Funeral Liturgies in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart

The Basilica of the Sacred Heart welcomes those who seek to celebrate a funeral in the Basilica for an alumnus, member of the University faculty or staff or a Sacred Heart parishioner. We ask that everyone involved respect the following policies regarding funeral liturgies in the Basilica. These policies adhere to guidelines set forth by the Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and respect the various other ministries and sacraments which take place daily in the Basilica.

A wake may be held in the main nave of the Basilica beginning one hour before the start of the liturgy and concluding 15 minutes before the funeral begins, provided another wake time at the funeral home has been scheduled and publicly announced. The main nave, in front of the front steps of the altar, is the only permitted place in the Basilica for this short time of visitation of the body.

The funeral liturgy should also take place in the nave and should not exceed one hour in length. Please know the Basilica schedule is very full, with Masses, Confessions, prayer services and rehearsals slated each day.

Eulogies for the deceased are appropriate for funeral luncheons or possibly for wake services, but not for the funeral Mass itself. For the diocesan policies regarding eulogies and words of remembrance, please see the attached guidelines. We ask that any priest presiding at a funeral in the Basilica faithfully and dutifully adhere to these and all diocesan policies while in the Basilica.

Only funerals with cremated remains may, upon request, be celebrated in the Log Chapel. No funerals are to be celebrated in any other campus chapels.

For more information or for assistance, please contact the University Sacristan John Zack at (574) 631-9050.