

Consecrated Grounds

Preparing for Eternity

Spring 2025



Catholic Cemeteries
ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

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

New Addition to Holy Angels Mausoleum

Deacon Steve Hill, Director



Early in January, we installed a crucifix in the worship space of Holy Angels Mausoleum. Rev. Grewe blessed this crucifix and many of our team members participated in this blessing. The photo accompanying this article doesn't do justice to the beauty of this piece. The great suffering that Christ endured is evident on the face of the corpus. This crucifix is a powerful reminder that death is not easy, that death is not convenient.

Our faith tells us that death is not the end, there is more than just this world for us. And this is because of Jesus' great love for each and every one of us! Jesus took our sins upon himself and then willingly sacrificed his life, all so that we might have the opportunity for everlasting life with him in heaven.

Despite our personal loss, our grief and our sorrow in missing our loved one, we need to celebrate the

hope that our loved one is with God. We need to celebrate that they are where we ultimately want to be and that we will see them again. It is very difficult to think this way when we are in the midst of a loss and our grief is so fresh, but our faith can, and should, give us the strength to carry on, and should provide us the hope of the Resurrection.

When you find it difficult, come gaze upon this crucifix and contemplate the love that Jesus must

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Our Newsletter has gone digital.
Sign up today so you don't miss an update!

CatholicCem.com/Newsletter



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 am to 4:45 pm Monday-Friday
9 am to 1 pm 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 am to 5 pm
(8 am to 8 pm during Daylight Saving Time)

STAFF MEMBERS

- Rev. Michael Grewe Executive Director
- Deacon Steve Hill Director
- Bill Barnes Manager, Memorials and Facilities
- Denyse Lafferty Accounting Manager
- Deacon Jim Tardy Outreach Manager
- Deacon Norm Tierney Manager of Ministry
- Lance Zimmerman Manager, Family Services
- Kathy Dropinski Family Services Supervisor
- Lou Illian Family Services Representative
- John Mitchell Family Services Representative
- Samantha Lierz Memorials Representative
- Peggy Sjuts Memorials Representative
- Rachel Meyer Administrative Assistant
- Dan Gilster Manager, Grounds and Facilities
- John Czeranko Caretaker, Holy Sepulchre
- Zach Urwin Caretaker, St. Mary and St. Mary Magdalene
- Jim Allen Operations Representative
- Greg Boll Operations Representative
- Chase Dropinski Operations Representative
- Ray Dropinski Operations Representative
- Zach Jeffrey Operations Representative
- Rain Skenandore Operations Representative
- Gabe Vorland Operations Representative
- Tim Dropinski Part-time Operations Representative
- Steve Goetzinger Part-time Family Services Representative
- Michelle Clark Part-time Housekeeping

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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New Addition to Holy Angels Mausoleum - Continued

have for each of us to have willingly endured this level of pain, suffering and anguish. Jesus was fully human, yet he knew what was in store for him when he returned to Jerusalem. He knew the sort of death that awaited him, but he also knew this path was the only one that would restore the relationship between human beings and God. Adam broke this relationship when he turned from God and let original sin enter the world. Jesus, because he was fully human, because he willingly sacrificed himself, was able to restore the relationship between human beings and God.

Jesus, because he is also fully divine, now sits at the right hand of God the Father in heaven and has restored for us the opportunity for eternity in heaven.

**Monthly Memorial Mass
Now on Tuesdays**

Come and pray with us at our monthly Memorial Mass. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at Holy Angels Mausoleum in Resurrection Cemetery. We begin at 5 pm by praying a Rosary together. We then 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. Mass is then celebrated at 5:30 pm. All are welcome - we would love to have you join us.



Mass Dates for the Remainder of 2025

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

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



Funeral Rites Honor Our Loved Ones and Help Us Heal

Deacon Jim Tardy, Outreach Manager

It seems as if we just celebrated Christmas, yet I have begun giving reflections to prepare for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. I am not sure where the time has gone.

Here are some quick updates for everyone:

- All are welcome at our Memorial Mass on the first Tuesday of each month at Holy Angels Mausoleum in Resurrection Cemetery.
- During Lent, we will pray the Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm in Holy Angels Mausoleum.
- On Good Friday, April 18, we will physically walk the Stations of the Cross at 3 pm in Calvary Cemetery.

I hope you will prayerfully consider joining us for these blessed moments that God is offering all of us.

Nationwide, we are seeing a developing trend in which families are not taking advantage of our Catholic Funeral Rites, which were designed to help families in the time of grief that comes to us due to the death of one of our loved ones. It seems to have begun with those who chose to keep the cremated remains of their loved ones at home. Often, families choose to postpone the wake, funeral Mass, or committal to a more "convenient" time or decide not to have them. I can confidently share that those who use the benefits of our Catholic Funeral Rites at the time of death seemingly heal and move forward in their respective lives much more quickly than those who do not. I see this in people I work with and in my own family.

