

## Preparing the Vigil Service for the Deceased

**Place:** The usual procedure is for there to be a visitation at the funeral home followed by a Vigil Service the evening before the funeral. The family may elect, if the expectation is that there will be more than 75 people in attendance, to have the visitation and the Vigil Service at St. Agnes Church.

**Presider:** The Presider at the Vigil can be a Priest or a Deacon. This is the person who will lead the service in general and will be a leader of prayer throughout the evening.

**Time:** There is no set time for the Vigil Service. Most vigils begin at 7:00 PM.

**Music:** Generally, at a Vigil Service, we do not have music; but if you request it, we can have (at a minimum) an opening song, a closing song, a sung Responsorial Psalm and an Alleluia. Music may be chosen from the list of music suggestions on **pages 6- 7**. If the Vigil Service is at the church, other music may be possible after approval. We have the ability to play CDs (may be used for listening, not for singing). If you engage musicians for the Vigil, they should be compensated in some way for their contribution toward the Service. Please discuss this with Chris Wolf.

**Readings:** At the wake service there are usually two readings, one from the Old or New Testament and one from the Gospels. The Old and New Testament Readings are found on **pages 9 – 13**. The Gospel readings are found on **pages 14 – 19**. After reading through the choices, write in the # of the reading in the space provided. If there is someone among your family members or friends who can be a Lector and read the readings, there is a space provided to write their names. If there is no one who can do this, the Presider will find one for you or will read the readings himself. The Gospel is always read by a Priest or a Deacon.

**Homily Ideas:** The Presider may or may not know the deceased very well. Therefore, it is always welcomed to have input as to what would be important to be shared at the vigil. This could be interesting stories, anecdotes, favorite things -- however the deceased would like to be remembered. The Presider will interlace these stories with the scripture chosen to put together a reflection that will celebrate the life of the deceased in the context of our faith.

**Personal Sharing:** After the Presider has finished his homily, there is an opportunity, *if the family so chooses*, for “personal sharing”. This could be anything from a favorite poem, a reflection written by a friend or family member, a favorite song, any type of eulogy, or a combination of any of these. This is optional and entirely up to the family. **Maximum time of sharing suggested is 10 minutes.**

**Rosary:** A Rosary is not a required part of the Vigil Service but is a traditional option that is often included. There are three options if the Rosary is chosen as a part of the service: the full Rosary, three decades of the Rosary (the birth, the death and the Resurrection of Jesus) or just one decade of the Rosary.

**Prayers of the Faithful:** The rite for the Vigil Service provides Prayers of the Faithful (petitions). You may choose someone to read these or you may simply ask the Presider to do so.

### **Important Contact Information**

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