

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
8345 TALBERT AVENUE  
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA

714-842-3000

WWW.SVDPHB.ORG

## PLANNING CHRISTIAN FUNERALS



*By means of the funeral rites it has been the practice of the Church, as a tender mother, not simply to commend the dead to God but also to raise high the hope of its children and to give witness to its own faith in the future resurrection of the baptized with Christ. (Decree / Order of Christian Funerals)*

On behalf of our Pastor, Father Jerome Karcher, and the Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church community, please accept our deepest sympathy during this difficult time. Please know that our community wants to be of help and support to you. Also, please feel free to call us at any time.

Because you have been given this information, we understand that you are a member of Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

A Bereavement Minister from our parish is available to guide you in planning the liturgy for the Vigil and/or the Funeral Mass for your loved one. She will suggest ways for your family and friends to be personally involved in selecting the Readings from Scripture and the appropriate Hymns. We hope you will find planning the Vigil and/or Funeral Mass with your family very rewarding and comforting, as well. If you are not inclined to select the Readings, this can be done by the Priest.

When you have made your decisions regarding the liturgical services please call the Bereavement Minister who is assisting you and give her the selections you have chosen.

Following the Vigil Service or before the Funeral Mass, the Bereavement Minister will give the persons participating as Lectors in the Funeral Mass a copy of his/her reading which will enable him/her to study and prepare for the Mass.

## **THE VIGIL**

This service may take the form of a Scripture service along with the recitation of the Rosary. The Vigil Service usually takes place with the Body of the Deceased present in the mortuary on the evening preceding the Funeral Mass. This service may be conducted by a Priest, Deacon, qualified family member or a Bereavement Minister. The Vigil Service is also the perfect time for members of the family and friends (adults and children) to share special memories of the deceased in the Words of Remembrance. If your loved one prayed the Rosary often, you may want either a decade or the entire Rosary prayed at the Vigil. Readings from the Old or New Testament and Gospel will also be read.

It is important to understand that each family grieves in different ways. Although a Vigil Service is part of the Order of Christian Funerals, some people prefer not to have a Vigil Service. They may prefer to have only a private viewing. That decision is up to you.

## **THE MASS**

Our Funeral Masses are celebrated in the mornings. We encourage you to schedule the Funeral Mass at our daily 8:30 Mass. We have many parishioners who attend this daily Mass and they will bring with them much support and comfort for you and your family. They join in the singing, prayers and responses.

On the morning of the Funeral Mass please have all the participants in the liturgy come to Church about forty minutes early so that the Bereavement Minister can teach each one where to stand, how to direct the microphone, show the Gift Bearers what to do, etc.

Following the Mass, if the burial is at Good Shepherd Cemetery, the priest, family and friends will proceed to the cemetery for the Rite of Committal Graveside Service. When the burial is out of our area your Mortuary will assist you to obtain either a priest or a deacon for the burial site.

## **EULOGIES AND WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE**

A Eulogy/Words of Remembrance by a family member or a good friend can contribute an appropriate personal remembrance at the Funeral Mass. It is most effective when it does not try to be a complete history of the individual. It should be no more than three minutes in length. It is best to focus on one or two especially memorable qualities and is not a time to share readings from the

Bible. This Eulogy takes place following *the Prayer after Communion* when the Priest sits down. The eulogist will speak at the Ambo which is on the right of the Altar. It is appropriate for other Words of Remembrance to be shared at the Vigil.

## **NOTES**

### **❑ CREMATION**

Cremation should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes. For the Funeral Mass the Church provides a beautiful Ossuary that houses the urn of ashes. It is placed in front of the Altar during the Funeral Mass. The urn with the cremated remains is then buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum.

### **❑ MUSIC**

The Church provides a Cantor and an Accompanist (organ/piano) for the liturgical music for the Funeral Mass. These musicians are very talented and are familiar with the church sound system. These music ministers charge \$125.00 each. Outside organist or pianists do not know the parish sound system and are therefore not permitted.

### **❑ DONATIONS**

Even though Saint Vincent de Paul Church does not charge a fee for a Funeral Mass, a contribution for the on-going ministries of our Church is deeply appreciated, normally \$150. - \$250.