

**St. Martin de Porres Parish
Avondale Heights**

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158 Military Road
Avondale Heights 3034



Celebrating Your Loved One's Funeral at St Martin De Porres

Preparing for a Funeral

When a loved one dies, the family of the deceased should contact a Funeral Director who will then liaise with the Parish Office re availability of the Priest and church. The Priest will then meet with the family to co-ordinate the Funeral rites. This may include vigil prayers, a viewing, a wake service or a rosary either, the evening before, or immediately preceding the Funeral Mass. Advice on preparing the families words of tribute can also be given.

Funeral Masses may be celebrated on any day except for Sundays, Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday inclusive, Christmas Day and the Assumption of Our Lady, August 15

The Funeral Liturgy

These days it is usual to have a booklet prepared to assist all present to participate fully and actively in the Mass. Your Funeral Director will be able to assist in this, if not contact the Parish Office.

The Funeral Service

The funeral service is usually celebrated with a Mass with prayers for the dead. This is primarily an expression of our belief in the resurrection. At a Christian funeral, we praise God and give to him our deceased relative, commending him or her to God's love.

The Readings

The priest may invite you to choose these from the suggested Funeral Mass readings or you may decide to choose readings from each of the Old and New testaments and a Gospel reading that you feel are especially relevant to your deceased loved one.

Different members of the family are encouraged to read the first reading, the responsorial psalm, and the second reading. It is very important that they practice the readings (reading out loud in front of a mirror is very helpful).

The Prayers of the Faithful

The Prayers of the Faithful provide another opportunity to personalize the celebration of the deceased's life and to enable family members to participate. The priest may suggest that you use prepared intercessions or, he may invite you to write your own intercessions using a similar format.

The priest introduces the readers with a brief prayer and follows up with a concluding prayer. After reading the intercession, take a slight pause before saying 'Lord, in your mercy' to which all respond 'Lord, hear our prayer'.

Introductory Rites

During the introductory rites, the community welcomes the body and the priest sprinkles the coffin with holy water. Holy water is a reminder of our baptism which was the beginning of our life in Christ. This sprinkling is a symbol of a new life in Christ.

The Paschal Candle is placed near the coffin and is usually lit by a family member. In this way it symbolizes baptism as a death and resurrection in Christ, and also testifies to Christian certainty in the resurrection of the dead as well as to the fact that all are alive in the risen Christ.

If desired, a pall - a white cloth, is placed on the coffin by family members. The pall is a reminder of the white garment received in baptism. The tender, graceful covering of the coffin is a respectful caring for the dead person, clothing the deceased person in a white garment for the last time.

The Eulogy

At an appropriate time during the Mass the priest may invite a close family member to speak some words by way of a eulogy. This is an opportunity to recall respectfully and lovingly, in a **maximum of 10 minutes**, a little of the deceased person's life. Because this can be an emotional time, it is a very good idea if the words are written. Don't be repetitive if there is more than 1 speaker.

Writing the Eulogy

A eulogy is one of the most respected elements of a modern funeral, allowing the opportunity for the person speaking to talk about their relationship with the friend or family member, and reflect on their life in a personal way.

The telling of stories and sharing of memories allows for everyone attending the funeral to remember the deceased as they were; their achievements, hobbies, passions and personality, through the eyes of a loved one.

When writing a eulogy, it is often best to write a list of the memories you would like to remember, and structure these so they tell a series of stories. An introduction about your own relationship with the deceased is a good way to start, while ending on a favourite memory or story will give you an ending that is moving and notable.

A eulogy should run for between **5 and 7 minutes** – look to write about 700 words for a speech of this length. There are no right or wrong rules for writing a eulogy, the most important part is that you speak from the heart. It is okay to be positive and upbeat in your eulogy, - in fact, sharing happy memories can assist in the grieving process, contributing to a respectful tribute and a celebration of their life.

Conclusion of the Funeral

The Church is equipped for projection of DVD tributes and MS PowerPoint presentations. The parish invites the family to use our facilities to conclude the Mass with a fitting visual and musical tribute.

Fees

\$400 for the priest and \$300 for the use of the church.

We hope that these points may help you to prepare for the Funeral and that the day itself may remain always in your mind as a prayerful and loving farewell to your loved one.

Yours sincerely,



Fr. Nhân Le
Parish Priest



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Funeral Mass Information Sheet

(Please print clearly using **BLOCK LETTERS**)

Mass Date / Time		
Name of Deceased		
Celebrant	Rev. Fr.	
Mass Sheet No. or Booklet		English / Italian
Singer		
1 st Reading	Reader	
Responsorial Psalm	Sung / Reader	
2 nd Reading	Reader	
Gospel		
Eulogy	Presented by	
Homily		
Prayers of the Faithful	Readers English / Italian	1
		2
		3
		4
		5
		6
Offertory Procession	Water / Wine	
	Hosts	
	Other	
Extraordinary Ministers		
Special Messages		