How does the Church view funerals?

A funeral or memorial service should be comforting to those who mourn as well as bear witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. The concern of gathered friends does minister to our grief but, above all else, a funeral is a service of worship to God. There, in God’s presence together, we witness to our faith in the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In doing so, the assurance of God’s love and salvation in Christ become a ministry, especially to the bereaved. Since a funeral is a service of worship, all that takes place should be consistent with this principle.

How does the Church view cremation?

Cremation is an acceptable way for Christians to deal with one’s earthly remains. The Scriptures tell us that we are formed “of the dust of the ground” (Genesis 2:7) and, after death, we shall return “again to dust.” (Job 34:15)

If I choose cremation, do I need to secure the services of a Funeral Director?

We highly recommend working with a Funeral Director. This professional will ease the strain upon family members by coordinating all the details and thus contributing to your wishes being carried out with dignity and honor. Even if cremation is your desire, a Funeral Director handles many details that are not taken care of by the church, the pastor, or family members. Attempting to save money by not using a Funeral Director is likely to cause confusion and frustration at a time when you most need guidance and support.

Should I make pre-arrangements with a Funeral Director?

Making the decision to pre-arrange some aspects of your funeral and/or burial is helpful. An appointment with a Funeral Director in advance of death is a wise step to help you decide what you and your family need from the many services available. If you are a family member caring for a dying loved one, making an initial contact now with a Funeral Director can be very helpful and will lessen the decisions and demands you’ll face upon death.

How soon after death does a funeral or memorial service take place?

Traditional funeral services are generally held within three to five days following death, thereby allowing appropriate time for family members and friends to gather for the service. Memorial services can be held at any time. However, waiting for weeks or even months after a death will have a bearing on finding a sense of closure, and this will impact the grief work that follows the death of a loved one. Therefore, it is recommended that a memorial service be held within a few weeks after death. Funeral or memorial services on Sunday are highly discouraged, as Sundays are reserved for the worship services of the congregation.

Guide for the Christian Funeral of:

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Date completed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bible Readings (please list your choices of Bible readings below, and say WHY you chose them)

Please circle one:

I would like the pastor officiating to read.

I would like a friend or family member to read (please list name & contact information below)

I desire to have Holy Communion celebrated at my funeral: YES NO

If yes, please list any family or friends that would be willing to help serve communion, with contact information:

Congregational Hymns (please list your choices of hymns for congregational singing below and say WHY you chose them)

Musicians/Soloists (please list any preferred musicians, with contact information, subject to availability)

Solo Musical Selections (please list any songs to be sung as solos, keeping in mind that selections should be appropriate for use in worship. Please also indicate why this song(s) is important to you)

I desire to have a friend or family member give a eulogy: YES NO

If yes, please list their name and contact information below:

(Please ask them to limit their remarks to 5 minutes.)

Other wishes (please describe):