

# Consecrated Grounds

Preparing for Eternity

Spring 2023



**Catholic Cemeteries**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

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

## Corporal Acts of Mercy

Rev. Michael Grewe, Executive Director



I'm sure we've all heard the phrase "corporal acts of mercy" but, what does it mean? This phrase encompasses seven acts of love that address the physical and material needs of others. They are: giving food to the hungry, giving drink to

the thirsty, giving clothing to the naked, giving shelter to travelers, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned and burying the dead. Each of these are ways we can show the love of Christ to those around us by sharing with them our gifts of time, talent and treasure. Here at Catholic Cemeteries we focus on the last of these – burying the dead, which is a final act of love and mercy toward our loved ones who have died.

At our baptism, we became children of God and

members of the Body of Christ. When we were confirmed, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and our bodies became a temple where the Holy Spirit dwells. As such, our body should be treated with great respect, and this respect should not stop at death. We should continue to show our love for the deceased and respect for their body by treating their body with dignity, by providing the body a permanent place of rest.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the dead is a corporal act of mercy; it honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 2300)

Catholic Cemeteries is frequently asked if cremation is permitted by the Catholic Church, or if cremation is somehow contrary to this dignity and respect we

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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](http://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 8 p.m.  
(8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during Standard 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  
John Mitchell ..... 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  
Zach Jeffrey ..... Operations Representative  
Jerry Shotkoski ..... Operations Representative  
Rain Skenandore ..... Operations Representative  
Gabe Vorland ..... Operations Representative  
Steve Goetzinger ..... Part-time Family Service Representative  
Becky McMurtry ..... Part-time Operations Representative  
Simeon Worthing ..... Part-time Operations Representative

#### CATHOLIC CEMETERIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Reverend George J. Lucas  
Rev. Michael Grewe  
Rev. Richard Reiser  
Deacon Steve Hill  
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Dr. David Volkman  
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Glen Kampschneider

### Corporal Acts of Mercy - continued

should show toward the body. The answer is: it depends on our reasoning for cremation. If cremation is being selected to attempt to prevent the resurrection of the body, this would not align with Catholic teaching and would fall contrary to our Catholic faith. If cremation is being selected because the body would then take up less space or somehow

use less resources, or for other personal reasons, cremation is an acceptable form of burial by the Catholic Church.

Each of us at Catholic Cemeteries understands the ministerial aspect of what we do and embrace the opportunity to participate in this corporal act of mercy – burying the dead.

## 2023 Memorial Day Mass Schedule

### 10 a.m., Monday, May 29



Cemetery	Celebrant(s)	Assisting
Calvary	Archbishop George Lucas	Deacon Norm Tierney
Resurrection	Rev. Michael Grewe	Deacon Harold Sawtelle
Holy Sepulchre	Rev. John Pietramale	Deacon Tim Mulcahy
St. Mary Magdalene	Rev. James Buckley	Deacon Jim Tardy
St. Mary	Rev. William Safranek	Deacon Ed Bevan

**Please direct questions to Deacon Norm Tierney,  
Catholic Cemeteries Ministry Manager at (402) 391-3711**

## New Cremation Columbarium in Resurrection Cemetery

This spring Catholic Cemeteries will be installing columbarium (cremation niches) under the two Trumpeting Angels statues located in Resurrection Cemetery (see the rendering of what these will look like after installation). These columbarium will provide Resurrection Cemetery with 132 cremation niches in the popular Blue Pearl granite, increasing the beauty of this area.

For more information, please contact one of our knowledgeable [Family Services representatives](#).



## Unexpected Opportunities

Deacon Steve Hill, Director



We are each called to be good stewards with the gifts God has given to us, to do as much as possible with what we have been entrusted. This is especially true when you are responsible for a charitable organization such as Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Omaha!

As part of our annual budget process, we try to balance maintaining existing buildings and equipment, performing necessary repairs throughout our grounds, replacing items that have exceeded their useful lives as well

as undertaking new projects and offerings. This can be a bit of a juggling act.

But sometimes, unexpected opportunities present themselves and cause us to deviate from our original plan. In recent months this has occurred twice for Catholic Cemeteries. The first opportunity is related to the Archdiocese – they chose to outsource their grounds maintenance at the Chancery offices and were looking to dispose of their equipment. While we hadn't planned to add to our equipment supply at that time, we took advantage of the opportunity and purchased several key equipment items at favorable prices. Although the additional cost wasn't anticipated it will enhance our current inventory for long-term benefit.

Secondly, we were informed that Mother of Perpetual Help Church was closing and wanted to find a suitable home for its altar, ambo and other furnishings. Many of these items needed refurbishing – some more than others – but our Assistant Manager of Operations was up to the challenge! These items have been refinished and installed in Holy Angels Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery, and we will be refinishing items previously in Holy Angels and placing them throughout our cemeteries.

