

**FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL LITURGY PLANNING  
CHURCH OF ST. LUKE  
HO-HO-KUS, NJ**



I am the way, and the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.

*John 14:6*

*The Clergy and Staff at the Church of St. Luke are here  
to assist you during this time of sorrow.*

*For questions and assistance, please contact the Parish Office.*

**CHURCH OF ST. LUKE  
340 N. Franklin Turnpike  
Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423  
201-444-0272**

[churchofstluke.org](http://churchofstluke.org)

## **FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL MASS ARRANGEMENTS**

The Roman Catholic Faith teaches that the sadness of death will be overcome by Our Savior's bright promise of eternal life for those who believe in Him. The Church of St. Luke encourages parishioners to celebrate the complete Funeral Rites as a means of consolation for the living and grace-filled assistance for the deceased. These Rites, which include a Funeral Mass, are most properly celebrated in the parish church of the deceased, in the presence of their faith community.

When a loved one dies, or is in the imminent process of dying, the first telephone call should be made to the parish priest. The Parish office telephone number is:

**201-444-0272**

If your loved one is very near death, spiritual comfort and support can be provided by the parish staff. If your loved one has already passed, the priest will provide important information related to the protocol surrounding the funeral ritual.

The second telephone call needs to be made to the Funeral Director. The parish will suggest a reputable funeral home, if the family does not have a strong preference. It is usually the responsibility of the Funeral director to arrange transport of the body or remains. Scheduling through the Funeral Director is critically important to integrate the cemetery schedule.

The next important task is to notify immediate family members and friends, particularly those who will be traveling from a distance.

### **FUNERAL MASS PLANNER**

The Funeral Mass Planner contains specific instructions and planning tools for preparation of the Funeral and Memorial Masses. Any questions regarding information in the planner may be discussed with the Parish Office or presiding Priest.

The clergy and staff at the Church of St. Luke are here to serve you and your family during this difficult time. If any assistance is needed before, during or after the Funeral Mass, please contact the church office at:

**201-444-0272**

[Funeral Mass Planner](#)

### **FLOWERS**

Flowers and wreaths used at the funeral home for the Vigil service may be displayed as part of the funeral celebration. All flowers and wreaths must be removed after the Funeral Mass. No flowers are allowed during the Lenten Season.

## **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

Memorial gifts may be donated to the Church on behalf of loved ones through the Memorial Fund. Please contact Fr. James Manos, Pastor, for more information. The Funeral Director needs to be informed so that Memorial Fund information can be published along with the funeral announcement. Please publish "In lieu of flowers, the family requests relatives and friends to honor (the deceased) by making a contribution to the St. Luke's Memorial Fund." These gifts are received in the name of loved ones and provide the means for the Church to continue its extensive charitable and pastoral services.

## **MILITARY HONORS**

The Funeral Director will assist with military honors at the cemetery. If the casket comes to the church draped in a flag, the flag is removed before the liturgy and is put back on at the end of the funeral liturgy.

## **FEES**

Fees for the church and musicians are coordinated through the Funeral Director. Any special music requests that are not listed in the Funeral Mass Planner must be approved by the Pastor and Music Director.

## **RECORDED MUSIC**

Although certain recorded songs are meaningful, recorded music is not allowed in the church. Recordings are appropriate at the viewing, vigil service, or repast.

## **BAGPIPES**

Bagpipes are allowed outside prior to the Funeral Mass or at the end of Mass.

## **WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE**

At the beginning of the funeral liturgy in the church, the priest or deacon may permit one family member or friend to speak in remembrance of the deceased and his/her life of faith, virtue and good works. Although these words of remembrance are permitted, the priest or deacon has a duty to ensure that the Church's funeral rites are conducted in a dignified, respectful way. Families and friends are asked to be respectful of and to cooperate with the priest or deacon in preserving the sacred character of the Catholic funeral, in accord with the liturgical practices of the Church. Words of remembrance are not to exceed five minutes in length. It also is important to note that words of remembrance are optional and that the most appropriate times for offering them are at the vigil/wake or the post-funeral reception.