

Funeral Protocol during Pandemic
November 6, 2020

Due to social distancing guidelines, there are no visitations scheduled prior to the Funeral Mass nor are receptions available afterwards.

The number of guests at the funeral Mass cannot exceed 130. (This number does not include the priest or musicians.) We need to receive a list with the names and phone numbers of your guests at least a day prior to the funeral. Those living within the same household may be seated together. Please group household accordingly on the list you submit as we will assign pews for social distancing purposes.

The immediate family should arrive one hour before the funeral. Guests should arrive 30 minutes before the service so there will be ample time to complete a required health screening. Guests will not be admitted to the service once it has begun. Only those people on this list will be allowed to enter. We ask for your cooperation on this so we don't have to take steps to enforce this rule.

We ask all guests to wear a mask and to come to the south west lower level doors Staff will assist with health screening in a tented area before guests enter the church. Their names will then be checked off the guest list you have provided. As required by the State and the Archdiocese all guests will be asked some brief health screening questions. Their temperature will then be taken with an infra red "no touch" thermometer. If a guest's temperature is 100 or above he/she will not be admitted.

If the funeral is being celebrated within the context of Mass, at the time of Holy Communion, those guest who are receiving the Eucharist are invited to come forward wearing their masks using the central aisle, and forming a single line. The markers on the floor of The Basilica will indicate safe distancing. As they pass the first pew they will be asked to sanitize their hands using the available dispenser. Then, standing on the distance marker they will extend their hands to receive Holy Communion. They will step to the side, lift their mask and consume the host, and put their mask back on before returning to their pew.

Generally, we invite family or friends to participate in the service as ushers, gift bearers or Eucharistic Ministers. Due to protocol, these roles are assigned to staff.

At the end of the Mass, the immediate family will process out through the front entrance central doors, the guests, using the center aisle, while observing social distancing by using the markers on the floor will follow the immediate family.

We hope you understand that we are following these protocols because there is just so much we don't know in regard to the progress of Covid-19, and we don't want to inadvertently put anyone at risk, including your family, guests, our staff, or any vulnerable members of our community.