

SOMEONE PASS AWAY?

Funeral services are conducted only for those people who are Orthodox Christians in regular Canonical and Spiritual standing with the Church. In other words, only those people who have been Baptized and Chrismated in the Orthodox Church and have had their marriage blessed in the Orthodox Church are eligible for an Orthodox Christian Funeral.

If one of your loved ones is about to pass away, it is important to immediately contact Fr. Ted at **647-278-0058** or email him at fr.ted@mac.com so that he may come to the family and perform the last rights. This includes the offering of Holy Confession, Holy Communion, and prayers.

If your loved one has already passed away, again **it is imperative to contact Fr. Ted immediately (BEFORE YOU CONTACT A FUNERAL HOME)** so that he may come and do a **Trisagion prayer** for the family and advise the family on proper Orthodox burial traditions.

Funeral Arrangements:

1. Arrangements for the funeral service should be made with the priest in conjunction with the funeral director.
2. No funerals are permitted on Sunday, the day of the Resurrection of our Lord.
3. The priest should conduct a Trisagion (viewing with prayers) at the Church on the evening before the funeral. Many funeral homes will try to encourage families to do the viewing at the funeral home. This is done in an effort to illicit more money from you. The more traditional Orthodox way is to do the viewing at the church (which costs nothing and is more accommodating to many visitors) and then to leave the body at the church overnight until the funeral the next day.
4. No lay person is permitted to deliver a funeral oration in the Church. The Archdiocese explicitly prohibits lay people speaking in Church. During the funeral the priest will deliver a sermon and any personal eulogies may be given at the mercy meal in the hall, after the interment.

Items needed for the funeral (to be brought by family):

1. **Wine (a small bottle).**
2. **Oil (a small bottle).**
3. **Kolyva (boiled wheat). – Can be provided by the church if ordered.**
4. **Savano (white sheet to be used as a burial shroud in the coffin). – Provided by the church.**

A Funeral Service May Not Be Held in Cases of:

Some Suicides (not all cases) — As no one is permitted to take the life of another, likewise no one is permitted to take his/her own life; that is, suicide is viewed by the Church as self-murder and consequently as grave sin. **Only when a doctor certifies that such a person as mentally ill and had lost his/her sanity can a Church funeral be held. In cases of mental illness the church always shows compassion for the deceased and the family by doing the full funeral.**

Cremation — Cremation is absolutely forbidden by the Church as being blasphemous to the body of man, which is "the temple of the Holy Spirit". Cremation is contrary to the faith and tradition of our Church and is forbidden to Orthodox Christians. A Church funeral is denied a person who has been or will be cremated. In cases of cremation the priest is only permitted to do a Trisagion prayer at the funeral home and accompany the person to the cemetery for burial.

Excommunication – If someone has left the Orthodox Church for any reason, they cannot be buried in the church. Some of these reasons are:

1. Not married in the church
2. Has joined another religion
3. Has publicly rejected the faith and teachings of Orthodoxy

Memorial Donations

Some families prefer Memorial Donations to the church. If this is the choice of the family, mention should be made to the funeral director so that notification can be placed in the Obituary. Acknowledgments to the donors are made by the Church Office and a list sent to the family.

Makaria (Mercy Meal)

The Makaria meal following the funeral service serves as a means of comforting the bereaved family and expressing thanks to those who attended the services or assisted the bereaved family in their hour of grief. Please contact

Many people may not be sure of the Orthodox funeral traditions therefore it is very important to call Fr. Ted if you have any questions at any time.

Listen to an Orthodox Podcast on Death:

Part 1: <http://www.iecclesia.com/archives/episode30/episode30.htm>

Part 2: <http://www.iecclesia.com/archives/episode48/episode48.htm>