FUNERAL LITURGY / CEMETERY POLICY

Updated June 5, 2020 (changes in bold)

It is important that when first contacted by funeral home that the parish makes clear what its capacity is as well as the need for social distancing and wearing of masks. If there is concern that potential attendance may exceed that capacity consideration should be given to;

- Conduct the funeral by invitation only without public notice of day and time.
- Does the parish have an overflow location with sound available from church?
- Is there a nearby Catholic Church which has a larger capacity?
- Is streaming a possibility?

1. The day of the funeral, staff member(s) from the funeral home need to be present about a half hour prior to funeral to assist with seating according to parish guidelines including the wearing of masks.
2. Welcoming ritual will be in front of Altar not at entrance, so that everyone is seated first.
3. No pall bearers.
4. Priest may permit family to place pall on casket.
5. No offertory procession.
6. **If an additional lectern can be provided, separate from the pulpit and lectern used by priest and liturgical ministers, then family members can do readings and eulogies at the discretion of the priest.**
7. All other current liturgical guidelines should be followed.
8. Cemetery attendance is open to all who attended Funeral Mass, but mourners should be reminded to maintain social distancing between household groups and be encouraged to return to their cars as soon as the graveside service has concluded.
   - In case of larger funerals consideration should be given to private burial.
   - If graveside service is held in lieu of Funeral Mass then attendance number should be set by cemetery and must still abide by social distancing, and mask wearing policy.

FYI • Funeral Home services are still limited to 10 people.