Come and pray with us at one of our upcoming monthly Memorial Masses and see for yourself how beautiful our “new” altar looks! We typically gather at 5 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at Holy Angels Mausoleum for the Mass.



## Free Trees from ReTree Nebraska

Bill Barnes, Manager of Memorials and Facilities

This year we again received 10 trees from the ReTree planting program, an effort of the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. The trees have been planted throughout all five of our cemeteries. In addition to simply planting more trees, the program's goals include increasing appreciation and awareness of the value of community forests in Nebraska. Free Trees for Fall Planting is supported by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's Trees for Nebraska Towns Initiative funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, and a U.S. Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration grant received by the Nebraska Forest Service.

## Calling All Flower and Gardening Enthusiasts!

With spring upon us, our thoughts trend toward new growth, flowers and flowerbeds where the scent of flowers in bloom can lift our hearts. If you have a passion for flowers, plants and gardening, we would love to have you join us in caring for our many flowerbeds and plants to prepare

them for the coming spring and summer. The more volunteers we have, the easier it will be to keep our cemeteries the beautiful, welcoming place they have always been.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Bill Barnes at 402.391.3711 or [BBar18@CatholicCem.com](mailto:BBar18@CatholicCem.com).





## SEEDS SOWN

Deacon Norm Tierney,  
Manager of Ministry



As we enter a season of new growth and new life, let's also continue to nurture the spiritual seeds God has planted in our hearts during the season of Lent.

The Lord plants many things in our heart during Lent. If we are open to receive them, each seed will bear fruit in our lives and the lives of those we encounter.

I'd like to share with you some of the seeds the Lord planted in my heart this Lent that we can all strive for.

### **To have humility in our life.**

Placing others before ourselves, not placing our needs above those we

see with greater need. When we put God first, others second and ourselves third, our lives will be ordered in a way that promotes the Kingdom of God in Heaven and on earth. Be humble as our Lord Jesus Christ was humble, seeking peace in all things.

### **To give love to others as God has loved us.**

By reflecting on the love God has shown us in our life, we can then model how we love all those we encounter, those we know and those who are strangers, in a way that reflects the dignity of the human person. As God has shared His blessings with us, we are called to do the same.

### **When God's plan is not our plan, to be patient with ourselves and with others.**

Many times, we have a plan that seems to meet our needs and desires. We feel we know the best way to achieve what we want, but it turns out God has a different plan for us. We can become frustrated because things aren't happening fast enough, and even become angry with God because it seems He isn't answering our prayers. When all is said and done, however, it is often easier to see God's plan in the way things took place. Many times, things must happen first before God's plan can be completed in us. Perhaps I need

to turn left in a hallway instead of right. This is true. A left turn led me to my wife two years later! Or maybe we need to experience a loss before we see a greater gain. So be patient with God and let Him give you the peace to be patient with yourself and those you are praying for.

### **Set aside time in solitude with the Lord in prayer.**

The Lord wants us to have an intimate relationship with Him. By Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection, He won freedom for each of us and after His ascension, sent the Holy Spirit to convict and guide us in our walk. If this sounds difficult, pray to the Holy Spirit to open your mind, your soul, your heart, to all that He has for you. Then be silent and listen to what He says. It may not be specific words, it can be an inspiration, thought, or sign through another person, but the Lord will speak to you in some way. The more we pray in this way the more we will be able to hear and discern what the Lord is saying to us, and the more intimate our relationship with Him will become.

### **To have total trust and faith in God in all things!**

What does it mean to have total trust and faith in God in all things? It means

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## Catholic Cemeteries Welcomes New Family Service Representatives

Catholic Cemeteries welcomes John Mitchell (left) and Terry Kruger (right) as new Family Service Representatives. They work with families to make cemetery arrangements, by pre-planning or at the time of need. Terry comes from St. Stephen the Martyr Parish (and is also a regular at St. Charles Borromeo Parish) and brings years of IT and customer service experience, along with a great sense of humor. John attends Holy Name Parish (with family ties to St. Bernard Parish). He has many years of experience in library and social services and brings a genuine sincerity to the job. Both gentlemen are married and have children (Terry is also a proud grandpa!) and work hard to put their Catholic faith into both action and words.



to live a peace-filled life even in times of trouble, stress and loss. It doesn't mean we will not have pain and sadness in our life, it means during sadness and loss, or even happiness and gain, we will live in faith that the Lord sees all things, and He is with us in all things. We will live in faith knowing that God is with us in the good and the bad. So, when we pray, we should always end with, "Your will be done in all things."

