

Consecrated Grounds

Preparing for Eternity

Winter 2023



Catholic Cemeteries
ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

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

Why pre-planning matters

Rev. Michael Grewe, Executive Director



Recently I was in New Orleans for the Catholic Cemetery Conference and Convention. It was a wonderful experience to share a few days with other Catholic leaders who manage cemeteries throughout the country. While

there, I quickly realized that I was in a group of very good people who were all doing their best to serve families in their time of need. Their sense of care and compassion was palpable. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and concerns with others who are all dealing with similar issues. I think we all learned something from each other.

One of the points that I picked up was the great need to pre-plan one's funeral and burial

arrangements. We all know that this is important, but it is so easy to put it off. Our days get filled with many things, and we think that we can always do this planning tomorrow. Unfortunately, tomorrow does not come for all of us. We have to seize the moment when we have it. I have come to realize that there are two very important reasons to do pre-planning. The first is that we want to save our family from having to do this especially at the time of our death. That will be a difficult enough time for them even without having to make any decisions. Priests and funeral directors can tell you many stories of how stressful this can be on a family. It is so tough to pick out a casket and a cemetery plot when your mind is completely elsewhere. Many families just wish that someone else would make the decisions for them.

The second reason to do the planning is to make sure that your wishes are carried out. I know many good Catholic people who did not even

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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

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Deacon Steve Hill Director
Bill Barnes Manager, Memorials and Facilities
Deacon Jim Tardy Outreach Manager
Deacon Norm Tierney Manager of Ministry
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Why pre-planning matters - continued

have a funeral Mass because their family didn't feel it was necessary. They never heard from their parents that they really wanted one. I remember one situation specifically when a dear older lady who went to Mass almost every day didn't have a funeral Mass because it wasn't important to her children. That broke my heart. In time I offered a Mass for her, but it would have been so healing for her family if they, too, would have been there to pray for their mother. All this can be prevented if we make our wishes clear. We need to write down or tell our family what we want, especially that we want a Mass in our parish so

that the prayers of the Church will go with us on our journey to the Kingdom. Of course, there are many other issues to consider in planning our funeral. We will do everyone a favor by having our wishes clearly outlined.

I suspect that all of us are procrastinators to some degree, but let's not procrastinate about our funeral planning. We all know that we are going to die at some point. Do your family and yourself a favor by having everything in order. It is one last gift that we can give our loved ones.

Rev. Michael Grewe

Monthly Memorial Mass moving to Tuesdays

Beginning in January 2024, our Monthly Memorial Mass will now be on Tuesdays, generally on the first Tuesday of each month. Come and pray with us at Holy Angels Mausoleum in Resurrection Cemetery. We begin at 5 p.m. with a Rosary followed by Mass at 5:30. We pray specifically for our loved ones who were interred in one of our five Catholic Cemeteries during the prior month, as well as those interred during that month of the prior year. We would love to have you join us.



2024 Mass Dates – Tuesdays

January 9	May 7	September 10
February 6	June 4	October 8
March 5	July 2	November 5
April 2	August 6	December 3

Please direct questions to [Deacon Norm Tierney](#).

Do you need to be Catholic to be buried in Catholic Cemeteries?

Deacon Steve Hill, Director



Catholic Cemeteries was created to provide the corporal act of mercy of burying the dead, specifically those of the Catholic faithful in the Archdiocese of Omaha. However, we have no intent to separate families. As a result, we have clients of many different faiths and denominations interred in our

cemeteries. Our policies state that our clients should either be Catholic or have family members interred or planning to be interred within our cemeteries. This allows for families to be buried together regardless of their faith.

Our mission is to minister to individuals and families during one of the most difficult times in their lives, and to help them know that they aren't alone. I've had the privilege of being the director here at Catholic Cemeteries for a little more than two years. I've received feedback from many families regarding their interaction with our team,

and the most common comment has been the feeling of how much our team genuinely cares about them.

About a year ago, we began including a marketing tag-line for our radio advertisements: "Catholic Cemeteries – Our Faith is at the heart of all that we do." This wasn't marketing lingo. Rather, it came to mind by watching and experiencing our team's interactions with our clients. We try to live our faith in all aspects of what we do. I believe Catholic Cemeteries is not so much a job for the members of our team – it truly is a ministry.

New road at Resurrection

If you've visited Resurrection Cemetery recently, you likely noticed there is a new north/south road through the middle of sections M, N and O. While this road has taken up space where graves could have been located in the future, it will allow easier access to the interior of these sections and will provide much sought-after roadside grave space.

Phase two of this project will include a sidewalk connecting the new road with Holy Angels Mausoleum. This will provide additional parking closer to the mausoleum for our monthly Memorial Mass and other larger gatherings. Both phases of this project also provide for additional "family estates", which are larger private areas that allow for unique memorializations such as statues and benches. For more information, please contact one of our counselors.



