

Consecrated Grounds

Preparing for Eternity

Fall 2024



Catholic Cemeteries
ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

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

Understanding Catholic Funeral Rites

Rev. Michael Grewe, Executive Director



Recently, Deacon Jim Tardy and I were guests of the Spirit Catholic Radio morning show, where we spoke about Catholic funeral rites. These are formal liturgies created by the Church

for the Catholic faithful when our time on this earth has come to an end. These discussions took place over the past few months and we anticipate the conversation will continue.

Our Catholic prayers start even before death, with the faithful gathering to pray for healing for their loved one – healing of heart, mind, body and soul, whichever God knows they most need. Our Catholic priests can visit the sick to administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which includes

the opportunity for absolution from their sins and to receive Holy Communion which gives them food for their journey to Heaven.

After death, the Funeral Rites provide for a vigil service, also called a wake, where family and friends can gather to pray for the deceased, but also provides the opportunity to share stories about the deceased – to laugh, to cry, to remember.

The Funeral Mass is a Liturgical Rite of the Church that gives the community time to pray for the deceased, to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death and to commend the deceased to God's mercy and compassion. The funeral liturgy typically concludes with "In peace let us take our brother/sister to his/her place of rest."

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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)

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Understanding Catholic Funeral Rites - continued

The Committal Rite takes place at the cemetery and this is the last of the Funeral Rites. It is important to provide a permanent place of rest for our loved ones. Not only does this give the deceased's body the respect it deserves but it also gives the community a dedicated place where they can go to pray for and remember their loved one. Our Catholic Cemeteries are consecrated grounds set aside specifically for the Catholic faithful and their families.



Upcoming Events at Catholic Cemeteries

A Memorial Mass is held at Holy Angels Mausoleum, located in Resurrection Cemetery, on the first Tuesday of each month for those interred the month prior and those interred that month of the prior year.



Remaining 2024 Mass Dates

November 5	December 3
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2025 Expected Mass Dates

January 7	April 1	July 1	October 7
February 4	May 6	August 5	November 4
March 4	June 3	September 2	December 2

Please contact us if you have any questions.

It's Not About Me

Deacon Steve Hill, Director



As I write this, I am coming up on my 60th birthday. Family and friends have been asking how I plan to celebrate. My initial reaction was that it would be just another day – nothing special, no big party. I don't like the spotlight. I'd rather that the focus not be on me. But I came to the realization that this isn't really about me – yes, it is my birthday and it is my party, but more importantly it is the opportunity for my family and friends to celebrate me, if they choose to. I may not want the attention but saying no to these types of

festivities would actually be a bit selfish of me.

I don't know what my family has planned for my birthday weekend, but I know something is planned. I can see the happiness in their eyes and hear the joy in their voices. They won't tell me the details, but I can tell this is important to them, and if I had said no to this, they would have felt hurt. By giving in to this, it may mean some uncomfortable time in the spotlight for me, but I also get the joy of being with family and friends, knowing they are excited and happy.

These reflections made me think about those who say they don't want to have a Vigil Service. They typically think, "I don't want any fuss to be made over me." (Does this sound familiar?)

These feelings are misguided and somewhat selfish. The Vigil Service is where family, friends and the community can come together to pray for their loved one, but it also is an opportunity for them to gather and support one another, to share stories about the deceased, to remember the good times, the bad times, the happiness and the struggles. It is in sharing these stories that the memory of the deceased can be kept alive in our hearts and this memory helps to fill the void we feel by their passing.

The Church understands our humanness, understands our grief, and this is partly why the Church has each of the Funeral Rites that are available to us Catholics. For more information, please see Fr. Mike Grewe's article in this newsletter.

Grief Workshop

"The Way" Through Grief will begin November 16, 2024. Please contact Deacon Jim Tardy to register or for more information.

Advent Prayer Services

Advent Prayer Services will be held each Wednesday of Advent at Holy Angels Mausoleum, located in Resurrection Cemetery.

December 4th , 11th and 18th at 6:00 p.m.

New Gravesites Being Developed in Resurrection Cemetery



We have completed installing the water lines along the new north/south road that runs through the middle of sections M, N and O and are in the process of laying out family estates. Our goal is to have the east side of the road in these sections completed this fall and be available for families to purchase the burial rights.

For more information, please contact one of our counselors.

Thanksgiving or Giving Thanks?

Deacon Norm Tierney,
Manager of Ministry



As we approach our national holiday of Thanksgiving, we might think about the first Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims gave thanks to God for their harvest and for surviving a particularly hard winter in which they lost nearly half of their community. While there were prayers of thanks, it was not a religious celebration.

Today the holiday remains secular, although many churches hold Thanksgiving services. We tend to focus on our family gatherings, football games, food, snacks, and shopping on Black Friday.

This year Thanksgiving follows a time of political unrest resulting in a divided nation, financial stress for many Americans, natural disasters that have taken lives and property, and a possible World War looming. This causes stress, anxiety, and negativity, all fed by a 24-hour news cycle. When we are so inundated with all this negativity, it is hard to see a reason to be thankful. If we add the loss of a loved one, we can spiral.

God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to guide us away from all the things

that distract us from Him and impede us from our ultimate goal of eternal joy in Heaven. God is calling each one of us to a deeper relationship with Him, but when we can't hear Him, we live in a state of fear, anxiety and depression.

It is rare that one person can change the world. Jesus Christ is the only one who could save the world from sin by dying on a cross and defeating death by rising to new life! Thus, He paved the way for us to go to Heaven. Now to do our part, we must be disposed to hear His teaching and cooperate with the guidance of His Holy Spirit.

