



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Calvary
1921

St. Louis
1867

St. Michael
1851

St. John
1849



A Guiding Light

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #2, OCTOBER 2021

Our Mission

The services of Catholic Cemeteries are a ministry of the Archdiocese of Louisville. We offer the rite of burial to the Catholic Community and all of God's people. We commit ourselves to the Gospel and Catholic tradition. We affirm the sacredness of human life and profess the resurrection of the body and everlasting life.



New Columbarium Development in Calvary

A columbarium is a structure which has niches to hold funerary urns. They have been utilized for thousands of years by many different cultures: Chinese, Roman, and Japanese peoples all constructed columbaria to house the cremated remains of their loved ones. Despite being an ancient practice, it is anything but outdated: In 2020, the cremation rate in the United States was 56% — a figure that is estimated to jump to 73% by 2030, according to Statista.

Catholics are no exception to this trend, despite the practice of cremating remains having only been allowed since 1963, when the Holy See lifted the ban on cremation. For many reasons, including cost efficiency and a preference for simpler burial arrangements, more and more Catholic families are choosing cremation over traditional burial. We here at Catholic Cemeteries of Louisville have adapted and restructured our offerings to keep up with this growing demand.

We have two new columbaria in the works, and despite delays due to the pandemic, the first structure in the Saint Anthony Columbarium Complex is almost complete! Our maintenance crew has been busy pouring concrete for the sidewalk around the structure this month — the finishing touches before it is ready for use. After this columbarium is complete, we will begin work on the second addition, located in Calvary Cemetery, section 7.

These additions mean we will have more space & more options for cremation burials. Give our office a call or visit our website for additional info.

NEW VISITING HOURS

Our gate hours have changed for the fall and winter seasons.

**From October 1 through March 31, 2022:
Gates will be open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Business hours for the staff & office have not changed.

Upcoming Events

Infant Prayer Service

Calvary Cemetery
Holy Innocents Section (Section 20)
1:30-2:30 PM

Each month, Catholic Cemeteries holds a brief prayer service to remember those infants who were stillborn or who lived any length of time. The names of all of the infants buried during the month in any of the archdiocesan Catholic cemeteries will be honored during the service. Any who have lost an infant are invited to attend and pray with us for their baby and all others.

All Souls' Day Mass

Calvary Cemetery
Section 7
11:00 AM

Join Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz for Mass celebrating All Souls' Day.

Lighting of the Tree of Remembrance

Calvary Cemetery
6:30 PM

We invite you to remember, honor, & celebrate the life of your loved one by placing an ornament on our Tree of Remembrance in their memory. Join us for the annual Lighting of the Tree of Remembrance ceremony and prayer with Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz. Families are welcome to bring their own ornaments or request a complimentary, personalized glass ornament from our office. Refreshments will be provided.

**Oct 27th,
Nov 24th**

Nov 2nd

Dec 3rd

The Importance of Catholic Funeral Rites

After the death of a loved one, we are often left to make important decisions regarding final arrangements without being fully prepared to do so. It can be easy to become overwhelmed by all the options available in this situation — but it is paramount for Catholics to remember the value of a Catholic burial. The traditional Rites offer remembrance, consolation, and hope to our family, friends, and the community of believers.

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our Catholic faith. It proves that a new life awaits us beyond the grave — that death is not the end, but simply a new beginning. By this principle, just as the human body is to be treated with respect and dignity in life, so it is meant to be treated in death.

***Jesus told her, 'I am the
resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me, even if
he dies, will live.'
(John 11:25)***

The Major Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church are as follows: Vigil, Funeral Mass, and Committal. The Vigil, or wake, is the official prayer service for the deceased. This is a time for family and friends to offer stories, reflections, and eulogies on the life of the deceased, rather than during the Funeral Mass. At Mass, the Catholic community reaffirms in sign and symbol, word and gesture, that through baptism we share in Christ's death and resurrection, and look forward to the day when we will be united in the kingdom of light and peace. Remains are present during the Vigil and Funeral Mass to emphasize the connection between the living and the departed.

The Committal, or burial, takes place as soon as possible after the Funeral Mass, where the Rite of Committal assists the bereaved during their difficult time of mourning. The rite includes a short Scriptural verse, the prayer of committal, intercessions, the Lord's prayer, and a final blessing.