Funeral rites for children

Deacon Norm Tierney,
Manager of Ministry



On May 25, 1980, my wife and I lost our son. He was born early and only lived a few minutes. The doctor had the grace to baptize Nathan right there in the room. My wife and I were so upset and not thinking clearly, I don't think we understood the gift he gave us. We had our son buried in the Serenity section at Calvary Cemetery – a section specifically created just for infants. I also know the sadness that many people have at the loss of a child before birth. Many have expressed their regret and pain because their child was not baptized. When I speak to them about this, I always share that when we hope and faithfully trust in God's Mercy, our children receive His graces.

The Church provides an adaptation of the principle funeral rite specifically for children and this adaptation includes "Vigil for a Deceased Child," "Funeral Liturgy," and "Rite of Committal," each tailored specifically for a child. These rites may be used in funerals for infants, young children, including those of early

school age. The Church provides specific texts to use in the case of a baptized child and in the case of a child who died before baptism.

Regarding the little ones who have died before baptism, the Catechism of the Catholic Church in paragraph 1261 says: "As regards children who have died without Baptism, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them. Indeed, the great mercy of God who desires that all men should be saved, and Jesus' tenderness toward children which caused him to say: 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them,' allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without Baptism. All the more urgent is the Church's call not to prevent little children coming to Christ through the gift of holy Baptism."

Additionally, in the Order of Christian Funerals under Prayers for the Mourners, we read: "God of all consolation, searcher of mind and heart, the faith of these parents is known to you. Comfort them with the knowledge that the child for whom they grieve is entrusted now to your loving

care." The Church deeply loves these little ones.

In an effort to walk with families who have lost a child, Catholic Cemeteries offers:

- Deacons to preside at committals for infants.
- In the fall and spring of each year in cooperation with CHI Health, Heafey-Hoffman-Dworak-Cutler Mortuaries, and Catholic Cemeteries, we offer a free communal infant committal service at St. Mary Magdalene Cemetery for those who have lost a child during pregnancy.
- The children are specifically remembered at the following month's Catholic Cemeteries Memorial Mass.
- We also offer grief programs several times a year to assist those who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

So many of us have experienced the loss of a child, whether in our own family or someone close to us. Many times, we just suffer the loss in silence. Even if it doesn't feel like it, know that God is with you and you are not alone.

God Bless





“The Way” through grief / “The Way” in prayer

Deacon Jim Tardy, Outreach Manager

I pray for your peace and well-being, that our Lord has touched you in the calm of His holiness.

My friends, you have probably heard me say that it is in the midst of grief, in the presence of the one who loved us first and who created us, where He will offer us tremendous hope and comfort. This really is the picture of Advent, or at least should be the picture for those of us who have recently suffered the loss of a loved one. The hope of Advent amid our grief, becomes reality incarnate with God among us in Christmas.

Once again Catholic Cemeteries is offering an Advent Prayer Service each Wednesday during Advent. This 6 p.m. service in Holy Angels Mausoleum in Resurrection Cemetery is held especially for those who are entering this holy season for the first time without their loved one. Even if it has been many years since your loss, we offer this gathering to help heal your hurts, to offer peace to your thoughts and give hope when our world seems so muddled. We will gather November 29, December 6, 13 and 20 to pray the scriptures and ask for God's quiet in our hearts.

We will continue our tradition of inviting you to write your petitions and place them on the Christmas tree, where all who enter this holy space might then pray for them. These petitions will be blessed and then after our January Memorial Mass they will be buried in our cemetery. I invite you to come visit Holy Angels Mausoleum, to listen to the chants, quiet your inner self, and bask in the memories our Lord places on your mind at this time of year. Catholic Cemeteries' staff will be praying for your peace as you continue the journey of your personal loss.

Our grief workshop “The Way” through Grief is offered several times during the year. It is a six-week workshop for those who are experiencing grief. This workshop recognizes that all of us will experience grief in our lives. We dare to move forward after the death of a loved one in faith, hope and love. Sometimes we just need a little guidance, direction and reminder of the life God wants for us. We've received tremendous feedback from prior attendees. “The Way” is a journey through grief using Jesus' journey of the Stations of the Cross through His resurrection. It is uniquely Catholic yet universal for all. [Contact Deacon Jim](#) for more information.

Blessings to all



Free trees from ReTree Nebraska

Again this year we received 10 trees from the ReTree planting program, an effort of the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. These trees have been planted throughout our five cemeteries. In addition to simply planting more trees, the program 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.

Christmas decorations now available from our online store

Visit: CatholicCem.com/Flowers

Check out our online flower store. Honor the memory of your loved ones with a flower placement ordered easily through our website.

If you prefer, you may still mail the order form below to:

Catholic Cemeteries – 7710 West Center Road – Omaha, NE 68124

We will place Christmas decorations on graves beginning Friday, November 24.

Order early, as quantities are limited.

We reserve the right to substitute.



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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: () _____

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

Gravesites:

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

Vases:

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

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.

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