

## Guidelines for Memorials & Funerals

- ❖ Memorials – an important way we honor the memory of our deceased loved ones is to offer a memorial on an anniversary of their passing (i.e., 40 days, 6 months, annually).

It is recommended that memorials be offered for loved ones on the four Saturday of Souls (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday prior to Great Lent & 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in Great Lent) and on the eve of Pentecost. Memorial services are not permitted from the Saturday of Lazarus through the Sunday of St. Thomas, all the feast days of our Lord, and Theomitrikes (Feast days of the Theotokos like August 15<sup>th</sup>).

To offer your own memorial, please contact us (630-834-7010) at least one week in advance with the name of deceased and time since their passing. It is customary to bring Koliva and names (use form on [www.st-demetrios.org/participating.htm](http://www.st-demetrios.org/participating.htm) ) to church no later than 8:30 am that Sunday.

- ❖ Funerals - As we move on from this life to the next, the Church is there for us. If you should lose a loved one, contact us immediately.

You will need to choose your own funeral director. They should contact one of our spiritual fathers to schedule services and for any instructions. After the funeral service, the priest will be present at the cemetery with family and friends to offer a Trisagion Prayer.

Learn about the Orthodox Church's position on the Sanctity of Human Life including organ donation, suicide, cremation & autopsy at (<http://www.goarch.org/en/ourfaith/articles/article8083.asp>).