

# GUIDELINES FOR FUNERALS

1. According to Canon Law, no funeral may take place on Saturday afternoon after 3:00PM, nor on Sunday. All efforts should be made to contact the Pastor before any arrangements are made. Most funerals take place early in the day, preferably before 12:00 noon.
2. Families should make the proper arrangements with the funeral director of their choice, whereupon he shall contact the Pastor immediately in order to check availability and finalize arrangements. It is desirable to have the Pastor present at the funeral home when the family is there in order to expedite arrangements. The Pastor may be contacted through the church office at 972-245-6995 and/or cell phone at 201-218-5045.
3. All arrangements must be according to the Canons of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and are subject to the approval of the Pastor.
4. The ritual of burial is divided into three sections:
  - A. For the Home (Wake Service)
  - B. For the Church (Church Service)
  - C. For the Cemetery (Graveside Service).The first shall be performed the night preceding the funeral, the other two subsequently from the Church and then the Cemetery. The Church Service, or part "B" must be performed in the Church. If there is a question about this, contact the Pastor immediately. The church may be used for the wake. Speak to the Pastor for this.
5. Neither compatriotic, fraternal nor any other organization may perform services in the Church proper. If such services are the desire of the family, the Church should not be used for the 'Wake Service' Dan Gark.
6. In the case of Cremation and/or suicide the Pastor must be informed prior to making funeral arrangements. Since such situations are outside the Canons of the Armenian Church, instructions must be received from the ecclesiastical authority (Primate).
7. All donations are the responsibility of the family and should be handled through the Funeral Director. Church members usually make a memorial donation "In Lieu of Flowers" to the Church. There is not standard fee for the service, but is left to the discretion of the family.
  - a. If the family wishes to make a donation to Fr. Ghevond, please make a check out to Fr. Ghevond Ajamian. There is no standard donation.
  - b. If the family wishes to make a donation to the serving deacon, please make a check out to the deacon in his name. Again, there is no standard donation.

- 8.** The fee for the services of another priest or an out-of-town priest is according to individual donation. For visiting clergy, the minimum fee is \$200.00 plus travel expenses, (this should be discussed with the Pastor).
- 9.** IN LIEU OF FLOWERS donations are made directly to St. Sarkis Armenian Church. The Church will receive these directly from parishioners and individuals as well as the Funeral Director. The Church will keep the records for all donations and provide a list to the family. Any and all envelopes with "St. Sarkis Armenian Church" printed on the outside, shall be opened ONLY by a representative designated by the Pastor. Should IN LIEU OF FLOWERS donations be made to any other organization, envelopes MUST BE PROVIDED by that organization. No lay person may speak or give "eulogies" in the church sanctuary. It is desirable that lay people speak at the Funeral Home or the Hokejash .
- 10.** No lay person may speak or give "eulogies" in the church sanctuary. It is desirable that lay people speak at the Funeral Home or the Hokejash.
- 11.** According to protocol, before any other priest is invited, the invitation will come from the Pastor. Please consult with the Pastor before making arrangements of any kind.
- 12.** It is suggested that a one page summary of the deceased person's life be provided to the Pastor at least two days prior to the funeral.
- 13.** Rosaries and crucifix crosses are outside the tradition of the Armenian Church and should not be used. Exceptions can be made through consultation with the Pastor.