

Our Lady of Guadalupe / St. Patrick Parish

202 Lincoln Avenue
La Junta, Colorado 81050
719-384-4342

October 1, 2015

Dear Faithful,

May the Peace of Christ be with you! This letter is intended to provide you with the funeral directives to be followed for Catholic services in La Junta:

Family members are welcome to call or come in to the office to choose Scripture readings, reserve the hall, or meet with the priest, plus mentioning if you would like him to give the reception blessing and/or remain for the meal. [*N.B. It is required that those serving at the Mass be trained lectors or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.*]

Music in the church is to be provided by musicians who are trained to sing for the Catholic Mass, and hymns must be selected from the Catholic hymnals. Appropriate personal **photos and/or other items** would be okay at the back where guests sign the book, and we ask that the service is not filmed or video-recorded (*e.g. smart phones or tablets*), out of respect.

Normally, there are no eulogies at the Church. A suggestion is that if the family wishes for a certain person(s) to speak, this could take place at the reception or the end of the graveside services. Any eulogies given in the Church prior to Mass must be previously approved by the priest, limited to one person, for approximately 5 minutes.

When a deceased person's body has been cremated, the expectation is that the cremains must be treated with the same respect as a body in a casket, kept intact in a suitable vessel, and either buried or entombed in a columbarium. It is not permissible to keep the cremains at home, scatter them, separate them into keepsakes, or co-mingle them with other cremains. These contrary situations place the priest in the difficult position of not being able to assist either in good conscience or without misleading others. In such a case, it is recommended that a Mass be offered for the deceased as a part of our normal list of intentions for the regularly scheduled Masses during the week. [*N.B. If several people come forward with cremated remains that need to be buried, but who do not have the means to do so, the parish could look into options for all of them to have a proper burial.*]

Please also make note of the following recommended list of offerings:

For the Parish ----- \$100 [*no extra costs for a vigil the night before*]
For the Clergy ----- Donation to parish priest; \$100 if priest is from elsewhere
To use the Hall ----- Donation of whatever the family wishes to offer
Graveside Service only ----- Donation of whatever the family wishes to offer
Service by a Deacon ----- \$50 to \$75 would be an appropriate offering

Sincerely,
Rev. Matthew Wertin, *Pastor*