These traditional Rites affirm our belief in the Resurrection, and they are a profound witness of our faith. Whether it is for ourselves or someone we love, a Catholic funeral—Vigil, Mass, and Committal— is an act of grace we are able to bestow on others.



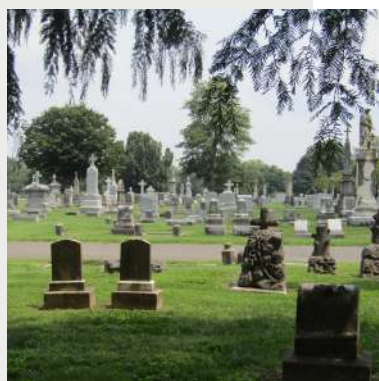
OUR ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Spotlight on St. Michael



By the mid 1800s, German Catholic immigrants made up over 30% of the population of Louisville. This growing group had settled in an area outside of town where they began small farms and butcher shops, which had become known as Germantown.

An outbreak of cholera in the region meant that existing Catholic cemeteries in Louisville were overwhelmed, and the Germantown community felt the need to begin their own. In 1851, Thomas Goss, prominent local businessman and landowner of much of the neighborhood, sold 10 acres to Bishop Martin Spalding. On this land a cemetery was begun named Saint Michael-Gottes Acker (meaning “God’s Acre”), eventually shortened to simply Saint Michael. Pictured above is All Saints' Day 1914, where an estimated 6,000 attended service at the cemetery.



The cemetery expanded along with the local population, and it now encompasses 48 acres in the heart of the Germantown/Schnitzelburg neighborhood. Over 43,000 persons have been laid to rest in St. Michael, including Diocesan and Franciscan Priests, Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of St. Frances, and Sisters of Notre Dame. Other notable people buried there include actor Victor Mature, who starred in popular films such as *My Darling Clementine* (1946) and *Samson and Delilah* (1949), and Thomas Goss, the original landowner. Near his burial lot is a monument honoring the Goss family.

There are still graves available for sale at Saint Michael, although space is limited.

