



## COVID-19 Funeral Policy for St. Thomas Becket

For Christians, gathering to mourn the dead, celebrate their life and proclaim the hope of Resurrection are essential practices of our faith. In times of trial like the death of a loved one, we turn to the familiar practices and rituals of our faith and ancestors for comfort and hope. Unfortunately, during the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 outbreak, many of our usual mourning rituals are being interrupted.

Until the COVID-19 State of Emergency is lifted for Minnesota, we will be limited in our funeral practices in the following ways:

### **Funeral Planning**

Funeral planning meetings will be restricted to video or phone conference whenever possible and will be open to as many family members as desired. Where a video or phone conference is not an option for the family, in-person funeral planning meetings will be limited to two family members.

### **Visitation**

St. Thomas Becket is unable to accommodate a visitation or viewing at this time.

### **Funeral Luncheon**

St. Thomas Becket is unable to host a funeral luncheon at this time.

### **Funeral Mass (Service)**

St. Thomas Becket is unable to host a Funeral Mass (Service) at this time. As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, a Memorial Mass (Service) may be scheduled at a future date to allow a full community celebration of life.

### **Graveside Service**

St. Thomas Becket may perform graveside services at this time. State of Minnesota guidelines in effect at the time of the service governing social distancing and attendance limitations must be followed. Local cemeteries have also enacted a number of COVID-19-related policies. Work with your funeral home or a cemetery representative to understand these restrictions.

We understand these options are not your preferred way to memorialize your loved ones; these are not our preferences either. However, the health of families, friends and parish staff is a high priority. These guidelines will remain in effect until the Minnesota State of Emergency is lifted.

Please contact St. Thomas Becket staff at [parish@stbeagan.org](mailto:parish@stbeagan.org) or 651-683-9808. Although the church office is closed during the stay at home order, staff is checking email and phone messages regularly.