You and I, by our faith traditions, follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. At the time of Jesus's death, he was prayed over, held by his mother, and grieved by Mary Magdalene, the Apostles and His followers. Jesus was laid to rest in a tomb, waiting for Resurrection. Why are we not following

this example given to us by our Lord? My friends, death is never convenient. None of us look forward to the discomfort of mourning. None of us look forward to the process of burying our dead and then wrestling with how to move forward in our lives that have just changed because of death. I have people tell me they are just not ready to let go. I understand that. My question is, what are you holding on to? I have worked with people, including my own family, who did not take time to process their grief. Years later, something comes to mind, and then there is the grieving process to go through, which, unfortunately, now has a lot more baggage. I am perplexed by those who put off prayer services, wakes, and even funeral Masses because they think it isn't the right time or that "we can gather as a family in the spring." That thought is then put off until summer and even into the fall. Eventually, it does not happen. We see this happening far too often, and my friends, we are not living our Catholic lives when we do not honor the dead by giving them respect and a permanent place of rest.

The last line of every funeral Mass is, "In peace, let us take our brother/sister to his/her place of rest." We do this to respect what God created in the dignity and the love of that person's life. We do this to have a place to come and remember the past so that we can live peacefully today and pray for the hopes of tomorrow.

Please contact us if you have not planned your loved one's final rites so we may assist you in your hour of sadness. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you during this difficult moment. Ask our Holy Mother, Mary Magdalene, the Apostles, and all the saints and martyrs who have gone before us to walk with you in honoring your loved one.

Wildfires and Other Natural Disasters

Rev. Michael Grewe, Executive Director



Earlier this year, news reports showed that many cities in California had been decimated by wildfires. Closer to home, several areas were impacted by tornadoes that destroyed or severely damaged many homes last spring. The images from these terrible disasters show homes that were reduced to rubble. The suffering of those impacted is tremendous, and our prayers continue for them as they attempt to recover and rebuild.

Based upon research by the Cremation Association of North America, 25% of US homes contain the cremated remains of a loved one – whether on a mantel, or in a closet or basement. Combining this fact with the devastating impact of these recent natural disasters, many families will have lost not only their homes and their possessions but also the remains of their loved ones. Dealing with the loss of their loved one a second time can be unbearable.

It is the ancient Christian custom to bury or entomb the remains of our dead. We do this to give our loved ones a permanent place of rest. In fact, our Funeral Mass concludes with the words, “In peace, let us take our brother/sister to his/her place of rest.” We also do this to give

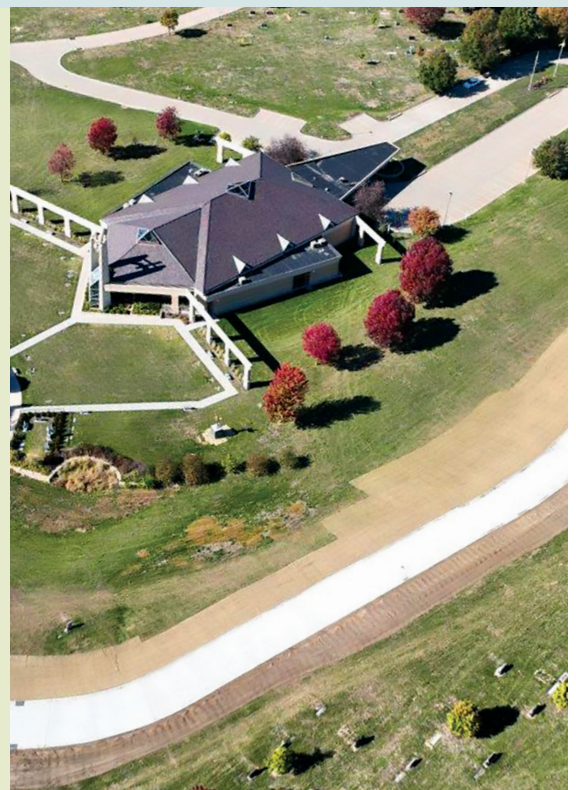
ourselves a dedicated place to visit to feel closer to our loved ones. Having your loved one buried or entombed in a Catholic cemetery ensures our faith is evident in their surroundings. Here at Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Omaha, our team prays each day for all those interred in our five cemeteries, and we celebrate Mass each month honoring these loved ones.

If you are among the 25% that have cremated remains of a loved one in your possession and would like help finding a permanent place of rest for them, our team would be honored to assist you. It doesn't matter if you've had them in your possession for a week or even a decade; let us help you find them their permanent place of rest.

Resurrection Cemetery Construction

If you've visited Resurrection Cemetery recently, you've probably noticed construction taking place west of Holy Angels Mausoleum. Following the addition of our new north/south road that runs through the middle of sections M, N and O, we are installing a sidewalk connecting this new road to Holy Angels Mausoleum. Once complete, anyone parking on this new road can use the sidewalk for easy access to the Mausoleum.

