

# Consecrated Grounds

Preparing for Eternity

Winter 2022



**Catholic Cemeteries**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

*Our Faith is at the Heart  
of All That We Do!*

## Until Death Do Us Part

Rev. Michael Grewe, Executive Director



I know this title is not really a subject many of us wish to talk about. However, all of us will at some time be called to discuss this reality. With the Feast of All Souls rapidly approaching I thought I may offer a kind reminder of what

our Catholic faith teaches us about the subject of death and our rites as Catholics.

Many of our rites during this time of our life or our loved one's life are steeped in prayer and ritual to assist us through our sadness and grief. The Church (Jesus) wants us to be comforted and surrounds us in prayer. There are convents and monasteries and people in our own parishes praying for the repose of the souls of our loved ones and for those of us

entering this difficult period in our respective lives. We are reminded, if possible, to call our parish priest and ask for final reconciliation and anointing and Viaticum (food for the journey) before our time on earth is over.

After a death it is highly recommended that a vigil or wake be observed reflecting the Christian life of the deceased. In this rite we are encouraged to use Scripture, music and to have people speak about the deceased. This is the perfect time to eulogize our departed family member or close friend!

It is strongly urged again, hopefully within the next 12-24 hours, that the funeral Mass is celebrated to pray for the repose of the soul of the deceased and to continue praying for the family in their hour of sorrow. It is in the confines of the Mass that Scriptures are chosen to reflect the life of our loved one and sacred music is used in respect for the dignity of this life lived sacramentally. There is an

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## Catholic Cemeteries

ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

### CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

(78th Street south entrance)  
Calvary Cemetery  
7710 West Center Road  
Omaha, NE 68124  
402-391-3711  
CatholicCem.com

Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday-Friday  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday

### FIVE CONSECRATED CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Calvary ..... 7710 W. Center Road  
Resurrection ..... 7800 W. Center Road  
Holy Sepulchre ..... 4912 Leavenworth St.  
St. Mary Magdalene ..... 5226 S. 46th St.  
St. Mary ..... 3353 Q St.

**Gates Open:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during Daylight Saving Time)

### STAFF MEMBERS

Rev. Michael Grewe ..... Executive Director  
Deacon Steve Hill ..... Director  
Bill Barnes ..... Manager, Memorials and Facilities  
Deacon Jim Tardy ..... Outreach Manager  
Deacon Norm Tierney ..... Manager of Ministry  
Denyse Lafferty ..... Accounting Manager  
Lance Zimmerman ..... Family Service Manager  
Terry Kruger ..... Family Service Representative  
Kathy Dropinski ..... Memorial Representative  
Peggy Sjuts ..... Memorial Representative  
Rachel Meyer ..... Administrative Assistant  
Dan Gilster ..... Manager, Grounds and Facilities  
Zach Worthing ..... Asst. Manager, Grounds and Facilities  
John Czeranko ..... Caretaker, Holy Sepulchre  
Zach Urwin ..... Caretaker, St. Mary and St. Mary Magdalene  
Greg Boll ..... Operations Representative  
Rick Chadwell ..... Operations Representative  
Zach Jeffrey ..... Operations Representative  
Jerry Shotkoski ..... Operations Representative  
Rain Skenandore ..... Operations Representative  
Dave Sparks ..... Operations Representative  
Gabe Vorland ..... Operations Representative  
Steve Goetzinger ..... Part-time Family Service Representative  
Lisa Shaw ..... Part-time Housekeeping

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## Until Death Do Us Part - continued

instruction at the end of Mass that is especially important for all of us: "In peace, let us take our brother/sister to his/her place of rest."

In lieu of the final direction at Mass, the Church, because of the dignity of the life created in the image and likeness of God, teaches us to bury or intomb the deceased's remains as quickly as possible. If one is cremated, then all remains are to be buried or intombed. The Catholic Church teaches that no remains are to be scattered or placed in other vessels for private use. It is at the committal service we pray and

receive the blessings of God as a community, to leave our loved one in their final place of rest so that we may return and pray for our blessings of today and hopes for our tomorrows.

If you have the cremated remains of a loved one or other relative and feel financial considerations are preventing you from giving this person their final place of rest, please see Deacon Jim's article below about our All Soul's community committal service, where we can help provide your loved one's remains the dignity they deserve.

