

*On behalf of  
Bishop Olmsted,  
Fr. Lankeit,  
Fr. Lopez, Fr. Henry,  
the Cathedral Deacons  
the Loreto Sisters,  
and the entire  
Cathedral staff,  
please be assured  
of our sympathy,  
prayers and support  
during this  
difficult time.*

Dealing with the pain of losing a loved one is a difficult thing, but the Catholic funeral liturgy and traditions offer great comfort when confronting the death of a loved one. In the Catholic funeral, not only is comfort offered to those in mourning, but also, prayers are offered for the deceased. "Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and intercessions."  
(Order of Christian Funerals, no. 6)

*This information in this brochure will help in understanding the Order of Christian Funerals and the policies at Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral.*

## General Guidelines

The Vigil Service, Funeral Mass and Committal are acts of the Church which, out of love for God and neighbor, seek to make intercession for the happy repose of the soul of the faithful departed, and to strengthen our hope in the Resurrection of the Lord. These rites are governed by the general norms of the Catholic Church.  
(cf. Ordo Exsequiarum, Order of Christian Funerals)

All arrangements for the funeral should be made by the family through the funeral home. For specific questions regarding the music, readings, and other details, *the family of the deceased must call the front office of the cathedral.* Please do not contact other parties at the cathedral, such as priests, school administration or other departments. The staff in the front office will direct you to the priest who will preside at the funeral Mass, as well as any others who may be assisting, such as the music director or sacristan. This will help to keep all matters in order according to the policies, and will eliminate any miscommunication.



Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral is the principal church and the center of liturgical life for the Diocese of Phoenix. Because of this, the demands on the cathedral church are extensive. In addition, Mass and devotional activities take place in the cathedral church throughout the week and cathedral facilities are used for religious education and by various parish groups.

Every effort, however, will be made to accommodate the needs of each family. Regrettably, previously scheduled events such as weddings and baptisms often take place in the cathedral on Saturdays, so, ordinarily, funerals are deferred to other weekdays. Funeral Masses may not take place on Sundays because of regularly scheduled Sunday Masses.

*Please know of our sympathy  
and prayerful support at this time.  
If we can be of assistance  
in any way, please don't hesitate  
to call the Cathedral office.*

### For assistance with the Funeral Liturgy contact:

Sr. Dympna Doran  
602-242-1300 Ext. 121

### For assistance with planning music contact:

Mr. Garold Whisler  
Cathedral Music Director  
602-242-1300 x154  
gwhisler@simonjude.org

# Funerals at the Cathedral



SAINTS  
SIMON  
& JUDE  
CATHEDRAL

*May the  
souls of the  
faithful departed,  
through the  
mercy of God,  
rest in peace.  
Amen*

Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral  
6351 North 27th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85017  
Office: 602-242-1300 Fax: 602-249-3768  
www.simonjude.org

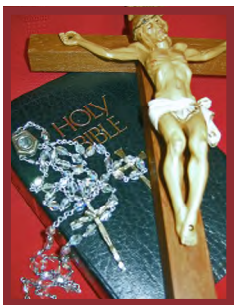
*Thank you to the mortuaries for their excellent and sensitive service to the community at Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral, the Cathedral of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix.*

## Traditional Services

A standard Catholic funeral, according to the Order of Christian Funerals, includes three separate ceremonies: the Vigil Service, the Funeral Liturgy, and the Rite of Committal. The Funeral Liturgy is the main service.

### The Vigil Service

It is the custom of Catholics to gather in the presence of the faithful to offer prayers of intercession and to share memories of their departed loved one. Usually this is done on the evening prior to the celebration of the Funeral Mass. Ordinarily, readings from Sacred Scripture and the recitation of the Holy Rosary are part of this Vigil Service.



Due to the number of events in the cathedral church, along with regularly scheduled liturgy and devotional activities, such services in the church cannot ordinarily be accommodated in the evenings. In the past, where it was possible, every effort was made to accommodate the Vigil, but due to the cathedral schedule this is no longer a reality. In the interest of consistency of practice, we have adopted a general policy that we cannot conduct these services in the cathedral church. Consequently, the Vigil Service will ordinarily take place at the mortuary chapel.

Personal touches which would not be appropriate at a Funeral Mass, such as eulogies, poetry, reflections, musical tributes, videos or slide shows of the deceased may be included in the less formal Vigil Service. Another option is to conduct such tributes at a reception following the Committal.

Usually one of the cathedral deacons will conduct the Evening Vigil.

## The Funeral Liturgy

The Funeral Liturgy takes place in the cathedral church, and may be conducted either in the context of a Mass or outside of Mass. The family of the deceased may choose to have the liturgy without a Mass in order to make non-Catholic mourners more comfortable and to avoid any possible misunderstandings about the proper restrictions regarding Holy Communion.

The Mass of Christian Burial is an act of the Church offering the Sacrifice of the Mass for the repose of the soul of a departed Christian. One of the priests of the parish will be the main celebrant, unless other arrangements have been made. Catholic priests who are friends of the family are certainly welcome to concelebrate.

The Funeral Mass is celebrated with the body of the deceased present. A Memorial Mass may be celebrated with the cremated remains or without the body present. Pictures and flowers in moderation are certainly allowed.



With the approval of the Funeral Liturgy Coordinator, members of the family or friends who are confirmed Catholics may act as readers at the Funeral Liturgy. A family member may wish to contact the Funeral Liturgy Coordinator directly to select the readings used at the funeral Mass and to work out other details.

Since the Mass of Christian Burial is a public act of worship of the Church and not a private act of devotion, eulogies or tributes to the deceased are not appropriate for the Funeral Mass. Adding these elements may also cause logistical difficulties, not only for the cathedral schedule, but also for the cemetery schedule and those attending the Rite of Committal. Ordinarily a funeral will take about an hour, so that is the time allotted in the cathedral schedule.

## Rite of Committal



This brief prayer service is celebrated at the cemetery, and includes the blessing of the grave or place of committal, and may be accompanied by tributes, eulogies, readings and songs. Often families arrange to have special music for this ceremony.

Usually one of the cathedral deacons will conduct the Rite of Committal.

### Music

The Mass of Christian Burial is always accompanied by music. Music must always be sacred in nature and not secular or popular music such as something one may hear on the radio. No recorded music of any kind is allowed.



Mariachis may be arranged for cemetery rites, but are not part of the Funeral Mass at the cathedral, nor are they permitted outside the cathedral after Mass.

All musical arrangements must be made through the Director of Music at the cathedral.

## Offerings and Stipends

It is customary and reasonable that families make an offering to the Church, which would cover utilities and materials used.

It is also standard to offer a stipend to the Priest celebrating the Funeral Mass, the Deacon conducting the Vigil Service and Rite of Committal, the musicians, the sacristan and altar server.

Mortuary personnel will go over these items with you as you finalize your arrangements.

Standard stipends are as follows:

Church: \$150  
Priest: \$100  
Organist/Pianist: \$100  
Vocalist: \$100  
Deacon-Rosary: \$100  
Deacon-Committal: \$50  
Sacristan/Server: \$75

*In lieu of flowers, donations to Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral would be graciously accepted.*

### Bereavement Assistance

Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral has a bereavement group to provide assistance with a funeral reception following the Committal, if one is so desired by the family. Once the funeral arrangements have been made, someone from the bereavement group will contact the family.