Director of Operations

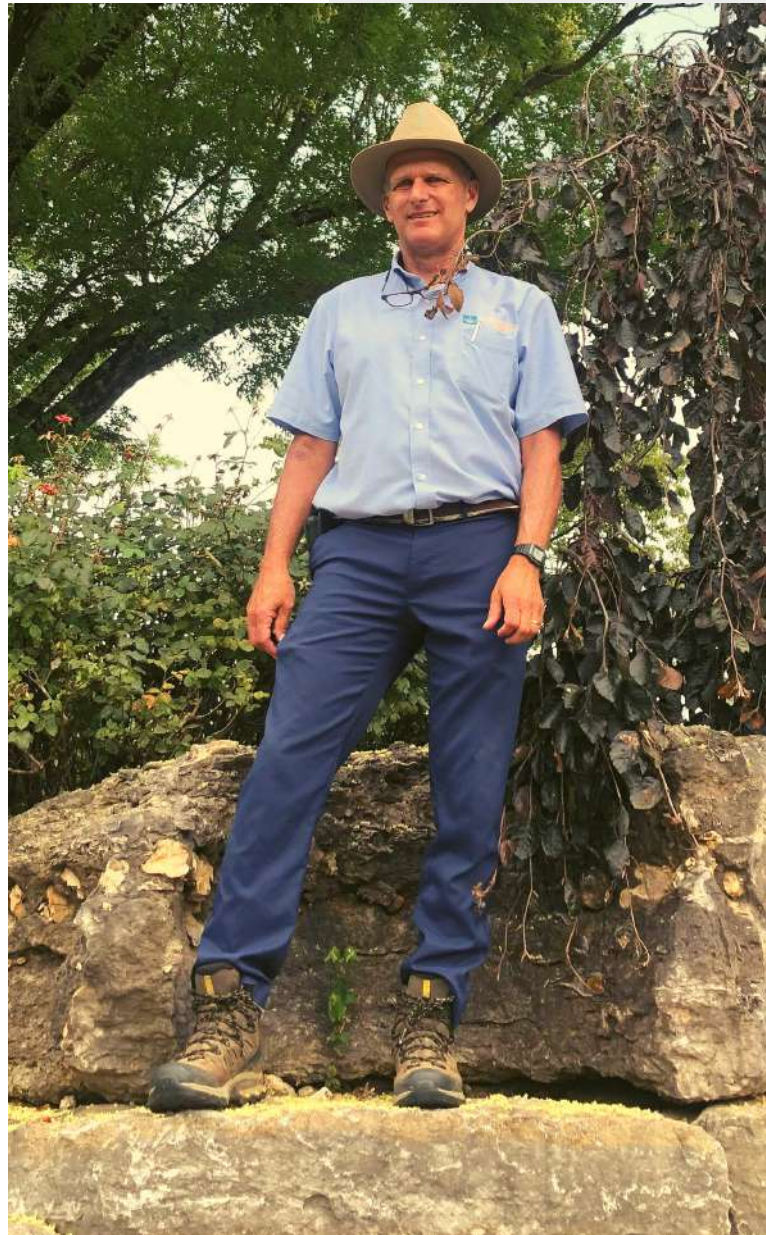
Kenny Popp

Kenny began working with a local cemetery as part of their maintenance crew in 1974 and has been involved in the field ever since. He came to Catholic Cemeteries as a horticulturalist in 1983 and was named Director of Operations in 1996.

Over the years, he has been tirelessly mapping, planning, and updating all four of our cemeteries. He also oversees all the field operations, including supervising the full-time and seasonal workers, designing and planting new landscaping, coordinating daily burials, and more. Kenny acknowledges that every day is different, "but that's a good thing."

Wearer of many hats (both literal and figurative), he is also the go-to person in the office for information about the history of each cemetery, anecdotes about notable local figures & events of the past, the geography of the area around the cemeteries, and much more. His years of experience getting to know every corner of the cemeteries have played a big part in how he gained all this knowledge.

"In doing mapmaking, you learn something and you think, 'Oh, that's interesting, I'll look that up.' And then there's something else that catches your attention, and you want to find out about that too."



Kenny is the archdiocesan delegate for the Catholic Cemetery Conference, as well as a current board member and past president of the Kentucky Cemetery Association. He has also served on the board of the Louisville Nature Center, and is an amateur paleontologist, bonsai grower, and lover of the outdoors. He resides in Memphis, Indiana with his wife Teri.

The September Beauty



Family: Anacardiaceae (Cashew)
Hardiness Zone: 5 - 7
Soil: Tolerates a range of soil types
Water: Semi-arid to moist
Exposure: Full sun to partial shade
Form: Upright
Growth Rate: Moderate to rapid
Wildlife: Deer resistant

The Chinese Sumac, scientific name *Rhus chinensis*, is a deciduous shrub or small tree native to central & eastern Asia. Pictured above is a mature tree located in Section A of St. Louis cemetery. This type of Sumac can grow up to 25 ft. wide and 24 ft. tall, and is nicknamed "September Beauty" for the spectacular white flower clusters which bloom from late August to September.

It is also called the Nutgall tree for the small growths (called galls) that can develop when colonized by a certain aphid species. These growths may look odd, but they do not harm the tree.

Single- or multi-stemmed, this tree needs lots of room to roam. It spreads easily with new shoots emerging on or around the original base of the tree, so it is recommended to plant away from obstacles or with a smaller grouping of trees.

The foliage has a wonderful texture on which Luna moths lay their eggs, and bees are drawn to the blooms — as pictured to the right, where honey bees enjoy the Chinese Sumac in St. Louis Cemetery.



