

Funerals at St. Matthias the Apostle Catholic Church  
Magnolia, Texas

The staff of St. Matthias is here to help you in planning a funeral. These are the steps to take:

1. Contact the church office regarding your needs. 281-356-2000
2. Meet or speak with our pastor, Father Christopher Nguyen about the date and time of the funeral and to address any questions regarding the funeral or burial. The church office will arrange the day and time of the meeting.
3. Complete the Funeral Planning forms prior to the meeting, if possible. The forms are on our St. Matthias website or can be picked up at the office. (This is not required, but prior planning will help facilitate the meeting with Father and/or the office staff in order to assure that your wishes are met.)

These are some frequently asked questions about a funeral:

1. Does the Church recommend a funeral mass?  
Yes, a celebration of the mass is strongly encouraged for any Catholic who has died, even though the family may not be Catholic.
2. Can I choose the Scripture readings, or does the Church choose them?  
The family is encouraged to select the reading from Sacred Scripture. Page 2 of the handout includes choices of possible Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel readings.
3. Can I choose the hymns for the mass and/or Vigil service?  
The family speaks with the Music Director of St. Matthias to plan all music. A list of appropriate and commonly chosen hymns are on page 2 and 3 of the handout. (Also note that recorded music and secular music cannot be used at mass.) The fee for the music director is arranged with him.
4. What days and times are available for funerals?  
Funerals are held on Tuesday through Saturday. The usual times for funerals are 10:30 AM or 2 PM or other times upon request.
5. Can I have friends and family members offer a eulogy?  
Yes, one person may speak for no longer than 2-3 minutes.
6. Does the Catholic Church allow cremation?  
Yes, the Church permits cremation, but the Church requires burial or entombment of the deceased.

7. Does St. Matthias charge for funerals?

There is no charge to use the church for a funeral.

8. Can I bring flowers into the church?

Yes, flowers may be placed in the Narthex. Normally in the church there will only be a casket spray or a vase of flowers next to the cremains. Flowers may be left at St. Matthias to be used at weekend masses, as a memory of the deceased.

St Matthias has a florist that we recommend, but any florist can be used.

The family may also request that donations be made to St. Matthias in lieu of flowers.

9. May I request a priest from another parish to celebrate the funeral?

Yes, visiting priests are welcome at St. Matthias. Please discuss with the pastor when you meet with him to secure permission.

10. Can we have a reception after the funeral?

Yes, our Funeral Reception Committee is available to provide a light lunch or refreshments in the church hall after the service at no charge for registered parishioners. However, donations are gratefully accepted.

11. Will there be a program for the service?

Yes, a Worship aid will be printed for the service that will contain information that the family has provided on the forms completed and given to the church office.