**Strive to forgive those who have hurt us in some way.** When someone hurts us, it is human nature to become upset or angry. Sometimes the anger comes in a flash and without thinking we respond in a hurtful way. Then in our thoughts we continue to revisit the wrong, and in a very real way allow the hurt to have power over our life and our joy. Even if the person apologizes, we may still hold on to the anger it caused within us. Or if we are hurt by someone inadvertently and they don't realize it, we may still hold on to the anger it caused. In either case, we are the ones holding on to the anger. In essence we place ourselves in emotional and spiritual jail. When this happens, pray to the Holy Spirit, and ask for the strength to forgive the person. Then offer

the pain and the person to Jesus, and spiritually place them at the foot of His Cross. He will take our burden from us, and we will be able to forgive and move on with the freedom He desires for each of us.

**Seek opportunities to serve God, not for our own reward, but to glorify God in all that we do, the big and the small things alike.**

Ask the Lord in prayer to reveal the ways you can serve Him. He will provide you an abundance of opportunities to serve His people and thereby, you will be serving Him. Be open and He will lead you to places of personal and spiritual growth. He will be present in those you serve, and in you as you serve the less fortunate. Remember to be humble as Jesus was humble. He did all things for the glory of His Father and so should we! Before the start of every effort ask Jesus to glorify the work of your hands, your minds, and your mouth, not for you, but for the glory of our Heavenly Father and His most precious Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Let us thank God for the good people and things He has brought into our life.** As I look back on my life, I am so grateful for my parents, siblings, wife and children. I am grateful for those who mentored me. I am grateful

for the challenges that drove me to be persistent in my efforts. But I am most grateful for the love my Heavenly Father has given to me and who continually showers His Love on me. All is gift, all is love! For each breath that I take, from the first to the last, I give Him my praise and thanks, for without Him, I am nothing. Without His Son, I am lost.

I am sure each of us have our own list of things to be grateful for, and so it is always good to write them down and then say a prayer of thanks to the Lord. We know He cannot be outgiven, He cannot be out-loved. He only asks for relationship with us.

**As you ponder the seeds the Lord sowed in my heart, also consider the ones he sowed in yours. Remember the seeds won't grow on their own. We must cooperate with the Lord and participate in nurturing them, weeding the fertile ground of our heart, watering them with prayer, scripture, and the sacraments, especially reconciliation. Let the fruit they bear bring the presence of God on earth to all those you encounter.**

God Bless

## Volunteers Needed for Memorial Day Weekend



One of Catholic Cemeteries' most anticipated holidays of the year is Memorial Day. Once the snow starts to melt and the days get longer, we start preparing for the thousands of folks that will be coming out to visit the graves of loved ones during this national holiday. We couldn't make this weekend happen without the many volunteers that help us to serve our families. Please let us know if you have some time to share with us here at Catholic Cemeteries this Memorial Day weekend. You would be helping families locate the graves of loved ones, selling floral arrangements, handing out flags and supporting our veterans. We will provide lunch and snacks while you are here!

<b>What:</b>	Answer basic visitor questions and provide grave locations
<b>How Long:</b>	2-hour shifts (between hours below) at outdoor tents
<b>Dates/ Times:</b>	Friday, May 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, May 29, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
<b>Where:</b>	Calvary Cemetery 7710 West Center Road
<b>Training:</b>	Provided on Wednesday, May 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Calvary office
<b>Sign up:</b>	Call Peggy at (402) 391-3711

# Memorial Day 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

Memorial Day decorations will be placed  
beginning **Thursday, May 25.**  
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](http://CatholicCem.com/Flowers) 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 Peony Tribute</b>  <small>*Vase not included</small> <b>\$25</b>	<b>B. Artificial Patriotic Tribute</b>  <small>*Vase not included</small> <b>\$25</b>	<b>C. Artificial Spring Tribute</b>  <small>*Vase not included</small> <b>\$25</b>	<b>D. Artificial Large Cross</b>  <small>*Vase not included</small> <b>\$35</b>	<b>E. Artificial Deluxe Memorial Tribute</b>  <small>*Vase not included</small> <b>\$35</b>	<b>F. Artificial Red Roses</b>  <small>*Vase not included</small> <b>\$25</b>	<b>G. Artificial Crypt / Niche Bouquet</b>  <small>*Vase not included</small> <b>\$20</b>	<b>H. Live Planter</b>  <small>Arranged in plastic container</small> <b>\$35</b>
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## Spring – Summer Decoration Guidelines

### Flat Markers:

Only fresh flowers are permitted in permanent and approved in-ground vases from April 1st through March 31st. Appropriate artificial decorations may be placed November 1st through March 31st.

### 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.

### Holidays:

Appropriate artificial decorations may be placed on in-ground graves starting at noon on the Thursday prior to the following holidays: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day and Independence Day. Decorations must be removed prior to gate closing on the Sunday following these holidays; Catholic Cemeteries will dispose of all decorations beginning on the Monday following these holidays. Live flowers in vases will be removed once they begin wilting.