

Funeral Guidelines During the Pandemic

August 3, 2020

Currently St. Aloysius Church is allowed to celebrate public Masses, sacramental celebrations and Funeral Liturgies, but we are required to follow these social distancing guidelines to lessen the spread of disease and to protect the safety of your family, friends, parish volunteers and staff:

- The seating capacity of the church is very limited. If we maintain 6' social distancing between households and individuals, it is estimated that only about 250 people may be seated in the church.
- **During this time, the Funeral liturgy needs to be a private function with only your immediate family and invited friends in attendance. A wake or visitation may not be held before or after a funeral liturgy. You agree to help assure the allowed attendees by not publicizing the date and time of the funeral in an obituary or through any social media or messaging platform.**
- All in attendance must follow the general guidelines for public worship in St Aloysius Church, ***These Phase I instructions have not been relaxed:***
 1. See the Worship Guideline Video <https://vimeo.com/419701229>
 2. Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before entering and upon leaving the church.
 3. Face masks/coverings **are required for everyone** from the time that you leave your car and the entire time that you are in the church building.
 4. Sit only in the available pews (unavailable pews are blocked off with blue tape). Members of a household may sit together. A 6' social distance in every direction should be maintained between individuals or household groups.
 5. Please do not embrace or shake hands with people outside your household. Do not hold hands during the Lord's Prayer. Offer the Sign of Peace without touching, using a bow, a wave or some other gesture.
 6. An offertory procession cannot take place. The bread and wine for the Eucharist will already be placed on the credence table before Mass.
 7. Holy Communion will only be offered in the form of bread, in the hand.
 8. At the end of the liturgy please depart the church immediately without visiting inside or outside the Church. Do not remove face covering until inside your vehicle.
- Unfortunately, the following must be observed for Funerals:
 1. A wake or visitation may not be held before or after a funeral liturgy.
 2. Food, snacks or coffee may not be served or collected in the parish hall before or after a funeral.
 3. A guest or condolence book may not be used at the church. Please encourage people to sign an online condolence book.
 4. Programs or Orders of Worship may not be distributed in the church.
 5. The church is unable to supply facial tissue/Kleenex to family members.
 6. Prior to the liturgy the **casket** must remain in the hearse, or for an **urn** with cremated remains, in the Sacristy until the start time of the Liturgy. When it is time to begin the liturgy, during opening music, at the same time the Priest Celebrant enters the church, the casket or urn is carried into the church to the sanctuary by funeral directors, pallbearers or a family member.

7. Caskets will not be opened on the church premises. No displays, tables, easels, bulletin boards, memorabilia may be brought into the church. A small table or stand at the foot of the sanctuary/altar are will be provided by the church for a framed photo and single additional symbol of the faith of the deceased.
- The following **is allowed** for Funeral liturgies:
 1. Flowers may be received at the church, but we encourage that “in lieu of flowers” donations be given to a charity.
 2. Some vocal and instrumental music is allowed. The parish will provide a cantor and accompanist for the liturgy. Choirs are not allowed. The parish Worship Director will assist in planning music.
 3. Family members may place the white funeral pall on a casket at the beginning of the liturgy.
 4. One to 3 Readers may proclaim the Scriptures and the Prayers of the Faithful. The parish will provide a binder with large printed reading texts on the Ambo.
 5. One to 3 Extraordinary Ministers may be needed to assist the priest in serving Holy Communion.
 6. **One** family member or a friend may offer a brief Eulogy or Words of Remembrance after Communion.
 7. A parish Funeral coordinator may ring bells during the Eucharistic Prayer and assist the priest with incense during the Rite of Final Commendation.

The church and all its contents and surfaces have been ‘fogged’ with Virus-killing disinfectant in advance of the funeral Mass. These guidelines are required in the interest of compromising or contaminating as little as possible the sanitized condition of the premises for the protection and well-being of Church staff, volunteers, and attendees.