



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Calvary
1921

St. Louis
1867

St. Michael
1851

St. John
1849

A Guiding Light

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #3, DECEMBER 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.



Merry Christmas
and Happy Holidays!



Upcoming Events

Dec 3rd

**Lighting of the Tree
of Remembrance**

Calvary Cemetery
6:30 PM

Read more about this event on the next page!

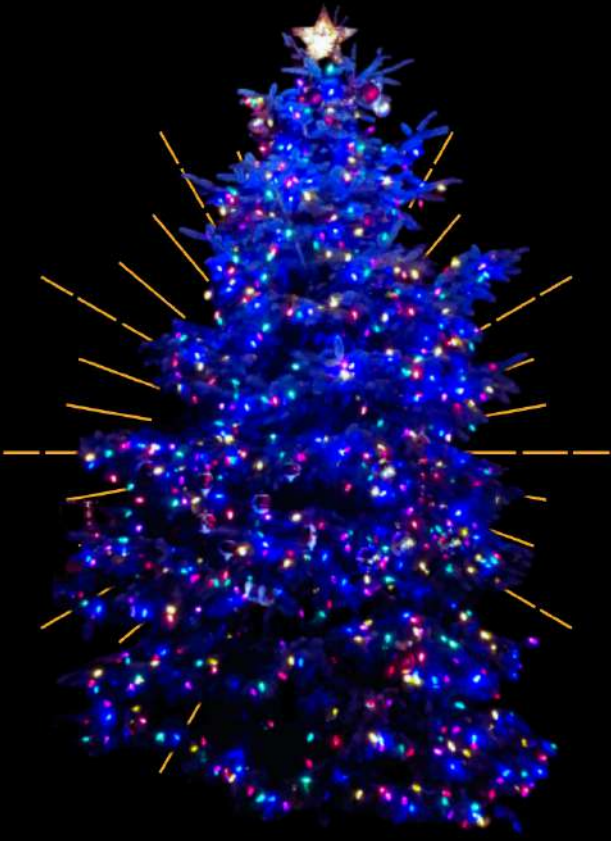
Dec 29th

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.

If you would like a name to be included on the prayer list, please give us a call at (502) 451-7710.



LIGHTING OF THE

Tree of Remembrance

DECEMBER 3RD
6:30 PM

The Archdiocese of Louisville's Catholic Cemeteries has found a meaningful way to bring the warmth of Advent and Christmas to the cemetery with the Tree of Remembrance. Since 2016, about 400 persons have gathered every year around our Nordmann Fir tree at Calvary Cemetery to see Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz bless the live tree, which is then ceremonially lit as a Christmas tree.

This year's service will take place on Friday December 3rd at 6:30 PM.

Please note that cemetery gates will be open for entry until 6:25 PM and no entry will be allowed during the service.

Masks are required for unvaccinated attendees, optional for those fully vaccinated. Participants are invited to hang complimentary personalized glass ornaments on the tree in memory of loved ones. We will have a tent set up with hot drinks and pastries for everyone to enjoy.



Beyond the lighting ceremony and throughout the month of December, families and individuals are invited to hang their own ornaments or complimentary glass ornaments from our office in memory of those who have died. Ornaments will remain on the tree until January 6, the feast of the Epiphany.

The use of the Tree of Remembrance, and participation in the lighting ceremony, is open to all people, regardless of where their loved one is buried or how long ago. It is our hope that these prayers and ornaments will honor the deceased and alleviate the pain and sadness of those mourning.

Coping with Christmas After Loss

When we think of Christmas, we generally think of happy times spent with family and loved ones — times in which we create fond memories that we will remember and cherish for the rest of our lives.

But holidays can be daunting if you have experienced a loss, and the first Christmas after a loved one has passed away can be especially hard. We may be reminded even more of how much we miss them, and the pain of loss may be renewed — the feelings of sadness or loneliness might even seem unbearable. You may wonder how you will manage your emotions through the festivities without falling apart or "spoiling" everyone else's celebrations.



Instead of trying to avoid grief and sorrow, it is important to find healthy ways to acknowledge such feelings. Embrace your emotions and express them, and by doing so, you can begin to process them.

If you can, try incorporating your loved one into the Christmas season. There are many simple ways to do this, including:

- Sharing stories and memories of your time together
- Cooking your loved one's favorite holiday recipes
- Making something with a picture of them on it (like a blanket, a mug, or displaying a framed photo)
- Taking part in traditions you may have enjoyed with them
- Visiting your loved one's final resting place

Listen to your feelings, communicate them with your family and friends, and do what works for you.

