

Funerals at Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church

FUNERAL POLICIES

Only the Rector or appointed clergy is authorized to make funeral plans with the family and perform the funeral service. The Rector has complete authority over the contents and conduct of the service and authorizes the date and time of service. Permission to use another Episcopal priest to conduct the service in the absence of the Rector is granted solely by the Rector. The seating capacity in the parish is approximately 400.

PALL FOR THE COFFIN

The coffin is to be closed before the service and it remains closed thereafter. A purple pall to cover the coffin during the service in the church is provided by the church. This reminds us of our mutual mortality and the royal kingship of Christ over death. In the case of a veteran of the United States military, the coffin may be covered at the burial site by an American flag, if desired. Military funeral ceremonies are appropriately conducted outside the church or at the burial site.

EULOGY

Eulogies, or remembrances, are not a part of our funeral liturgy but we understand that they can play an important role in comforting those who are grieving. Therefore we do allow up to 2 people to deliver brief remembrances of the deceased before the opening hymn. The person giving the eulogy must be an active member of Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church. Each eulogy should be no more than 3-5 minutes. There will be a brief homily delivered by the officiating priest in the funeral service itself.

CREMATION

The Episcopal Church has no objection to cremation. The cremation may take place after the service or beforehand. The ashes may be present at the service just as a casket would be.

COLUMBARIUM

The Columbarium of Saint Thomas' is open to all members of our parish and school family as a final resting place for cremated remains. Membership in the parish is defined as regular church attendance at one of our three services and a giver of record. The cost of interment is a donation of \$2,750, which will include the cost of the burial niche. The policy for burial in the Columbarium can be picked up in the parish office or by speaking with clergy.

