

THE STEPS TO TAKE AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Funerals

The death of a loved one is a life-changing event that requires many decisions to be made in a short amount of time. We at St. Frances Cabrini are here to guide and support you as you work with the funeral home, plan the funeral Mass or funeral prayer service, a meal, and a burial service. We continue to support you in the days and months following your loss.

Initial Call

When the death of a loved one occurs, an immediate family member or funeral home staff member should call the parish office at (402) 934-7706. A time for the funeral will be established between the family, the funeral home and the parish.

Funerals are celebrated for those who were members of the parish family of St. Frances Cabrini, members of the immediate family of a parishioner or residents of one of our local care centers. In other situations, a funeral may be celebrated at St. Frances Cabrini at the discretion of the pastor.

Funeral Costs

There are no set charges for a funeral. However, families are encouraged by Omaha funeral homes to make an offering to the church. This helps defray the cost of maintaining the church facility. The funeral home will also collect any costs associated with musicians and cantors for the funeral. If the family is not able to cover the cost of a funeral we invite them to call the parish office to discuss the options available.

Funeral home staff will be present during the visitation and funeral service. Funeral home staff are responsible for the body or cremains, will greet your guests, manage flowers and cards (often with monetary donations), and distribute worship aids.

The Vigil for the Deceased

This may take place the night before at a local funeral home and/or on the day of the funeral at the church. We recommend having a minimum of 30 minutes for visitation prior to the Mass or service.

Planning a Funeral Mass or a Funeral Prayer Service

(link to Funeral Mass planning guide)

The Rite of Committal

This ceremony happens at the cemetery at the time of burial. Arrangements can be made for gravesite prayers during the planning meeting or at a later date. St. Frances Cabrini can arrange for a priest, deacon, or member of our pastoral staff to offer prayers at the gravesite.

Cremation is allowed by the Catholic Church. The cremated remains should be treated with as much respect as the body.

Funeral Lunch

St. Frances Cabrini has very limited options for funeral lunches. The school gym can be used when school is not in session or the teacher's lounge can be used for smaller funerals. The parish recommends using the Sons of Italy Hall which is located across the street from All Saints School. You may contact them at (402) 345-4639.

Special Requests

Guest priests are always welcome to preside or concelebrate at a funeral Mass, but must be arranged directly by the family. It is customary to offer an honorarium. Priests that preside outside the Archdiocese of Omaha require a letter from their diocese stating they are a priest in good standing.

Request for cantors and/or instrumentalists outside of those who regularly play at St. Frances Cabrini must be prearranged with Fr. Damian, prior to the service.

Bereavement Ministry

We recognize that not everyone mourns the loss of a loved one in the same way, and there is no timeline for grief. In the months following a death, we remember and connect with bereaved parishioners in a variety of ways.

St. Frances Cabrini's annual Mass of Remembrance is celebrated in early November on or near the Feast of All Souls. All those who have experienced the death of a loved one within the year are personally invited to this special liturgical celebration of remembrance. Names of all those whose funerals we celebrated at St. Frances Cabrini in the previous 12 months are read aloud during the Prayers of the Faithful at this Mass.

For more information about St. Frances Cabrini's Bereavement Ministry, contact Deacon Doug Lenz at dalenz@archomaha.org or call the parish office at (402) 934-7706.