



ST. JOHN NEUMANN
Catholic Church

Hello~

Below is the information necessary to plan a funeral for yourself or a loved one. We understand this may be a difficult process; however, please know we feel blessed and honored to assist you and will do everything possible to support you.

A few extended family members and/or friends are welcome to participate in the Mass. Family or friends often do the readings. **You can have 2 readers** – 1 for the First Reading and 1 for the Second Reading. Readers do not have to be Lectors or even Catholic. Fr. Dury or Deacon Carl (if available) will proclaim the Gospel and lead the Prayers of the Faithful (unless you have an additional person you would like to lead the Prayers). Someone typically meets briefly with the readers prior to the Mass to instruct them on approaching the altar, how to use the microphone, etc. There have been Masses in the past when we didn't have the chance to do any of that, and everything worked out fine. NOTE: Once selections are received, if time allows, we will send the readings in the exact format they will be on the ambo (reader stand) so the readers are familiar with it.

In addition, **members of the family take up the offertory gifts prior to Holy Communion.** It is common for any of the deceased's family members to do this. *Please keep in mind that it is not a problem for us to find readers or someone to take up the gifts.* Two people are definitely needed, one for the wine cruet and one for the Ciboria holding the unconsecrated hosts. If there are more than 2 people (which are certainly welcome!), we have the 2 people walk first and the others directly behind.

About the attachments:

Readings: select 1 Old Testament, 1 New Testament and a Gospel passage. The Responsorial Psalm (23) will be sung by the Choir.

Music: Please select 4 songs; the Music Director will place them where appropriate in the Mass. If you have more than the requested four, it may be possible for the additional to be added to the prelude. If possible, please list the songs in order of preference. FYI: there ARE additional songs that can be chosen; however, from experience, they must NOT be "secular". If there are any questions about a particular song, we will put family members in contact with our Director of Sacred Music, Rich Krehnovi.

Prayers of the Faithful: Four options are included. Some families have written their own. If/when that is the case, we would need them submitted prior to the Funeral to ensure they are acceptable.

We suggest you and any family members prayerfully consider all of the options. *As soon as you are able*, please email all selections for the music, readings, and Prayers of the Faithful. We would also like to gather some details and memories about your loved one to be used, along with the readings you select, for Fr. Dury to develop his homily.

Some suggestions for the information:

- What you and others will always remember about your loved one
- Your loved one as a husband/wife/father/mother/brother/sister/son/daughter and friend
- Your loved one as a person of faith

Again, the information needed to gather is for Fr. Dury to develop his homily. If family members are interested in sharing any type of reflection or eulogy, that must be done outside of the Mass, perhaps during the luncheon.

FYI: There may (or may NOT) be a significant number of family members who are practicing Catholics. *Fr. Dury typically leads the congregation through the "proper" Catholic Mass, indicating when to sit, stand, kneel, reception of Holy Communion for practicing Catholics, etc.*

If you have any questions or need clarification AT ALL, please don't hesitate to ask via email, call or text; my phone number is 614-507-5753.

In Christ,
Lynne

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