

Funeral Protocol

Bringing the body into the church and commencement of service (usually 10.30 am)

All family members meet at the front of the church.

The body is walked into the church, behind the celebrant and the cross with all family members following the body.

The celebrant will do the raising of incense around the body. Once the celebrant is back in the sanctuary, everyone is to sit down in silence, in respect of the body.

From behind the altar the celebrant and other participating members of the clergy do the farewell prayers.

Psalm 23 (10.55am)

(Reader:)

The Lord is My Shepherd

As believers in God and followers of Christ we do not fear death and we know that is now resting with Him, in peace.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Funeral prayers (usually 11.00 am)

The funeral prayers start. When the celebrant holds the censer, everyone is to stand. When the censer is given to the deacon, everyone is to sit down.

Reading of the Epistle (11.15 am)

The Epistle is read (language to be determined prior to the ceremony).

Reader:

Reading of the Gospel

In Arabic.

Family tree of the deceased and offering of condolences to the family

Celebrant/Deacon

Homily

Prayers of the faithful

To be prepared by the participants beforehand.

All readers meet at the front on the left side facing the altar to read the prayers of the faithful.

Once finished reading, the reader goes to the end of the line of readers. When all prayers are read, the readers return to their seats.

Readers:,, and

Eulogy

The eulogy is read in (language to be determined)

Speaker:

Slideshow (if applicable)

Blessing the casket with fragrant holy water

As a sign of farewell for the newly born in heaven, all immediate family members gather around the casket, and rose water is sprayed on the casket.

The rose water is sprayed with rosemary kept from Good Friday.

Blessings and end of service

The celebrant says 3 times "His (or her) memory be eternal."

The carrying of the casket

The selected immediate family members will be walking the casket out to the car and return for condolences inside the church.

Everyone is to remain in the church.

The immediate family returns to the church to receive condolences.

Condolences to the family

Due to time limitation, condolences are offered to immediate relatives only.

The children stand in front of the Iconostasis ensuring their back is not turned to the Altar. They stand in a line with their partners behind them.