

Kaddish FAQ sheet

Customs Regarding the Mourner's Kaddish

- Jewish tradition teaches that we mourn for our immediate relatives: parents, children, spouses, and siblings (including half-siblings). Although we may choose to say *Kaddish* for other relatives (such as grandparents), it is not obligatory. We are obligated to say *Kaddish* only for parents, children, siblings, and spouses.
- Traditionally, *Kaddish* is said daily for these immediate relatives in the period after their death. *Kaddish* is said for eleven months for a parent; thirty days for children, spouses, and siblings. We also recite the Mourner's *Kaddish* on the anniversary of the deaths of these close relatives (*yahrzeit*).
- The Mourner's *Kaddish* is traditionally said in the presence of a minyan, the quorum necessary for certain prayers to be said. This encourages mourners to be acknowledged and supported by their community. In the Reform Movement, however, we encourage anyone to say *Kaddish* even without the presence of a minyan.

Customs Regarding the Mourner's Kaddish at TRS

- When an immediate family member dies, their name will be listed on our Shabbat service program for four weeks, during the period of *Sheloshim*. When a member of your extended family dies, their name will be listed on our Shabbat service program for one week.
- Mourners may choose either the Hebrew or English date of their loved one's death for the observance of *yahrzeit*.
- The *yahrzeit* is observed on the Friday night immediately following the date of death of your loved one.
- Members will receive a reminder letter in advance of their loved one's *yahrzeit*.
- Beginning in January, the names of immediate relatives (parents, children, spouses, and siblings) whose *yahrzeits* are being observed will be read during Friday night services by the clergy and their names will be printed in our program. Those present will be invited to add the names of other non-immediate relatives.