, or a Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass at the funeral home, if such recordings are not merely expressions of romance, sentimentality, or a personal egoism, but must be representative of the Christian themes of redemption and salvation as understood in Catholic teaching and experienced in Catholic worship. The clergy will be the arbiters of what is acceptable for use.

## **Public Announcements & Obituaries**

Sometimes in the press, there are errors in language in describing the funeral rites of the Church. It is important to be careful and accurate in describing the church's funeral services. Usually on the afternoon or evening before the principal service, the church celebrates a *Vigil Service*. On the day of the principal service, the church celebrates either a *Funeral Mass* or a *Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass*. The phrase "The Mass of the Resurrection" is not an appropriate phrase for describing the Funeral Mass. Likewise inappropriate is the phrase "Mass of Christian Burial," as the burial does not occur during the Mass.

In a similar vein, the subject of cremation gives rise to inappropriate language use. Particularly offensive is the phrase "cremation rites were accorded." Cremation as it is practiced in this country is not a ritual act, and so it is entirely inappropriate to use the word "rite" or "ritual" in reference to the act of cremation. Likewise, the word "cremains" should be avoided. In its place the proper term is "cremated remains."

## **The Catholic and Cremation**

Our Lord's death was observed by burying his body intact where it remained until his glorious resurrection. For this reason, the church prefers intact burial of the human body of the deceased. In the present time, some individuals or families are choosing cremation rather than intact burial of the natural body. If this is chosen for reasons which are not contrary to the faith (e.g., to frustrate the belief in the resurrection of the dead at the end of time) the church allows ecclesiastical funeral rites to be celebrated.

The further preference of the church is that cremation would follow the customary Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass. It is important to note that cremated remains are to be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. In the Davenport Diocese, if cremation is to take place, a burial place in a grave or entombment in a mausoleum or columbarium is to be established in advance of celebrating the Funeral Liturgy. The Davenport Diocese policy on funerals states, "The cremated remains may not be scattered, subdivided, crafted into jewelry, pottery, or other objects, mixed with cremated remains of other individuals or pets, or kept at home. Because of our belief in the resurrection of the body, and the respect that the body is to be accorded, we find such practices repulsive. Cremated remains are to be honored with burial in a blessed grave or placed in a mausoleum or columbarium. Burial at sea is also

permitted as long as the cremated remains are placed in an appropriate container (and not simply scattered).” The death of a parishioner will not be recorded in the sacramental record book until after the interment takes place.

### **Homilist for the Funeral Mass or Service**

The pastor or deacon assigned to the parish will ordinarily preach at the Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass. At the request of the family, another priest or deacon who is authorized to preach is welcome to deliver the funeral homily.

### **Flower Arrangements in Sacred Heart**

Donor tags must be removed when cut flowers or plants are placed in the sanctuary of the church.

### **The Funeral Luncheon**

The parish offers to serve a funeral luncheon in McCann Center following the burial. The family is responsible for the cost of the meat, buns, green beans and chips. The parish will provide the salads, desserts and beverages. Any proposed variation from this menu, will need to be negotiated with the funeral luncheon coordinator. A funeral director will contact the appropriate parish representative to make preliminary arrangements for the luncheon. The family will need to indicate the approximate number of guests for the funeral luncheon.

### **Offering for Mass Intentions**

Guests at the visitation and funeral service may choose to make a monetary offering for the celebration of Holy Mass for the intention of the deceased. Following the funeral ceremonies, the parish clergy will obtain from the funeral home the Mass offerings. The envelopes will be opened, the offerings removed, and the amount of the offering marked on each envelope. Families may request Mass stipends be forwarded to a Catholic parish of their choice. The envelopes will be given to the family for its use in sending acknowledgments and thank-yous.

### **Designation of Recipient for Memorial Gifts**

Guests at the visitation may wish to make a donation in memory of the deceased to an appropriate charity. It may be helpful for guests who come for visitation if the family specifies an appropriate charity

*During the Lenten Season, no flowers may be placed in the sanctuary.*

*Should the family of the deceased wish to make a donation to the parish following the meal, it will be graciously received.*

*If the deceased was not a member of Sacred Heart Parish, a larger donation would be in order.*

as the designated memorial for the deceased. Sometimes the family identifies an organization that the deceased supported or the deceased belonged. Or a medically related group is identified which engages in research or support for particular types of illness, e.g., Cancer Society, Heart Fund, Lung Association, etc.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church would be pleased to be identified as a beneficiary of memorial gifts. Other appropriate church related entities are the Diocese of Davenport, the Priests' Aid Society (a separate corporation which provides health insurance to diocesan priests and provides retirement benefits to retired Davenport diocesan priests), or St. Ambrose University (the diocesan affiliated university in Davenport).

The staff of the funeral home will assist the family in notifying the public of your selection of a beneficiary of memorials given in honor of the deceased.

### **Offering to the Parish on the Occasion of a Funeral**

According to the Decree of Synod V of the Diocese of Davenport, 1986, the family of the deceased is asked to make an offering to the local parish of \$25 on the occasion of the funeral liturgies.

### **Honoraria**

The funeral home staff will usually assist the family in determining appropriate honoraria for those who assisted with the funeral services such as clergy, musicians, altar servers, etc.

## **Principal Items to Be Determined in Funeral Planning**

The following are the major items, which must be determined, in consultation with the parish clergy assisting in the funeral arrangements, for the celebration of the Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church:

### **At the Vigil Service:**

- (1) Does the family wish to provide an opportunity for the sharing of remembrances during the Vigil Service? Have one or more individuals already agreed to speak at this time?

### **At the Funeral Mass:**

- (1) Who will unfold the pall on the casket during the reception of the body?
- (2) Which songs will be used during the service?
- (3) What object to symbolize the Christian life will be placed on the casket, and by whom?
- (4) Who will select the readings for the funeral, and does the family wish to suggest readers?
- (5) Are one or two individual(s) identified who will bring forward the gifts during the presentation song?

### **At the Cemetery:**

- (1) Will the casket (and vault) be lowered during the committal service?