

## **Funerals**

Within the Holy Orthodox Church there are many customs and traditions that are associated with the passing of a loved one. Many people have expectations on how the service should be conducted and who will speak at the service. This may also be true with the family, who is grieving the loss of their loved one. This allows the Priest to explain to the family about the traditions that are associated with an Orthodox funeral.

Above all the conversation will eventually come to who will offer the eulogy. It is important to remember that the eulogies are offered in the Holy Sanctuary (Church) and **ONLY** by the Clergy.

Please instruct the family that if a family member or some other person desires to offer some words, there are three (3) opportunities to do so.

- 1.) At the Funeral Home following the Trisagion service on the evening of the viewing.
- 2.) At the gravesite following the Trisagion service on the day of the funeral.
- 3.) At the traditional “Makaria” Memorial Meal which takes place after the interment.

In order for parishioners to be familiar with this protocol, it is important to publish it periodically in all forms of parish communication.

As with all things, if there are special circumstances in which someone other than the Clergy needs to speak in the Church for the eulogy, the Priest must contact the Metropolitan or Metropolitan Chancellor for their approval.

This protocol is to be applied so that we may have uniformity within the Holy and God-protected Metropolis of Atlanta, and, as St. Paul states in his first letter to the Corinthians, all *“things be done decently and in good order.”* (1 Cor. 14:40)