



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
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To: News Editors and Assignment Desks

From: Archdiocesan Communications

RE: Funeral Liturgy for Joseph Torkos

Date: Monday, February 12, 2007

The funeral liturgy for Detroit firefighter Joseph Torkos, killed Wednesday, February 8, when an SUV crashed into the rig he was driving for Engine Co. 17, will be held on Monday, February 12, at 11 a.m. in St. Hedwig Church, 3245 Junction, Detroit. Prior to the Mass, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Torkos' body will lie in state in the church.

Fr. Ed Zaorski, pastor of Torkos' home parish of SS. Andrew and Benedict, Detroit, will be the celebrant and homilist for the Mass. The liturgy is being held at St. Hedwig Church because it can better accommodate the large group of people expected to attend. Television monitors will be set up in the basement of the church in order to accommodate the expected overflow crowd.

The Archdiocesan Department of Communications relays a request from the Torkos family, that no recording devices--video, audio, or still photography--be allowed inside the church building while the body lies in state or during the funeral Mass.

Reporters and crews covering this story are reminded of the solemnity of this occasion and are asked to respect the Torkos family's need for privacy and personal space. In addition, they are asked to honor the family's request in regard to recording devices and still photography.

Plans call for Junction to be closed to traffic between Michigan Avenue and Fort Street. However, arrangements will be made for media parking near the church. Media organizations with questions regarding this advisory or its directives should contact: Daniel McNamara at 313-300-0783.

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