How do we do that?

I would ask you first, how did you get to know your spouse or your closest friends? I am sure when you met your future spouse you made time to see them as often as possible. They were always on your mind and you wanted to know them in a deep way. Eventually you knew you wanted to spend your life with them. You had to spend more than an hour a week with them to get to that point! It is the same way with God.

To know, love, and to serve God should be our first priority. To achieve this, we must have a true relationship with Him. When we are in a relationship with Him the rest of our relationships improve. To help us, God has given us the sacraments, especially communion and reconciliation. When we accept His precious body and blood we receive food which spiritually sustains us in this world. It gives us peace in the midst of chaos. Reconciliation renews us and cleanses us of our sin. We start fresh each time we receive absolution from the priest, who stands in the person of Christ. When we receive the grace of these sacraments, we will have clarity to see the other graces the Lord has

given us. We will be disposed to listen closely to the word of God at Mass. We will desire and make time with Him in prayer, especially contemplative prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. It may lead us to serving the Lord at the parish level, or possibly something outside of the parish.

The deeper our relationship with Him grows, the more we see all the gifts he gives us. Each morning, I start my daily prayer giving the Lord thanks for the small things that I take for granted. Then I thank Him for my wife, my children and grandchildren. I thank him for my extended family and friends. Most importantly, I thank Him for the gift to serve Him by serving others. And finally, I ask Him to send the Holy Spirit to guide me in serving those placed in my path that day.

When we are in an authentic relationship with God, the chaos of the world fades and we live in peace in the midst of the storms. We realize there is something greater than this world. We will still experience the trials of this life, but we will have a clear view of what is to come.

So, if you're not feeling very thankful this year, turn to the one who loved you first, and ask Him to open your eyes and mind to all He does for you each day, even before you wake up! Then give Him the thanks and praise He deserves.





Autumn Cleaning Leads to Spring Renewal

Deacon Jim Tardy, Outreach Manager

Despite the lack of moisture and suffering from allergies, this fall is as beautiful and busy as ever in our ministries at Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Omaha. Many of us plant trees or flower bulbs in the fall to stimulate growth in the spring. We remove the summer's old growth to facilitate the green of spring. I have been working in my yard with my grandson doing just this. While doing this, it struck me that this is much like our spiritual lives when we are introduced to grief. Sometimes we really do not like cleaning and raking the shattered gardens and lawns of our lives in this time of grief. Yet, we are called to this ritual as we know what will come from our work and involvement of this natural ritual of life. We do this autumn cleaning to facilitate growth in the spring.

Much like our chores and rituals of autumn, there are spiritual chores and rituals we may wish to do to cultivate a new way of living after the death of a loved one. This past year, our workshop, "The Way" through Grief, has facilitated a spiritual journey for over 50 individuals beginning a new course and perhaps a new direction in their lives. This journey in prayer, ritual and in Mass is planting new seeds for us to live as Jesus is calling us. Just as in our autumn clean up, many of us are reluctant to clear some of the old and refresh our lives in the new. Yet, our faith calls us to do this because as Jeremiah tells us, God knows well the plans he has in mind for us. Plans for our welfare and not for woe, to give us a future of HOPE.

Each session of "The Way" through Grief concludes its final workshop with Mass. Thus far, well over 130 people have been fed with the Grace of Jesus. In turn, we see signs that none of us must ever travel this journey alone. I hope those who have come to these Masses have received the grace God wishes for them from the Eucharist. For those who have come to this Mass, I also know that they have been dispensers of grace for those who have recently begun their own walks in grief and that they physically see they are not alone in this difficult time of life. This coming Advent we continue

with prayers and Scripture each Wednesday evening in Holy Angels Mausoleum in Resurrection Cemetery while adding to the tree of HOPE our intentions for our families, ourselves and for those who have gone before us. When Lent approaches next year, we journey the Stations of the Cross each Wednesday to help prepare us for new life in Easter. On Good Friday, we will physically walk the Stations of the Cross in Calvary Cemetery, joining hundreds of our Catholic brethren on this journey.

Like the passing seasons of our lives, there is nothing we can do to change the time of year we live in. However, there is much we can do to adapt to each season of our lives when we courageously step forward in this prayerful journey of life. I want to remind all of us that there is nothing that we can do to change what has occurred, we cannot cure what has taken place. We did not cause the death of our loved one. Lastly, we have no control in the loss of our loved ones. What we do have, through grace, is an opportunity to chart our relationship with Jesus going forward to affect change in our lives. We can shape a cause for our lives, stepping forward on this journey. We can impact and maybe even control the direction of our new lives in this relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by our willingness to accept the unconditional love the Father has for us. It is in these precepts and in right relationship with Jesus that we can apply the ointment of cure for our hurt, despair, loneliness and sadness that may have previously controlled us.

This life as we know it, will fail us. God never will. Jesus longs to walk with each of us through the storms of this life. My prayer in the amazing colors of autumn 2024 is for all of us to continue to cling to our rich faith and know that God is always good, despite the circumstances, trials, and tribulations of this world. My friends, let us all breathe in the cool air of God's grace in this season and know joy is truly waiting for each of us to journey forward anticipating the hopes and joys of resurrection.

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.

We will place Christmas decorations on graves beginning Friday, November 29th. Order early, as quantities are limited. We reserve the right to substitute.



Catholic Cemeteries
ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA



Mail complete form 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): _____

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