



## Thousands Attend Justice Scalia's Funeral Mass

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Church bells tolled for Justice Scalia, as pallbearers carried his flag-draped casket into the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Washington's elite put political differences aside on Saturday as thousands gathered to pay final respects to US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, whose death last week ignited a fierce battle over his successor.

Scalia, one of nine of the longtime justice's children and priests in the Diocese of Arlington, memorialized his father as a devout, yet "imperfect" Catholic with a deep love for family.

Rather than a star-studded funeral service featuring judges and politicians, Scalia's sendoff at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception - the largest Roman Catholic church in North America - was a traditional Mass of Christian Burial befitting a true believer. "He understood that there is no conflict between loving one's God and loving one's country, between faith and public service", Paul Scalia said of his father.

Vice President Joe Biden and current and former Supreme Court justices were among those who attended Saturday's service. It was the site of the 2010 funeral of Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., who served as secretary of state to President Ronald Reagan, and the 2008 funeral for Tony Snow, the TV news anchor who served as a press secretary to President George W. Bush. Yesterday, he lied in repose in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court building. Items include two jars of applesauce, a package of paper bags and a pile of fortune cookies - a nod to his biting dissents past year in the court's gay marriage case and its ruling rejecting a challenge to President Barack Obama's health care law.

The Scalia family has announced a memorial program to be held March 1.

Justice Clarence Thomas plans a reading from the New Testament at the funeral Mass for his late colleague Antonin Scalia. Vice President Joseph Biden attended Saturday's funeral.

Texas senator and presidential candidate Ted Cruz - who served as a clerk to former Chief Justice William Rehnquist - took a break from the campaign trail to mourn.

Nina says "Scalia is only the fourth justice to die in office in the past 65 years, and there is no consistent pattern of presidential attendance at court funerals".

Adele Scalia, originally from Trincity and a former student of St Joseph's Convent, has been married to the late Justice's son Christopher since July 2010.

Democrats seek a replacement now who, if confirmed, would be more likely to be an activist on the bench in the mold of confirmed Obama nominees Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

"He's been the most divisive, partisan president in recent memory", Krauthammer said.

Any preliminary court votes or drafts of opinions by Mr. Scalia now are void, Ilya Shapiro told us; he's a senior fellow in constitutional studies at the libertarian Cato Institute.

When the court issues split decisions, the lower court rulings stand and "it will be as if the court did not even take the case", said Meg Penrose, a law professor at Texas A&M University's School of Law. His casket rested on a funeral bier that first held President Abraham Lincoln's casket after his assassination