If you know someone who is grieving this Christmas, reach out: send a card, call, or visit them. Let them know that you understand the holidays may be a difficult time and you are here for them — it will go a long way.

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalms 34:18

**OUR
ARCHDIOCESAN
CATHOLIC
CEMETERIES**

Video Tour of St. Louis



The original St. Louis Cemetery opened in 1811 and was located at 10th and Main Streets behind the St. Louis Church. In 1831, a larger St. Louis Church was built on 5th Street — which today is the site of the grand Cathedral of the Assumption. The dead in the cemetery were reinterred in the Catholic section of a new public burying ground on Jefferson Street. These remains were later moved for a final time to the present St. Louis Cemetery upon its opening in 1867.

St. Louis is comprised of approximately 43 acres and is surrounded by over a mile of limestone wall. It was known as a predominantly Irish Catholic cemetery, in contrast to St. Michael which was thought of as the German Catholic cemetery. However, over time Catholics and others from many different heritages have been laid to rest here.

Diocesan priests, including Bishop O'Donaghue; Xaverian Brothers; Sisters of St. Frances; Sisters of Mercy; and Little Sisters of the Poor have graves in St. Louis. In total, over 47,000 persons have been laid to rest here.

Come visit the beautiful memorials that reflect the beliefs and symbolism of our Catholic faith. Although limited, there are still graves available for purchase. Please call us at 502-451-7710 for more information.

Kathy Philpot, Director of Administration

Kathy joined Catholic Cemeteries in 2000 and has been an integral part of the team ever since! Originally hired as a Support Analyst, her role expanded to become the Director of Administration and she now works directly under the Executive Director, Javier Fajardo.

Her primary duty is to oversee the finances of the entire department, which involves keeping track of a large array of systems, accounts, and processes. In her own words, she does "a little bit of everything." It's undoubtedly a lot of information to manage, but she's adept at keeping it all together and making sure the office runs smoothly.

For Kathy, it's all about serving others, including her colleagues. She's never too busy to be a helping hand, including assisting the front desk, answering phone calls, and providing guidance when a new or difficult situation arises.



"Being part of this team, you work with the same people so long, the atmosphere is nice. This office has been a really good place to be!"

She enjoys gardening and raising chickens in the 3 acre yard of her home in Shepherdsville, where she and her husband Brent reside. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Alyssa, 14, and Mattie, 18. When she's not in the office, you can find Kathy visiting Mattie at Morehead State University, attending one of Alyssa's softball games, or caring for her variety of pets — including Sparky, their 80-pound, 10-year-old potbelly pig!

An American Staple, The Sugar Maple



Do you recognize this road lined with sugar maples? Hint: It's inside Calvary Cemetery!

The sugar maple is one of America's most-beloved native trees. More states have claimed it as their state tree than any other, and its leaf is a national symbol of Canada, featured on the Canadian flag. But what makes it so special?

To many Native American tribes, the tree was vital — the syrup was used to barter, and the wood to make canoes, tools, and furniture. Many types of wildlife rely on the tree for food including deer, snowshoe hare, and squirrels. It is commercially important as a source of maple syrup, maple sugar, and hardwood lumber used for furniture and flooring manufacturing.

However, we can perhaps attribute the sugar maple's widespread significance and enduring legacy to another feature: its amazing fall color! As the seasons change, the leaves turn vibrant shades of yellow, burnt orange, and red. The Northeast US in particular is known for its abundance of showy autumn sugar maples.

The trees grow 12-24 inches per year, and take about 40 years to reach full maturity. They can grow to be 120 feet tall and 60 feet wide, living to be 200-400 years old. The sugar maples you see here in Calvary Cemetery were planted in 1974 to replace oak trees that had been levelled by a tornado.

