

## Funeral Ministry



### **Ministry Leader: Lugenia T. Devezin**

**985-288-4159(Home)**

**985-710-0412(Cell)**

### **Our Deepest Sympathy**

If you are dealing with the death of a loved one, we want to tell you how sorry we are. This is a difficult time, and it is our hope that this information will be helpful to you. We know that planning the details of a funeral can be overwhelming, and we would like to assist you in any way we can. This is the time when the parish takes care of you.

Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just. The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian Funeral.

The Funeral Ritual of the Catholic Church is in three steps and all three steps should be taken. The purpose of the Funeral Ritual is to praise Almighty God for Jesus Christ's resurrection from death and His promise of eternal life. The full and active focus of the Funeral Ritual is on Almighty God while offering the opportunity through Scripture, song and prayer to honor the memory of the deceased and to thank God for their life on earth.

*Taken together, the three steps of the Funeral Ritual offer praise of God and consolation for the family and friends.*

**Step One: The Vigil**

The Vigil usually occurs in the funeral home toward the end of the visiting hours. It is a brief Liturgy of the Word led by a priest or deacon. It includes two Scripture Readings, a brief sermon or eulogies, prayers of the faithful, the Lord's Prayer and blessing. Eulogies are welcome at the Vigil.

**Step Two: The Mass of Christian Burial**

The purpose of Mass is to praise and thank Almighty God from Whom all blessings flow. The focus of the Mass is on the life-giving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Family and friends are welcome as readers and gift bearers. The sermon will incorporate thanks to God and memories of the deceased. Eulogies occur at the Vigil but not during the Mass.

**Step Three: The Burial**

This is a brief Liturgy of the Word led by a priest or deacon over the grave.

**One of the corporal works of mercy is to bury the dead.**

We will assist you and give direction for ceremonies to thank God for the deceased's life and to hold family and friends close in prayer. We will attend the Funeral Masses at St. Genevieve Catholic Church. Through our presence and prayer, we help families at the time of a funeral by offering hospitality and showing support and concern to those who are grieving. We assist with the Funeral Liturgy. We serve as needed. This is an opportunity to show those who are grieving that St. Genevieve cares about them and prays with them.