

## CONTACT INFO

Call or email us at [careministries@sfoasj.org](mailto:careministries@sfoasj.org) if you have any questions or need assistance.

**Funeral Preparation Ministry**  
(408)223-1562

**St. Francis of Assisi Memorial Garden**  
(niches for cremation)  
5111 San Felipe Road  
San Jose, CA 95135  
(408)223-1562

**Calvary Catholic Cemetery**  
2655 Madden Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95116  
(408)258-2940

**Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery**  
22555 Cristo Rey Drive  
Los Altos, CA 9402  
(650)428-3730

Parish Emergency: (408)439-9223

Diocese of San Jose: (408)983-0100



### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
A Catholic Community

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## *St. Francis of Assisi Parish* WHAT TO DO WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES



"You have made us for Yourself, O Lord,  
and our hearts are restless until they rest in  
Thee."

*St. Augustine*

# WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES...

Notify your parish priest or a pastoral staff member that your loved one has died. They will help you to memorialize the loved one's life through the celebration of the sacramental action of the Order of Christian Funerals. They will help you plan the Catholic Funeral Rite which consists of a:

- ♥ **Vigil** to encourage the family and friends to remember their loved one;
- ♥ **Funeral Liturgy** to celebrate the loved one's entry to eternal life;
- ♥ **Rite of Committal**, the final liturgical act by which the Christian community entrusts the deceased to the love of God.

## ⊕ Helping you through this difficult time

Your priorities at this time may vary depending on several factors, but most survivors want the power to make sure their loved one's end-of-life wishes are met, and the opportunity to say goodbye before they are moved to the funeral home.

## ⊕ The first moments after death

If you are present when your loved one dies in a hospital, nursing facility or hospice, notify a nurse of the death.



The staff will arrange for your loved one to be moved to the funeral home.

You may have less control over the time you can spend with your loved one before they are moved, but be firm in requesting what you need.

## ⊕ Making arrangements

When your loved one is moved to a funeral home, you will then be able to take the time to make important decisions. Look for any information that your loved one may have left regarding end-of-life wishes. This includes a will, pre-need planner, etc. Contact your parish or a pastoral staff person, funeral director and Catholic cemetery to make the burial arrangements.



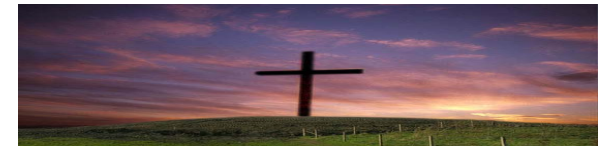
## ⊕ Whom to notify

Call Emergency Services 9-1-1 when a loved one dies at home. Notify your parish or pastoral care person, attorney, doctor, relatives, friends and funeral home. If applicable, notify employer, insurance agencies, Social Security Administration and Veterans' Office.

## ⊕ Preparing for appointments

Important papers of the deceased you will need are:

- ♥ Birth Certificate
- ♥ Marriage Certificate
- ♥ Social Security Card
- ♥ Insurance documents
- ♥ Pension information
- ♥ Living Will
- ♥ Trust information
- ♥ Veteran discharge papers
- ♥ DMV documents
- ♥ Bank/financial information
- ♥ Address book
- ♥ Home mortgage papers



## ⊕ Meeting with the Funeral Director

Based on discussions with family members, you will select a casket if you choose burial, or an urn if you choose cremation. Confirm the dates and times of the Catholic Funeral Rite, pick your loved one's attire for burial, compose your loved one's obituary, prepare the memorial program, select the prayer card and arrange transportation.

## ⊕ Meeting with Catholic Cemeteries

Select and purchase the burial location and discuss the details of the Committal Service. Confirm the date and time that it will be held. Provide authorization for the Christian Burial Certificate.

## ⊕ Taking care of yourself

Eat healthy and rest as much as possible. At this time you and your family members may be numb and/or emotionally exhausted. Surround yourself with friends and family members and accept offers of help. Involve yourself in activities and tasks that are the most meaningful for you and your family.

## ⊕ The "Aftercare Process"

Mourning and grief are normal components of the bereavement process, visible through tears and expressions of sorrow. We grieve when we remember the loss of our loved one and feel the pain of missing them. The act of honoring a loved one by visiting their burial site, praying for them, celebrating Eucharist, and offering a Mass Intention memorializes them and helps the family through their grief. St. Francis of Assisi offers a program for the grieving under Care Ministries.