



PADRE SERRA PARISH
“Siempre Adelante”

BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE

*“Remember those who have died in peace of Christ
And all the dead whose faith is known to you alone.”*

Funeral Planning Guide
for
Padre Serra Parish

*Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life.
Lord, Jesus, come in glory.
Lord Jesus, welcome into your kingdom our departed sisters and brothers.*

We, at Padre Serra Parish, want you to know that you are embraced by our love and remembered in our Masses and prayers at this sad and difficult time.

Our parish ministers are here to help and we wish to offer some useful information.

PLANNING TOGETHER

Well planned services provide hope and comfort for the living and are an appropriate celebration of our faith as we join together in prayer for our deceased loved ones.

If you would like our ministers to assist you and your family in funeral planning, please call our parish office at 482-6417 Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

We suggest a family member be designated as a point of contact. Most often it is convenient for us to meet at the church but if you would prefer to meet at your home, please let us know.

SELECTING THE SERVICE

Planning together means our ministers will help you decide on the service appropriate for you, your family, and the deceased. For pastoral reasons, you may choose to have one or a combination of the following:

Vigil

A Vigil may be celebrated in your home, in a funeral home, or in our church, depending on scheduling and your preference. A Vigil is a gathering of family and friends, a time to pray together, to hear comforting words from scripture, and to share memories with one another. At Padre Serra Parish, a deacon or a lay bereavement minister may preside at the Vigil.

At times, a family may wish to choose a viewing/wake rather than a Vigil.

Funeral Liturgy

The Funeral Liturgy is also known as the Mass of Resurrection. Since the early days of the Church, bereaved Christians have gathered at the Lord's Table to share their faith in Christ's victory over death and to celebrate the goodness of God.

Our funeral ministers will help you plan this liturgy, according to Catholic ritual, with consideration for family preferences. Our parish will arrange for a priest to preside at this liturgy. Catholics have long preferred that the casket of the deceased be brought into church in procession to be placed before the altar. Similarly, cremated remains may be placed before the altar. A Mass of Resurrection may be celebrated only in a Catholic church.

One eulogy, approximately three to four minutes, may be delivered at the beginning of the liturgy. This eulogy needs to be appropriate for liturgy and focus on the deceased.

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Funeral Memorial Service

Family members have greater freedom in designing a memorial service than the Mass of Resurrection. Like the Mass of Resurrection, a memorial service may include an Opening Prayer, Liturgy of the Word, and farewell blessing of the deceased. In addition, it allows for greater flexibility in the choice of music and the number of eulogies. Still, all efforts should be made to have appropriate music and eulogies that speak of the deceased, bringing focus to the Christian values of his/her life, not to the speaker(s).

A funeral memorial service may be celebrated in a private home, a church, a funeral home, or other appropriate gathering place. A deacon or lay minister may preside at the funeral memorial service. Our ministers will work with you to plan an appropriate, prayerful service.

A well planned memorial service can be a prayerful experience, a celebration of the life of the deceased, an appropriate farewell, and a testament to our belief that *"Dying You destroyed our death. Rising You restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory"*.

Rite of Committal

The Rite of Committal and blessing of the grave is celebrated at the graveside. A deacon or lay minister may preside at this service. According to our Catholic belief, the body or cremated remains of our deceased loved ones should be buried or entombed.

MASS OF RESURRECTION PLANNING

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In addition to the presider for the Mass of Resurrection, our parish will provide lectors, servers, sacristans, musicians, and ushers. It is not uncommon for a family member or a close friend to struggle emotionally to proclaim a reading during a Mass of Resurrection to have difficulty with the sound system. Hence we provide lectors. This facilitates the worship of those who are mourning, enabling them to better hear and meditate on the Scripture. However, there are many other opportunities for significant participation by you and your family.

When possible, the family will be asked to provide:

- Six pallbearers to carry the open pall in procession behind the casket and then place it over the casket.
- A person to carry the Gospel Book in procession and place it on the casket.
- A person to carry a small crucifix in procession and place it on the casket.
- Two people to present the gifts of the bread and wine to the presider at the offertory.

Scripture Readings

Our ministers will provide you with a booklet and assist you in selecting scripture readings:

- First Reading from the Old Testament
- The Responsorial Psalm - This may be led by the cantor
- Second Reading from the New Testament
- Gospel Reading

Selecting songs or hymns

Our ministers will provide you with a list of suggested music from which you may choose. In addition to other appropriate sung liturgy parts, four hymns/songs are recommended: procession, presentation of gifts, Communion, and dismissal

Please note that, in order to continue our ministry, some monetary offerings are necessary. If this has not been arranged through your funeral director, our ministers will assist you with this as well.

OUR ONGOING BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Here at Padre Serra we are committed to being here for you. We want you to know that we have many ministries which are ready to meet your needs. Two in particular can be deeply comforting at times such as these.

Bereavement Support

Our bereavement ministers are available to assist you and your family in the days, weeks and months following the death of your loved one. They will provide you with information regarding our Bereavement Ministry and support group. Please contact our parish office for more information 482-6417.

Remembering Your Loved One

If you wish to have your loved one remembered during one of our scheduled Masses, please contact our parish office at 482-6417.

*Lord, remember our brothers and sisters
who have gone to their rest
in the hope of rising again.
May they and all who sleep in Christ
find in your presence
light, happiness and peace.*