

PLANNING A FUNERAL
DORMITION & DISTRICT UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC PARISHES
*** FOR PRIVATE USE ***

Arrangements

- Families are encouraged to contact a funeral home of their choice to make the necessary arrangements.
- The funeral director is responsible for contacting Fr. Andre to confirm arrangements. Dates and times for funeral services are subject to the availability of the church and celebrant(s).
- The family is free to request a particular priest to celebrate the services, but Fr. Andre must give his approval if a different celebrant is to serve in a parish under his pastoral care.

Funeral Rites

- The Funeral Rites celebrated are those accorded by the liturgical prescriptions and customs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.
- There are a few scenarios for funeral services:
 1. **Prayers & Funeral at the Church** – includes Parastas (prayers) the night before and Funeral Divine Liturgy the next morning.
 2. **Prayers at the Funeral Home & Funeral at the Church** – includes Parastas (prayers) the night before at the funeral home and Funeral Divine Liturgy the next morning at the church.
 3. **Funeral Service at the Church** – includes Funeral Divine Liturgy at the church.
- The family is encouraged to identify a member to read the epistle and be a cross bearer for the Funeral Divine Liturgy.
- Having a cantor to lead the responses is essential for our funeral services. The funeral director will confirm who will provide this service with the parish priest, though the family is free to identify someone of their choosing.
- Flowers are permitted in the church but should be removed upon completion of the funeral services.
- If the funeral is held during Easter, especially during Bright Week, Paschal hymns replace funeral chants in whole or at least in part.
- A funeral service for young children is also different in that we do not pray for the remission of their sins, since they were not of an age to incur personal guilt. Instead, we simply pray for their rest with God.
- The burial of cremated remains is permitted in the Eparchy of Saskatoon according to canon 876:3 in the Code of Canon Law: *Those who had opted for the cremation of their own body are to be granted an ecclesiastical funeral unless there is proof that their choice was motivated by reasons opposed to Christian life.* That being said, it is *preferred* that cremation take place after the funeral services are complete, not before. This accords the departed all the privileges that the faithful of the Church are entitled, such as the blessing and absolution of the body and the tradition of the final farewell for family and friends.
- In 2016, an [Instruction Regarding the Burial of the Deceased and the Conservation of the Ashes in the case of Cremation](#) was issued by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. This document articulates clearly why it is not appropriate for Catholics to ‘scatter their ashes’ or retain ashes in their homes.
- According to Church Tradition, *unless the body is in poor condition*, the casket is to remain open during the funeral services. This enables the priest to bless and absolve the body and affords family and friends to lovingly attend the final farewell.
- A eulogy or words of remembrance can be offered, ordinarily:
 - At the funeral home after the prayers;
 - At the funeral luncheon.

Fees & Donations

- For your convenience, **all payments of fees and donations will be administered by the Funeral Home.**
- As of 5 February 2020, according to the Recommended Schedule of Offerings set by the Eparchy of Saskatoon, the fee for the priest who celebrates the Funeral Services (prayers & funeral) and burial is \$300.00, plus travel costs (\$0.50 per kilometer).
- A donation for additional clergy should be considered if the family invites those other clergy to concelebrate.
- The fee for the cantor is \$125 (for prayers & funeral), plus travel costs (if required).
- Non-active parishioners are requested to make a 'good will offering' for the use of the church. This donation should be made payable to the church.
- When considering a charitable organization to which memorial donations can be made, please consider your parish as a recipient.

Auditorium Usage (Dormition, Vonda, Smuts)

- Active parishioners are entitled to the use of the parish auditorium for refreshments after the funeral prayers and for the funeral luncheon, unless the hall is previously booked. Hall usage fees apply. Hall Usage agreement forms for Dormition Parish are available in the literature rack in the church vestibule.
- It is recommended that the luncheon take place after the interment, which immediately follows the Funeral Liturgy.
- Preparations and service of refreshments and the funeral luncheon are the responsibility of the family. For funerals at Dormition Parish, the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League may be available to help serve coffee and refreshments.

Music

The funeral services and tones are those of the Byzantine-Ukrainian Catholic liturgical texts and typicon. Other songs or instrumental music incorporated into the funeral services should be sacred and respectful and receive the consent of Fr. Andre beforehand.

Children and Funerals

We encourage the attendance of children at a loved one's funeral, since it is an important time of formation regarding our Christian understanding of life, death and Resurrection. As a Church we are always reminded to have hope in the Resurrection and to look forward to the day we will be reunited with our deceased relatives and friends. This is our hope. By extension, children should be encouraged to grieve and have a chance to say goodbye to those who have played an important role in their lives, since it enables them to learn from an early age to face death with Christian hope.

After the Funeral

Memorials: We have a beautiful tradition of celebrating a memorial Liturgy for the deceased 40 days after the funeral, and on the annual anniversary of death. These memorials not only commemorate the Ascension of our Lord forty days after His Resurrection, but also provide another tangible and structured means of grieving the one who has died. This service can be booked directly with Fr. Andre shortly after the funeral services are complete, or well in advance of the anniversary of death. Memorials can be served on any day of the week, except on Sundays. The suggested clergy stipend for memorials is \$30 for the Liturgy intention and the celebration of the Panakhyda, plus mileage (50 cents per kilometer). Cantor fees are extra. Families are encouraged to bring a Kolachi bread to the memorial service.