Learn more about burial options
at any of our cemeteries

Call (502) 451-7710

or visit

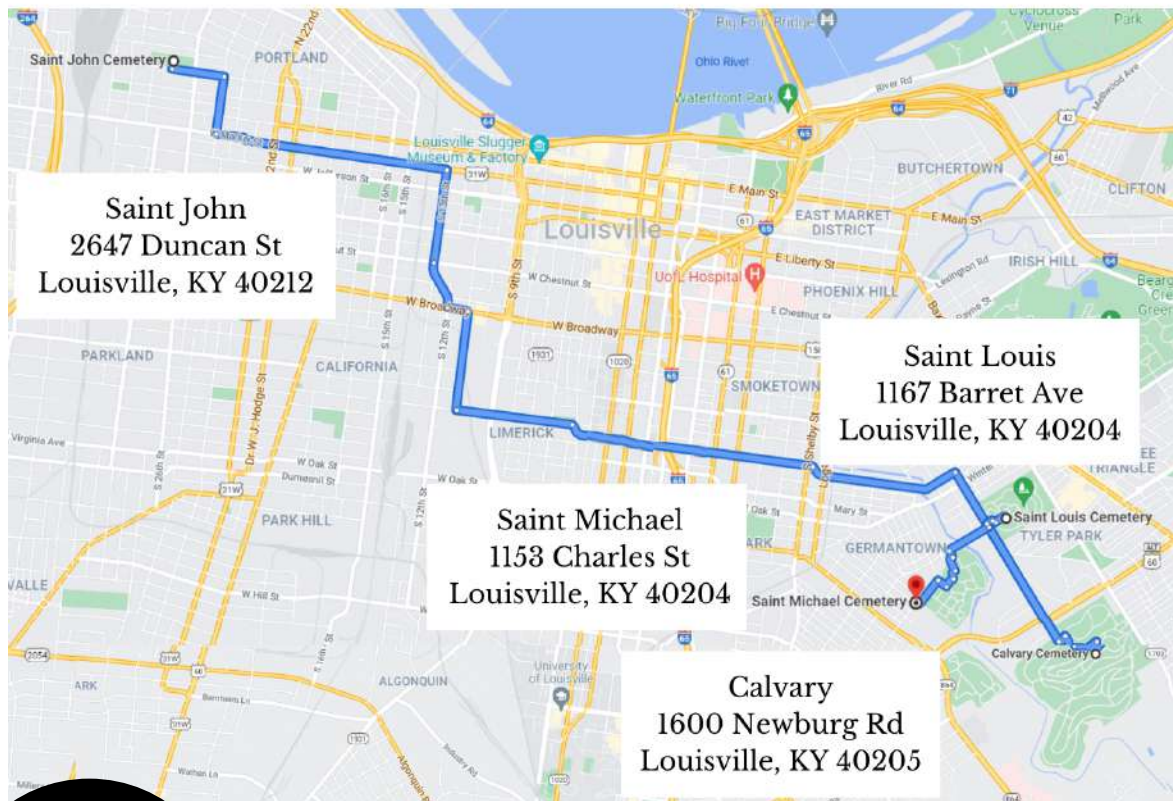
CatholicCemeteriesLouisville.Org

“

*God of the living and
the dead accept our
prayers for those who
have died in Christ and
are buried with him in
the hope of rising again.
In your mercy grant
them eternal rest.*

”

Visit Our Grounds



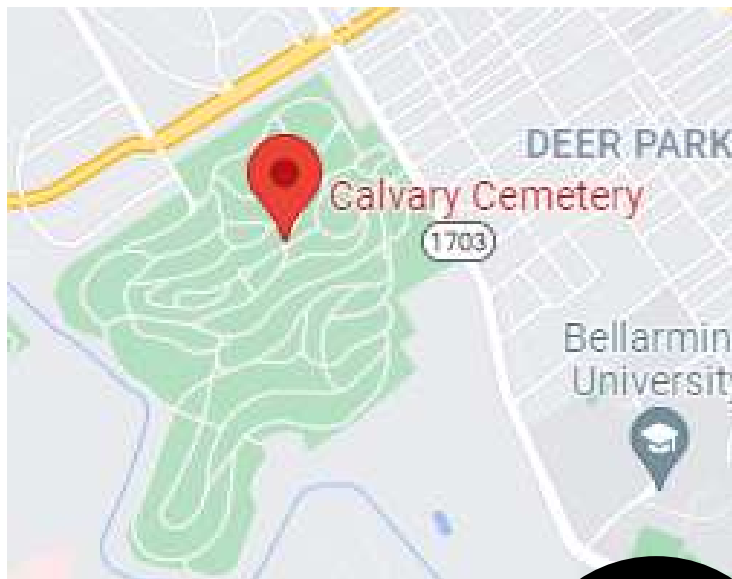
Open April-September: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
October-March: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Visit Our Office

Located inside
Calvary Cemetery

1600 Newburg Rd
Louisville, KY 40205

There is a blue line
on the road from
the gates leading to
the office



Questions? Call us
(502) 451-7710

Open Monday-Friday:
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Saturday:
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

