

Guidelines for Funerals

- Upon the death of an Orthodox Christian the priest should be immediately notified so that he may come before the body is moved and pray the first trisagion prayers for the departed.
- Trisagion prayers for the departed may be requested on the 3rd, 6th, 9th & 40th day following the death of the individual. They may also be prayed on the 6 month anniversary. It is traditional to have the prayers said on the one year anniversary of the loved ones death every year.
- Funerals in the church are only for Orthodox Christians who have maintained their Orthodox Faith and not departed for another confession or religion.
- No funeral is permitted for those being cremated. Cremation is seen by the Church as an act of destruction against the image and likeness of God.
- In cases of suicide the Bishop must be notified of the context of the suicide and he will determine if a funeral in the Church is permitted.
- Wakes for the departed may be held in the church, but during the wake the deceased will be placed facing the altar as during the funeral. The family may remain in the church to quietly great those paying their respects but no loud conversations are permitted. The reading of the Psalms will occur during the wake by a chanter. No food or drink is every permitted in the Church. The fellowship hall will be available for those wishing to visit with one another and the family may prefer to great those paying their respects in the fellowship hall.
- Eulogies in the Church must be done by an Orthodox cleric. No one else will be permitted to speak before, during or after the service in the Church. Eulogies by family are encouraged to be made during the mercy meal.
- It is traditional to go immediately to the cemetery following the funeral and serve a final trisagion before lowering the coffin into the grave. Flowers or soil may be sprinkled on the coffin following its being lowered by all attending.
- No songs other than those prescribed by the Orthodox funeral service will be permitted in the Church.