

## ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO BASIC GUIDELINES

**PALL and CANDLE:** The casket itself, though a center of reverence, is not the focus of attention at the Mass of Christian Burial. Rather, the focus is our hope of sharing eternal life and resurrection as promised at Baptism. During the entrance blessing, the casket is covered with a white cloth, a pall, as a reminder of the white garment used at Baptism. The American flag never covers the casket in church during the Mass. The Easter Candle, another symbol of Baptism, will stand at the head of the casket.

**HOMILY:** The homily is the sermon by the priest or deacon after the gospel. It is meant to be a reflection on Christian life, death and resurrection. It is not meant to be a eulogy, but examples from the person's life may be used.

**EULOGY:** The eulogy is not part of the Mass of Christian Burial. Eulogies are encouraged at the vigil (wake) service. If the pastor does permit a eulogy in the church, the following norms must be strictly observed:

1. Only *one* person may speak.
2. The eulogy will be done at the podium, not the ambo, and take place after communion.
3. The text must be written.
4. The language must be church worthy.
5. The length is *5 minutes maximum*.

**CHURCH STIPEND, FEES:** Most funeral directors itemize all costs within their billings. Included should be the Church stipend, and the musicians' checks. The church stipend does not belong to the priest. It is turned in as church income.