## All Souls Communal Interment November 5, 2022

We want to remind all our Catholic brothers and sisters of the Church's teaching regarding our burial rites: The Church's explicit desire is for our remains to be buried as soon as possible after a funeral Mass (usually within 24-48 hours after the Mass). This same teaching holds true for all cremated remains. Perhaps, as part of a move or a deep house cleaning, the remains of an uncle, aunt or some other relative have been discovered on a shelf or tucked away in the basement. It is our Catholic belief in the dignity of life that these remains should be permanently interred as soon as possible.

If financial difficulties are involved, consider our **November 5th Communal Interment at 11 a.m. in St. Wenceslaus Mausoleum at St. Mary Magdalene Cemetery**. There is no cost to participate in this committal service, but we do require information in advance regarding the deceased for our records. Please contact our Family Services Department as soon as possible for more information.

The funeral Mass has a final directive for us: "In peace, let us take our loved one to their final place of rest." Help us to give your loved ones the dignity they deserve by giving them their final resting place.

Blessings to all,  
Deacon Jim Tardy



## Keep Moving Forward

Deacon Steve Hill, Director



At any point in time, Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Omaha has many projects either underway or in the planning stages. My first 15 months as the director has demonstrated the need for us to be flexible, especially where our projects are concerned.

We continue to look for ways to improve our cemeteries, from planting new trees, to providing better access to sections within the cemeteries, to increasing availability of burial spaces. Many of our current projects have been in the planning stages for several years, while others are in response to events such as storms or theft.

Storms in July and August 2021 took a brutal toll on our grounds, with nearly 50 trees lost and another 50 requiring extensive trimming. We have replaced many of these trees, but unfortunately they can't be placed in the same spot as the lost tree – the roots from old tree would prevent growth of the new tree. Our annual budget includes plans for adding trees each year but we obviously didn't anticipate losing so many existing trees from these two storms.

Also in July 2021, our bronze Infant of Prague statue was stolen. We replaced the original bronze statue, which stood on Calvary's grounds since the 1960s, with a larger granite version. And by placing the new statue on top of a columbarium, we were able to increase the availability of cremation niches. This columbarium has been well received since its installation this past Memorial Day, with nearly 25% of the niches already sold!

Our plans for this year included adding a new north-south road in Resurrection Cemetery, which will allow for much better access to the interior of Sections M, N and O. I had hoped to tell you about how great the new road looks. Unfortunately, due to weather-related delays early in the summer, availability of materials, and unexpected personal issues with our contractor, we were unable to start the project this year. We still plan to move forward with this new road but are working through the question of when.

Lastly, we have begun production of two new columbarium to be installed under the Trumpeting Angels statues in Resurrection Cemetery. These units will provide much needed additional cremation niches for Resurrection Cemetery. We anticipate these will be installed by early spring 2023.

## Memorial Dept. Can Create Lasting Memories

Bill Barnes, Manager of Memorials and Facilities

Welcome to the Catholic Cemeteries Memorial Department. We have two dedicated full-time professional designers available to assist your family in creating a unique memorial for your loved ones. You may stop by the office at Calvary Cemetery Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. to meet with Kathy or Peggy. They would love to partner with you to design a lasting memory for your loved one with a beautiful granite or bronze memorial.

We provide our families with top-notch service. Our goal in the Memorial Department is to help our families

in their grieving process by creating a memorial that will create a lasting memory of their loved one.

We offer grass markers, upright monuments, vases, full-color portraits, medallions and emblems.

Please reach out to one of our professional designers. They would be honored to help you in creating a beautiful reminder of cherished memories.



## Simple, Humble, and Pure

Deacon Norm Tierney,  
Manager of Ministry



"We must not be wise and prudent according to the flesh. Rather, we must be simple, humble, and pure." ~ St. Francis of Assisi

I think many of us live a large portion of our life with just the opposite view of what St. Francis of Assisi is espousing here. We work hard, and get educated, so we can get promotions in order to work harder, all to make money to support ourselves and our loved ones.

