



St. Mark

the Evangelist Parish

St. Michael Worship Site Funeral Information

We at St. Mark the Evangelist are very sorry for your loss and would like to help make planning this funeral as easy as possible. The funeral is both a celebration of the earthly life of the deceased and the promise of eternal life that our faith tells us they are now enjoying with God.

Contact information:

Pastor:	Fr. Michael Hodges	616-677-3934
Liturgical Minister:	Kevin Kilpatrick	616-384-4026
Parish Secretary:	Cathie VanGessel	616-677-3934
Cemetery Sexton:	West Michigan Burial	Contact Parish Office

Service Compensation: We do not want finances to be an issue, yet those who give of their time deserve compensation. If the amounts listed below present a hardship, please let us know.

Priest/Pastor:	If Fr. Mike celebrates nothing is required, for another priest the typical offering is \$100 payable to the Priest.
Church Use:	\$100.00 stipend payable to St. Mark the Evangelist Parish.
Luncheon:	\$3.00 per person (estimated # of guests) for basic luncheon. \$1.00 per person (estimated # of guests) for cookie reception. Payable to St. Mark the Evangelist Parish.
Musician:	\$100.00 payable to Musician.
Altar Servers:	\$5.00 each (cash) to non-adult Altar Servers.
Cemetery:	Contact the church secretary for Cemetery Guidelines for pricing and policies.
Burial:	Casket: M-F, before 4 PM, \$450. Additional \$150 if after 4 PM or Saturday. Cremains: M-F, before 4 PM, \$200. Additional \$150 after 4PM or Saturday payable to Saint Mark the Evangelist.

Funeral Mass:

A Funeral Mass can be held on any day of the week except for Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation. If nobody (or very few) in the family are practicing Catholics, a funeral liturgy service may be held without a Mass. Please call the parish office to schedule a priest and our facility.

Vigil Service or Rosary:

A vigil service of prayer and scripture is encouraged, but optional. Praying of the rosary may serve as a substitute but is also optional. We will do all that we can to make a Deacon or parish staff person available to lead the service. The service is typically held at the funeral home, although in exceptional circumstances this may be held in the church or even a person's home.

Visitation prior to funeral:

Visitation and viewing of the body is encouraged to take place in the Narthex (entry area of the church) within the hour before the Mass begins. Flowers, photographs, memorabilia, memorial envelopes, are permitted.

Eulogy/Reflection by family:

These are not permitted during the Mass or Funeral Liturgy Service. You may do this at the Vigil Service or luncheon.

Music:

We can provide you with one of our Musicians or you may use a family member or friend if they are familiar with Catholic liturgy. Our musicians can assist you in picking out the songs. The church does not allow taped music during the Mass unless it is an accompaniment to a song. The songs during Mass must be related to the service and approved in advance. If you have a special song that your loved one liked, an appropriate time to play this is at the vigil or it may be played during the visitation period before Mass with the pastor's approval.

Lectors/Readers:

Do you have a family member or friend who would like to do the readings? There are many readings to choose from in the "Preparing a Catholic Funeral" guide. Our Pastor or Funeral Coordinator can help with the selection if desired.

Gift Bearers:

Do you have any family members who would like to be gift bearers?

This involves carrying up the unconsecrated hosts and wine during the offertory. Normally there are 2 or 3 things to carry, but up to 6 people may participate in the procession.

Communion Ministers:

Do you have family members or friends who would like to be a Communion Minister?

They should be Communion Ministers in their church but special circumstances may allow those who are Catholics in good standing with the Church to be commissioned just for the funeral.

Luncheon:

If desired, a luncheon will take place in the Family Center after the Funeral. Our luncheon committee will take care of everything from start to finish including purchasing the food, setting up tables, serving and cleaning up after your guests are gone. Leftover food will be sent home with your family. The basic menu consists of ham sandwiches, chips, salads, desserts, and beverages. For \$1.00 per person, we can offer a cookie/beverage reception. Please let our Luncheon Coordinator know approximately how many people you will be expecting and which option you prefer.

If there is anything that we can do to assist you and your loved ones during this time of grief, please ask. While many things are not permitted due to the sacred nature of the liturgy, we can usually find a way to accommodate special requests in a way that satisfies the desires of those who are grieving. Please be assured of our prayers for you during this difficult period!

In Christ,

Fr. Mike and the staff of St. Mark the Evangelist