

Funeral Policies for Immaculate Heart of Catholic Church

Crowley, LA

Funeral services held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church are conducted according to the forms and precepts of the Sacred Liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church. Practices not in conformity with the sacred rites of the Catholic Church are not allowed. The determination of the Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary is final.

Scheduling the Funeral

Funeral services are typically scheduled on Tuesdays-Saturdays. Morning funerals are preferable and typically scheduled at 10 or 11 a.m. On Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, an afternoon funeral may be scheduled at 1 p.m. Saturday morning funerals may be scheduled between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. All other times are subject to the approval of the Pastor. In an *exceptional* case, a Priest may agree to schedule a funeral on a Sunday. However, such a service will not include a funeral Mass.

The Wake or Vigil

The wake or vigil is usually held at a funeral home. Immaculate Heart of Mary Church does not allow the exposition of the deceased in the church building itself.

Readings for the Funeral

Readings from Sacred Scripture are taken either from the Old Testament (OT) or the New Testament (NT). Other texts, even of a spiritual or sacred nature, are not permitted.

In accordance with the liturgical season, families may select from the approved readings either:

- a first reading (OT or NT) and a responsorial psalm,
– OR –
- a first reading (OT), a responsorial psalm, and a second reading (NT).

It is recommended that families consult with the Priest celebrant prior to selecting readings in order to ensure that the selections are liturgically appropriate.

If the family wishes, readers may be chosen. Those selected to serve as readers for the funeral must be at least 18 years of age, practicing Catholics, and familiar with reading at Holy Mass. If no readers are available, the Priest can proclaim all the readings or can arrange for a suitable reader.

Gift Bearers

Gift bearers are optional. The family may select two (2) to four (4) persons to serve as gift bearers for the funeral service. These persons are to be practicing Catholics.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will be used at the discretion of the Priest celebrant. They will be selected only from among the EMHCs commissioned by Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.

Music for the Funeral Service

Music, while not required, is recommended at funeral services of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Music must be chosen from the approved selections for funerals. Neither the use of pre-recorded music nor any popular or pop Christian music are allowed at the funeral service.

Only the Pastor may approve the use of out-of-parish musicians. Out-of-parish musicians must equally follow the approved selections on the list of funeral music and must abide by all parish guidelines. Please see the funeral music sheet for approved selections.

Visiting Clergy

Priests not assigned to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish are typically welcome to preside at funerals. In order to avoid misunderstandings and difficulties, it is best to obtain the permission of the Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish *prior to* asking another Priest to preside at the funeral. Non-Catholic ministers will not be allowed to speak at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church under any circumstances. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Visiting clergy must adhere to and respect in spirit and in letter the policies laid out in these guidelines.

Reception of Holy Communion during the Mass

Practicing Catholics, namely those who attend Sunday Mass weekly and are free from serious sin, may receive Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. The remaining congregants who are not Catholic, or who are not practicing Catholics, are encouraged to remain in the pew and make a spiritual communion.

Eulogy

Eulogies are not part of the Catholic funeral ritual. Therefore, they are not permitted during the funeral service or in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Eulogies may be offered at the funeral home during the wake or vigil service or before the departure for the Funeral Mass in church.

Memorials and Memorabilia

Memorials, displays of memorabilia, etc., are not permitted in the church. When a Memorial Mass or Mass of Christian burial with Cremains is celebrated with no visitation at the funeral home, the parish hall may be used for visitation and exhibition of memorials displays of memorabilia, etc. as well as the delivering of eulogies.

Customary Donations

Donations made to the Parish or to the Priest on the occasion of a funeral are absolutely voluntary in nature. In the Crowley area the customary donations are:

Church: \$50-100

Clergy: \$50-100

No one will be denied use of the church or the services of a Priest because of an inability or unwillingness to make the customary donations.

This guide is not exhaustive and is intended for general informational purposes. Other questions that arise must be addressed to the Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose determinations will be final.

Established: July 2017