We start out with good intentions and then suddenly our work *becomes* who we are instead of our

work *supporting* who we are! The office, the parking place, the car we put in the parking place all become so important that we work even harder to hold onto those things. We sacrifice time with family, friends, and God. We save and invest to make even more money, and then lastly, we give to God what we feel we can.

In the course of time, we accumulate property, possibly a house, and all kinds of stuff. We tell ourselves, "After all, I have worked hard; I deserve this." And in the eyes of the world, we appear wise and prudent.

But where is God in a life ordered toward only material things? He ends up being last in our priorities, if at all! This is not the life our Lord wants for us! It is a life the world calls us to!

Whether you are young, old, or in-between, by the Grace of God, you can change your outlook about the meaning of what you have. You can choose to use some of your treasure to do good for others. You can choose to use some of your talent in ministry to help the poor and disadvantaged. You can serve God's creation rather than be served by it.

St. Francis has another great quote that I think really applies here:

"You cannot all abandon your possessions, but at least you can change your attitude about them. All getting separates you from others; all giving unites to others."

Giving and serving unites us with Christ's mission to serve the poor. When we actively do this, we become His arms and legs. We bring His Love to all those we encounter. When God is first in our life, everything we consider important falls into its rightful place. When we truly love everyone, we love those closest to us more perfectly.

Wherever you're at in your journey, remember God is waiting for you to turn to Him. Put Him first before all else. Surround yourself with people who will support your effort. Make giving a portion of what you have (time, talent and treasure) a part of your routine. Steep yourself in prayer and ask God to guide you in all that you do with your family, your work, and your relationships with others. He will help you keep balance in your life.

With God's Grace we will all be able to turn our focus to what is most important, which in the end will keep us simple, humble, and pure.

Amen.

## New Faces

As with most businesses, our staff continues to evolve each year. We've been fortunate to have many members of our team with us for years and years. This year, a few members of our team – both in the office and in the field – have decided to retire but we've also experienced turnover from others who have decided to exit the workforce or leave us for positions elsewhere forcing us to fill several open positions – something that doesn't happen very often.

Each year we nearly double the size of our Operations team with seasonal help, primarily to assist with mowing and weed control. We were able to promote several of this year's seasonal folks to full-time positions. Their time with us demonstrated not only their work-ethic but also their

caring nature. We are thrilled to have **Zach, Rick, Rain** and **Gabe** with us as our newest full-time Operations team members! We were also very fortunate to have **Becky**, a horticulturalist, join our team in a seasonal capacity, and we look forward to having her return next spring!

At the end of last year, **Peggy** joined our Monuments team and this past summer, **Terry** joined our Family Services team. Filling open positions can be stressful especially in today's job environment. We've been very fortunate with our staffing overall and feel each of our groups is well positioned to provide the level of service our families have come to expect from Catholic Cemeteries.





## Prayer Ministries Offer Support to Grieving

Deacon Jim Tardy, Outreach Manager

Where has our spring and summer gone? As I sit here today watching the weather change from sunny and warm to cloudy and a bit cooler, it is a reminder to speak to you about so many of our prayer ministries happening this fall and winter.

### The Way through Grief

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and many prayers we have begun our series, *"The Way" through Grief*. This seminar is patterned after the Stations of the Cross and is a six-week workshop exploring the emotions of grief in our Catholic traditions. This program is the result of many experiences of my life working in and through grief professionally, religiously and after the loss of a loved one over the last 20 years. It culminates with Mass as I believe, the Way of the Cross always leads us to Resurrection. To date, we have held this seminar twice here at the Calvary office and have recently "gone on the road" to two parishes in the diocese. Sometimes after the loss of a loved one we may need reassurance of our direction in our changed lives, and this may be a valuable tool to use.

Through God's Grace I have had the privilege to share life with many parents after the loss of one of their children. We just concluded a day-long retreat at St. Patrick's in Elkhorn called "He Wept." While there were many tears, we heard the grace of laughter as well. If you have lost a child, regardless of their age, or how long ago they passed, please reach out to allow me to walk through some of these difficult steps with you.

### All Saints & All Souls Events

We are now preparing for our annual All Saints Twilight service on November 4th at 6 p.m. in St. Mary Magdalene Cemetery. This is a small procession to the Grotto of Our Lady of Guadalupe in prayer, chant, and scripture. In gratitude we pray with the saints who have gone before us and will remember the souls we will inter on Saturday, November 5th at 11 a.m.

