

## **Funerals**

Funeral services are conducted only for those people who are Orthodox Christians in regular Canonical and Spiritual standing with the Church. In other words, only those people who have been Baptized and Chrismated in the Orthodox Church and have had their marriage blessed in the Orthodox Church are eligible for an Orthodox Christian Funeral.

Should there be a death in the family, the following steps should be taken:

- Immediately notify the family doctor or Local Police if the death is sudden and occurs at home. The Doctor must examine the deceased and sign the death certificate. The body cannot be removed otherwise.
- Call the priest.
- Call the funeral director of your choice or specify a Home Funeral.

### **Funeral Arrangements:**

- Arrangements for the funeral service should be made with the priest in conjunction with the funeral director or family member if a Home Funeral.
- No funerals are permitted on Sunday, the day of the Resurrection of our Lord. The priest will conduct a Trisagion at the funeral home on the evening before the funeral.
- No lay person is permitted to deliver a funeral oration in the Church. The Archdiocese explicitly prohibits lay people speaking in Church unless they are lay preachers designated by the Archdiocese.
- Funeral services conducted by lay organisations, although discouraged, may be held the evening before the funeral and prior to the Trisagion conducted by the priest. However, from the time of the evening Trisagion to the committal at the cemetery, no other services may be held.

### **A Funeral Service May Not Be Held in Cases of:**

**Suicide** — As no one is permitted to take the life of another, likewise no one is permitted to take his/her own life; that is, suicide is viewed by the Church as self-murder and consequently as grave sin. Only when a doctor certifies that such a person had lost his/her sanity and when permission of the Bishop is given can a Church funeral be held.

**Cremation** — Cremation is absolutely forbidden by the Church as being blasphemous to the body of man which is "the temple of the Holy Spirit". Cremation is contrary to the faith and tradition of our Church and is forbidden to Orthodox Christians. A Church funeral is denied a person who has been or will be cremated.

### **Memorial Donations**

Some families prefer Memorial Donations to the church. If this is the choice of the family, mention should be made to the funeral director (or Trustee) so that notification can be placed in the Obituary. Acknowledgments to the donors are made by the Church Office and a list sent to the family.

**Makaria**

The Makaria meal following the funeral service serves as a means of comforting the bereaved family and expressing thanks to those who attended the services or assisted the bereaved family in their hour of grief.