

Dear Parishioners,

One of the most important aspects of living our faith is how we celebrate the lives of our loved ones in the funeral liturgy. Here is what the Church teaches us:

“At the funeral rites, especially at the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Christian community affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one great communion of the saints. Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and intercession.”¹

Our celebration of the Mass, no matter what the situation might be, is the Church’s celebration. It is a communion between the Church of heaven and the Church on earth. It is vitally important that we be willing to enter into this celebration, especially in the Funeral Mass. There is no greater moment to celebrate our spiritual communion than when a family experiences profound grief.

My message to you is heartfelt and simple. I want to encourage all parishioners to feel a greater sense of the importance of attending funerals and being fully present in a Eucharistic way, a way that shows a compassionate union with those who grieve and an intimate union with the Community of the Saints.

I understand that work schedules do not always allow for the attendance of funerals. At the same time, I acknowledge your extraordinary outpouring of generosity for those who grieve. However, the Eucharistic celebration is the fullest, most joyful expression of our union as the Church, with those who grieve and with those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

In joyful hope,
Fr. Tim Seigel

¹ Order of Christian Funerals, page 3