Again, we will pray, sing, and recite the committal prayers for those to be interred in St. Wenceslaus Mausoleum. I hope you will join us for one or both of these prayerful events.

### Advent Events

During Advent there will be two other prayer-centered events for those who may be struggling as we approach the Christmas season: On November 19 we will begin a five-week version of *"The Way" through Grief* seminar on successive Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. to assist those who are struggling with their sorrow this holiday season. On Wednesday evenings during Advent we will prepare for the coming of the Christ Child at Holy Angels Mausoleum in Resurrection Cemetery at 6 p.m. Come to the quiet, hear the word of God and chant with the angels as we ask for the intercession of our Lord in our lives in what might be a difficult hour for so many of us. Come and sit, ponder, and write a petition to put on the Tree of Hope so that all who enter this mausoleum may pray for you and with you in this moment of grief. These petitions will be blessed and prayed for at our January Mass and then buried in our consecrated grounds.

Lastly, a reminder that the first Monday of each month, Mass is offered in Holy Angels Mausoleum to remember those who were interred in one of our five Catholic cemeteries the previous month, and to remember the one-year anniversary of death of those interred in our cemeteries.

Dear friends, the beauty and warmth of summer is passing into the majesty of autumn and her rich colors. Soon winter will greet us, and we are reminded that life continues. Catholic Cemeteries is a place for each of us to come and be in wonder of the warmth and the quiet of God as we heal and continue this journey of life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

# Christmas Decorations Now Available from Our Online Store

## Visit: [CatholicCem.com/Flowers](http://CatholicCem.com/Flowers)

Check out our new online flower store. Honor the memory of your loved ones with a flower placement ordered easily through our new store. If you prefer, you may still mail the order form below to:  
Catholic Cemeteries – 7710 West Center Road – Omaha, NE 68124

Christmas decorations will be placed  
beginning Friday, November 25th.  
Order early, as quantities are limited.  
We reserve the right to substitute.



**Catholic Cemeteries**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA



Complete form and mail to:  
Catholic Cemeteries • 7710 W Center Road • Omaha, NE 68124

Orders can also be placed online or by calling 402-391-3711

Name of Deceased	Name of Cemetery	Item Letter	Item Name	Quantity	Unit Price	Total









Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle method of payment:    Check    Visa    Mastercard    American Express    Discover

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ V-Code (from back): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (       ) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>A. Artificial Wreath</b>  <b>\$50</b>	<b>B. Artificial Cross</b>  <b>\$45</b>	<b>C. Artificial Tree</b>  <b>\$45</b>	<b>D. Artificial Deluxe Holiday Mix</b>  <small>*Vase not included</small> <b>\$40</b>	<b>E. Artificial Poinsettia</b>  <small>*Vase not included</small> <b>\$25</b>	<b>F. Fresh Wreath</b>  <b>\$50</b>	<b>G. Fresh Grave Blanket</b>  <b>\$50</b>	<b>H. Artificial Niche Poinsettia</b>  <small>*Vase not included</small> <b>\$20</b>
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## Fall - Winter Decoration Guidelines

### Gravesites:

Appropriate artificial decorations may be placed Nov. 2nd through March 31st. Items such as grave blankets that cover the ground must be removed by March 1st.

### Vases:

We recommend that vases be left turned down in the cemeteries during the winter months.

If you have any questions regarding these policies, please contact the cemetery office at 402-391-3711.

### Monuments:

Appropriate decorations may be placed year round on the base of an upright memorial as long as they do not interfere with the daily operations of the cemetery.

### Mausoleums, Crypts, Niches:

Items can only be placed in or on an approved vase attached to a crypt or niche front. No items can be taped, wired or otherwise attached to the crypt or niche front. Fresh flowers are not permitted in a mausoleum, and will be promptly removed.

### Inappropriate Items:

Items not conforming to Catholic Cemeteries' policies, items placed in the ground or those extending onto adjoining graves, crypts or niches will be removed without notice. Out of respect for our consecrated grounds, pets and smoking are not permitted.