



St. Boniface Church
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Common Q&As Regarding Funerals at St. Boniface

What is the structure of the Christian Burial Rite?

The Rite of Christian Burial has three rites: the Vigil for the Deceased (Wake); Funeral Liturgy (Mass); and Committal (Cemetery). The Vigil generally takes place at the funeral home or may take place in church. It is followed by the celebration of the Funeral Mass and continues with prayers of committal at the cemetery.

Is there an area at St. Boniface where a visitation can take place?

Yes. Several years ago, pews were removed from the back of church to create a gathering space, and this area is appropriate for a Vigil/visitation.

How is a funeral date and time coordinated with St. Boniface?

When the deceased is first transferred to a funeral home, the funeral director will arrange a time for the family to meet. At that meeting, the family and funeral director will discuss funeral options and possible times for the services. The funeral director will then contact St. Boniface to confirm if that time is available. After the parish is notified and has confirmed the day and time of the funeral, the family will be asked to come to the parish to begin to plan the funeral rites.

Are there some days when funerals are not allowed by the Church?

In general, a Funeral Mass can be celebrated any day except on Holy Days of Obligation, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter and the Sundays of the Advent, Lent, and Easter seasons.

May the family choose the Scripture readings and songs?

Yes, the family is encouraged to take an active part in planning the funeral liturgy. The Church has identified many Scripture readings and hymns that are appropriate. St. Boniface's bereavement ministry will discuss them with you and help you choose ones that most closely reflect the particular circumstances. Please also refer to our "Music for the Funeral Mass" document.

May a eulogy be delivered during the Funeral Mass?

Although a eulogy is not permitted during the Funeral Liturgy, brief words of remembrance (under 3 minutes and with text reviewed in advance by Father) may be shared by a family member or friend at the end of the Funeral Mass before the final blessing. Unlike a eulogy, the remembrance is an opportunity to focus on the loved one's faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

What is the most appropriate time to share memories and stories?

The visitation or at a reception/memorial luncheon after the funeral are appropriate times for family and friends to share stories and remembrances of the deceased.

Does St. Boniface have an area that we can use for a reception or memorial lunch?

Unfortunately, we do not have a parish hall or social room at St. Boniface.

What is a funeral pall?

A funeral pall is a white cloth draped over the casket at the beginning of the funeral liturgy. It is a reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased and a sign of Christian dignity. The use of the pall signifies that all are equal in God's eyes. Family members or friends are encouraged to unfold and place the pall on the casket, but the priest or another minister may do it.

Why is the casket sprinkled with holy water and perfumed by incense?

Sprinkling of holy water is a reminder of the saving waters of baptism and our hope in the personal rising of our loved one to eternal life. Incensing the body is a sign of our respect for the remains, a symbol of our prayers rising to the throne of God, and a sign of farewell.

Are there fees involved with a funeral at St. Boniface?

The fee is \$250 to cover extra utilities and staff time.