

St. Rita Church

Funeral Planning Guidelines

Funeral Home:

If you are working with a funeral home, please contact them first. The funeral home will call our office to check on possible dates and presider availability.

St. Rita Church Pastoral Minister, Julie Cohn (671-1100 ext. 103, julie.cohn@dor.org) will then meet with the family to plan the funeral mass.

Scripture Readings and Readers:

The family is invited to select scripture readings for the funeral. Every effort should be made to choose scripture that speaks to the faith and personality of the deceased.

Please select one reading from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and a Gospel reading. There are links with some suggested readings for each of these on the funeral planning page of the website. These are only suggested readings, any scripture passage may be used, but one reading must be from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament and a reading from one of the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke or John – must be chosen.

Intercessions also known as Prayers of the Faithful will be reviewed at the planning meeting with Julie.

The presider/priest will read the Gospel reading that you choose. Please choose three family members, relatives or friends to read the Old Testament reading, the New Testament reading and the Intercessions at the funeral mass. Staff is available to read if necessary.

The readings will be sent to you before the funeral for the readers to practice. A binder with the readings and intercessions will be placed on the ambo/lectern for the readers at the funeral mass.

Music:

Music is an especially important part of the funeral mass. St. Rita will provide a musician/cantor for the mass.

The music must be appropriate for worship, of a sacred nature and approved by the Music Director. You will need four songs for the mass. You can also choose a communion meditation song. This is optional. There is a list of approved music available on the funeral planning page of the website. If you don't see a song that you would like, and it is of a sacred nature, please let Julie know.

Secular music cannot be used at the funeral mass. This is nonnegotiable.

Words of Remembrance:

The Words of Remembrance provide a brief insight into the faith and values of the deceased. It is not necessary for you to have Words of Remembrance, but if you would like to, one person may speak briefly (up to but not more than 5 minutes) after the entrance song at the beginning of the mass. If family and friends would like to have more opportunities to speak, we suggest sharing these words or giving a eulogy at the funeral home during calling hours or at the cemetery.

Please see the guidelines for the Words of Remembrance on the funeral planning page of the website.

Funeral Program/Worship Aid:

If you wish to have a program/worship aid for your guests at the funeral, we can create one for you. It will be the **responsibility of the family** to have copies of the program printed and brought to the church on the day of the funeral at least 30 minutes before the mass begins. Arrangements can be made with Julie to drop them off at the parish office the day before the funeral if that works better for your family. (Copies may be printed at Staples, Fed Ex, etc.)

Livestreaming the Funeral Mass: Livestreaming is available upon request.