Scientific Name: *Acer saccharum*

Family: Soapberry

Hardiness Zones: 3-8

Soil: Acidic, Alkaline, Drought, Well Drained

Exposure: Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade

Form: Oval

Growth Rate: Slow to Medium

Learn more about burial options
at any of our cemeteries

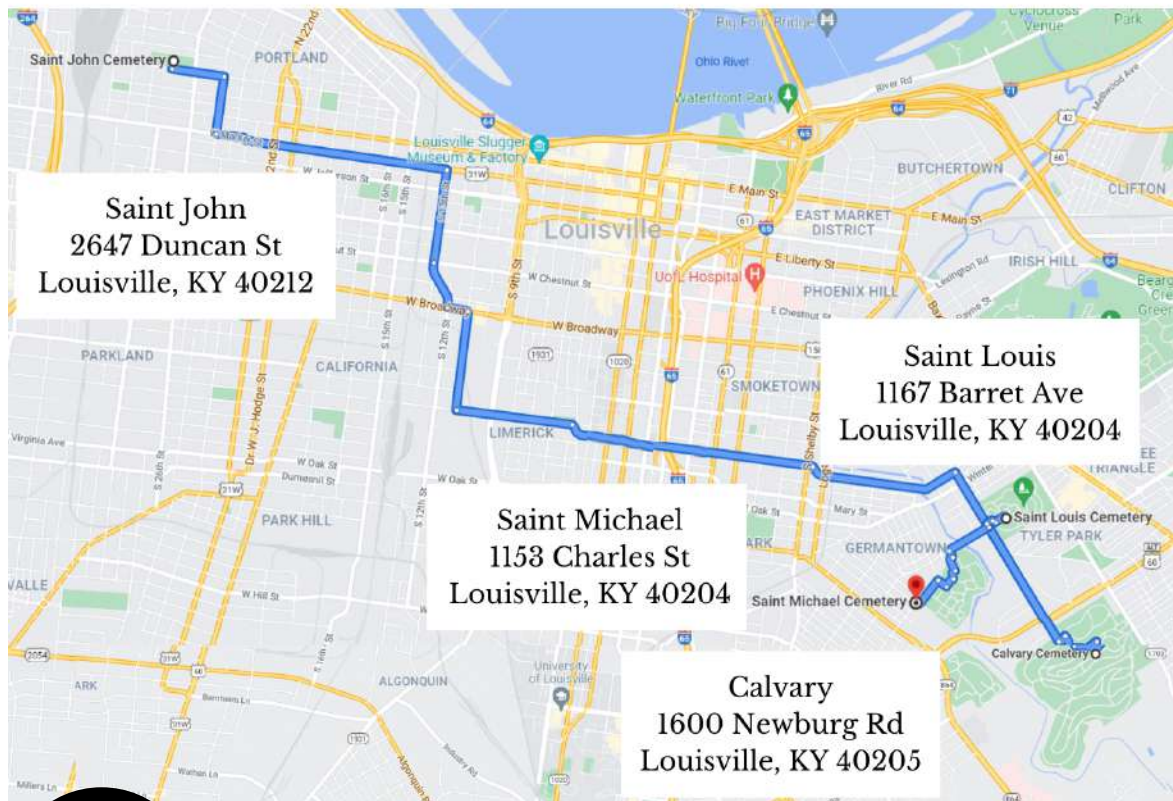
Call (502) 451-7710

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



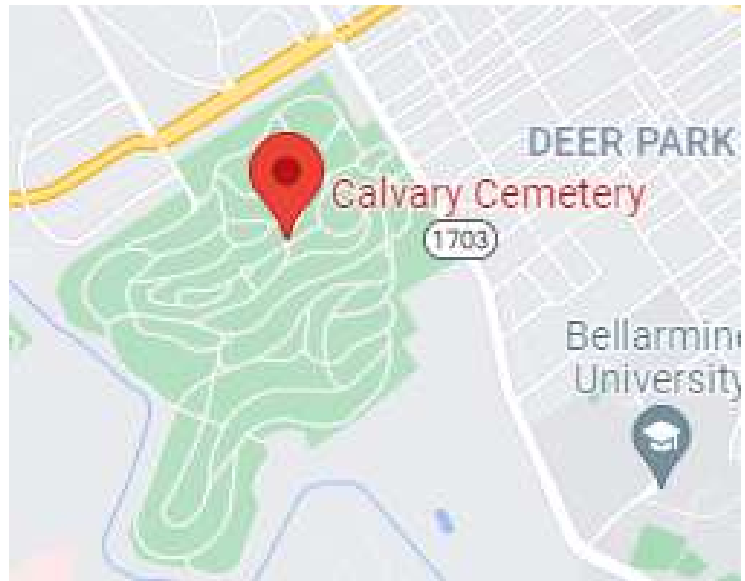
Open April-September: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
October-March: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Visit Our Office

Located inside
Calvary Cemetery

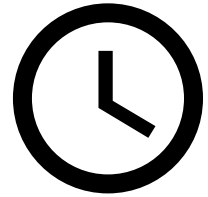
1600 Newburg Rd
Louisville, KY 40205

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



Have A Wonderful Holiday Season!

