

All Funeral Directors are responsible for giving this Letter to families who are arranging for a Funeral at Holy Saviour Parish

Dear friends:

First of all, Father Sabatini and I extend to you and your family our deepest sympathy over your loss. We are honored that the Funeral Liturgies for your loved one will take place at Holy Saviour Parish. From our experience, we thought that it might be helpful to you if we put your mind at ease concerning what will happen at Holy Saviour Parish in the upcoming days.

When a Funeral is scheduled through your Funeral Director, we immediately contact our Parish Music Director who engages one of our excellent Organists and Cantors. They are available to us so that we can provide a dignified musical accompaniment to the Funeral Liturgy. Since they perform us the service of being available for you and since they are excellent musicians and are familiar with the Funeral Liturgy, **we ask you to please not contact any organist or singer on your own.** Likewise, we prefer that you leave the choice of hymns up to them. They will make excellent and appropriate choices, which you will be pleased with and which will be in the spirit of the Funeral Liturgy and the Church's Liturgical Seasons. We also engage servers for the Funeral Mass.

Generally, we will contact a family member and/or visit the home when possible. We always make every effort to learn something about the person whose Funeral Mass we are offering, if we did not already know them through their Parish activity and we make use of some of this information in our homily. There are two areas in which you may choose one or other form of participation, if you wish. If you wish to have readers, please be sure to pick up the copies of approved Funeral Readings which are available at the Rectory a couple of days before the Funeral and return the cover sheet with your choices at least a day before the Funeral. Please remember that readers should be practicing Catholics, old enough to read and comfortable emotionally to do so. If you do not wish to have readers, do not feel that you must, the Priest will take care of the readings.

The same is true of family members bringing up the gifts of bread and wine. You may choose two people to do this but we must know at least a day before time and they should feel confident to do so. Again, do not feel you must do this; the servers can easily accomplish this task.

As you know, Holy Saviour Parish has a unique identity in its pastoral care for those who speak Italian. If you wish all or part of the Funeral Mass to be celebrated in that language, please let us know in sufficient time.

La nostra parrocchia è fondata specialmente per quelli della discendenza italiana e quelli chi parlano quella bella lingua. Se voi volete una parte o tutta la messa celebrata in italiano, vi preghiamo d'esprimere questo desiderio direttamente a noi o per mezzo del vostro direttore funerale.

Your Funeral Director is responsible for giving you this information when you are making the Funeral arrangements. We hope that these brief informational points are helpful to you and we hope that you understand that we share them with you as the fruit of our experience of about 75 Funerals per year. Again, our condolences and our assurance that your late, beloved will have the prayerful, dignified Funeral Liturgy he or she deserves as a faithful Catholic.

Sincerely in Our Lord,

Monsignor Chas. L. Sangermano
Pastor