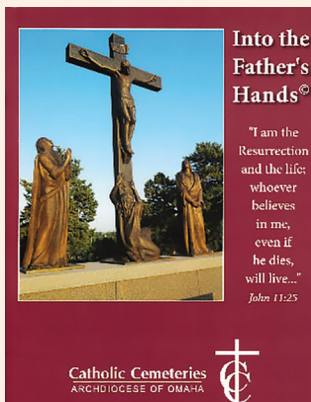
Along this new sidewalk, we are developing family estates, which are larger private sections that allow for a greater variety of memorialization. We anticipate this construction will be completed by Memorial Day. If you would like more information on these family estates or the new monument or flat marker grave spaces along the new north/south road, please contact one of our [Family Services Representatives](#).





Free Pre-Planning Guide is an Important Tool to Prepare

One of the most significant advantages of pre-planning is to spare your loved ones from making tough decisions during a time of grief. It also prevents family division, as each member of your family may have a different opinion on what you might have wanted. Having a plan means your loved ones can focus on remembering and celebrating your life, and you will have what you want. Pre-planning allows you to lock in current prices, potentially saving money as costs rise over time. This can also prevent your family from facing unexpected financial burdens.



It's one less thing for them to worry about in the future.

At Catholic Cemeteries, we have the tools and caring professionals to help provide peace of mind for you and your family. Our website contains a section dedicated to pre-planning; please visit www.CatholicCem.com/Planning for more information.

To help you with the planning process, we've developed an updated

Planning Guide that includes information on Catholic Funeral Rites. This guide, available in English and Spanish, provides a structured, step-by-step approach to making decisions about cemetery arrangements. It ensures you don't overlook any critical details and, allows you to personalize your arrangements to reflect your wishes. Knowing that you have a plan in place can provide peace of mind for you and your family.

Our team is here to help you throughout this process.

Volunteers Needed for Memorial Day Weekend

One of Catholic Cemeteries' most anticipated holidays is Memorial Day. Once the snow starts to melt and the days get longer, we begin preparing for the thousands of family members who will be coming to visit their loved one's graves during this time. We couldn't make this weekend happen without the many volunteers who help us serve our families. If you have some time over Memorial Day weekend to share with us at Catholic Cemeteries please let us know! You will be helping families locate loved one's graves, selling floral arrangements, handing out flags and supporting our veterans. Lunch and snacks will be served to you.

What: Answer basic visitor questions and provide grave locations

How Long: 2-hour shifts

When: Friday, May 23
9 am to 4 pm

Saturday, May 24
10 am to 3 pm

Sunday, May 25
10 am to 3 pm

Monday, May 26
9 am to 1:30 pm

Training will be provided on Wednesday, May 21
at 5:30 pm

Where: Calvary Cemetery –
7710 West Center Road

To volunteer, please call Peggy at 402-391-3711.

Spring Flower Decorations

We will begin taking flower orders for **Easter, Mother's Day and Memorial Day** on April 1. Flowers will be placed and removed as follows:

Easter – placement begins on April 17. Flowers must be picked up by April 27, or they will be removed and disposed of by the Cemetery on April 28.

Mother's Day – placement begins on May 8 and flowers must be picked up by May 18 or they will be removed and disposed of by the Cemetery on May 19.

Memorial Day – placement begins on May 22. Flowers must be picked up by June 1 or they will be removed and disposed of by the Cemetery on June 2.

In the Placement Period field below enter **"E"** for Easter, **"M"** for Mother's Day or **"MD"** for Memorial Day.

Holiday Decoration Guidelines.

Appropriate 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, and Father's Day.

Decorations must be removed prior to gate closing on the Sunday following these holidays. Catholic Cemeteries will dispose of all artificial decorations starting on the following Monday.

Fourth of July decorations can be placed from July 1st through July 11th.

Easter, Mother's Day, or Memorial Day Now Available from Our Online Store. Visit: CatholicCem.com/Flowers



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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	Placement Period	Item Number and 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: () _____

<p>A. Artificial Peony Tribute</p>  <p>*Vase not included \$25</p>	<p>B. Artificial Patriotic Tribute</p>  <p>*Vase not included \$25</p>	<p>C. Artificial Spring Tribute</p>  <p>*Vase not included \$25</p>	<p>D. Artificial Large Cross</p>  <p>*Vase not included \$40</p>	<p>E. Artificial Deluxe Memorial Tribute</p>  <p>*Vase not included \$35</p>	<p>F. Artificial Red Roses</p>  <p>*Vase not included \$25</p>	<p>G. Artificial Crypt / Niche Bouquet</p>  <p>*Vase not included \$25</p>	<p>H. Live Planter</p>  <p>Arranged in plastic container \$40</p>
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Spring – Fall Decoration Guidelines Bill Barnes, Manager Memorials and Facilities

Gravesites

Only fresh flowers are permitted in permanent and approved in-ground vases from April 2nd through November 1st. Appropriate artificial decorations may be placed November 2nd through March 31st.

Vases

Certain cremation niches were not originally designed or intended to have cemetery-approved flower vases attached to the front cover. Unapproved vases are not to be attached and will be removed without notice. In-ground vases should be left turned down in the cemeteries when not in use.

Monuments

Appropriate decorations may be placed year-round on the base of an upright memorial so 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 if found.

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.