

# Funeral Visitation at Assumption Church

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## **POLICY:**

It is our policy that Funeral visitations at Assumption will take place one hour before the funeral, and that we would NOT have any other visitations in Church. Exceptions could be made for clergy funerals or for other unusual circumstances.

## **REASON FOR POLICY:**

At Assumption, we care deeply for the bereaved. We work to love well those who have chosen to celebrate the life of their loved one with a Mass. We encourage visitation in the Narthex one hour before funerals. This is a grace-filled opportunity for family members of the bereaved to meet and greet those who are going to attend the funeral. We have found that this also allows family members to gather in one place on the day of a funeral, and then move peacefully into the doors of church to begin.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

Funeral visitations that take place the evening prior to the funeral, or at times other than one hour before the funeral will not be permitted in church or chapel because they, in part, require additional paid staff and present multiple challenges with the use of our facilities. (Some of the additional logistics include finding people to set up and monitor such things as: locking and unlocking, adjusting and monitoring temperature, setting up chairs, flowers, guest sign-in, restroom supplies, establishing receiving line flow, setting out Kleenex, easels, sometimes DVD and CD players for pictures and music, food in a room downstairs, watching unattended children who go downstairs for a snack, etc. Clean-up in all areas includes taking out trash, putting away supplies and locking up, etc.). There are many demands on our facilities and our staff. Other than the visitation that begins one hour before the service, additional funeral visitation times are best done at the funeral home, other than for unusual circumstances.

Unusual circumstances may include, but are not limited to, the death of an entire family, or an occasion when a funeral home could not accommodate the number of expected friends and relatives.