



# CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Calvary  
1921

St. Louis  
1867

St. Michael  
1851

St. John  
1849



# A Guiding Light

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #4, FEBRUARY 2022

## 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.

# Upcoming Events

**Feb 23rd**

## **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.

**March 1st**

## **Annual Spring Clean Up**

All Cemeteries

This date begins our mowing season. Please collect all items prior to this date, so that they are not removed and discarded by our grounds personnel. Artificial decorations at ground level are only permitted from November 15th through February. Note: Fresh flowers are always welcome.

**March &  
April**

## **Stations of the Cross**

All Cemeteries  
(varies depending on day)

We are pleased to announce that every Friday during the Lenten season, we will be hosting a Stations of the Cross event. Read below for more info, and stay tuned to our social media for specifics regarding times and meeting locations.

# Stations of the Cross



We will be hosting an ongoing Stations of the Cross event every Friday during the Lenten season. The stations will be in a different cemetery each Friday.

Like in previous years, each event will be led by students from various local Catholic schools, guiding you through each of the Stations. Please note that the total walking distance for each event will be between 300 and 400 yards. However, if accessibility is an issue, you are welcome to stay in your vehicle and drive to the different stations.

At the first station of each event we will provide booklets for you to keep. Crosses will be installed by 10:00 AM and removed at 3:00 PM the day of the event.



Reminder that the best way to stay up-to-date with all of our news and events is through our Facebook page! It is updated regularly and all comments/messages are monitored. Once we get closer to the season of Lent, we will be posting more details about our Stations of the Cross and any other events.

As always, if you have questions, our office is happy to answer. Feel free to give us a call!

# The Value of Pre-Planning

Today, about half of the purchases of burial space made in our Catholic Cemeteries are made in advance of death (pre-need). This shows both a sense of thoughtful planning and a sense of economic prudence. The decisions made today will be your own, which gives you peace of mind now, and your loved one's peace of mind later. Here's what makes pre-planning so valuable: You can...

**Ease the burden on your family.** If your preferences are unknown when you pass on, your family will be faced with making difficult decisions at a difficult time. Will they agree on what to do, how much to spend, or what kind of marker? Confusion and disagreements are common occurrences when there is no plan to follow.

**Assume the financial responsibility for your funeral.** Planning ahead enables you to make arrangements to cover your burial costs. Even if you are leaving behind sufficient money, will your survivors be able to access it in a timely manner? Will they agree on where it should go? Additionally, paying ahead of time will mean the cost will be lower, as burial prices typically increase yearly.

**Have the peace of mind of knowing your wishes will be followed.** As a person of Catholic faith, you know that you need to be laid in sacred ground — But what if your family does not? You may also have a preference for burial or cremation, the size and style of marker, or the epitaph on your headstone. Whatever your wishes, they can be set forth in your funeral plan.

We completely understand and acknowledge that discussing one's mortality is an uncomfortable topic —however, we can help you experience the sense of peace that comes from knowing that your wishes will be carried out and that your loved ones will not have to make these difficult decisions at the time of death. Catholic Cemeteries of Louisville offers all-inclusive services from purchasing the grave space and headstone to pre-paying for the interment and burial vault.

Our family counselors offer you their cemetery knowledge and expertise to help you make an educated burial selection. The goal of our counselors is to inform you of the different burial options and services that we offer. They are not on commission, therefore, there is no additional fee for their services and the price of your burial selection is the same. Appointments or inquiries can be made by phone.



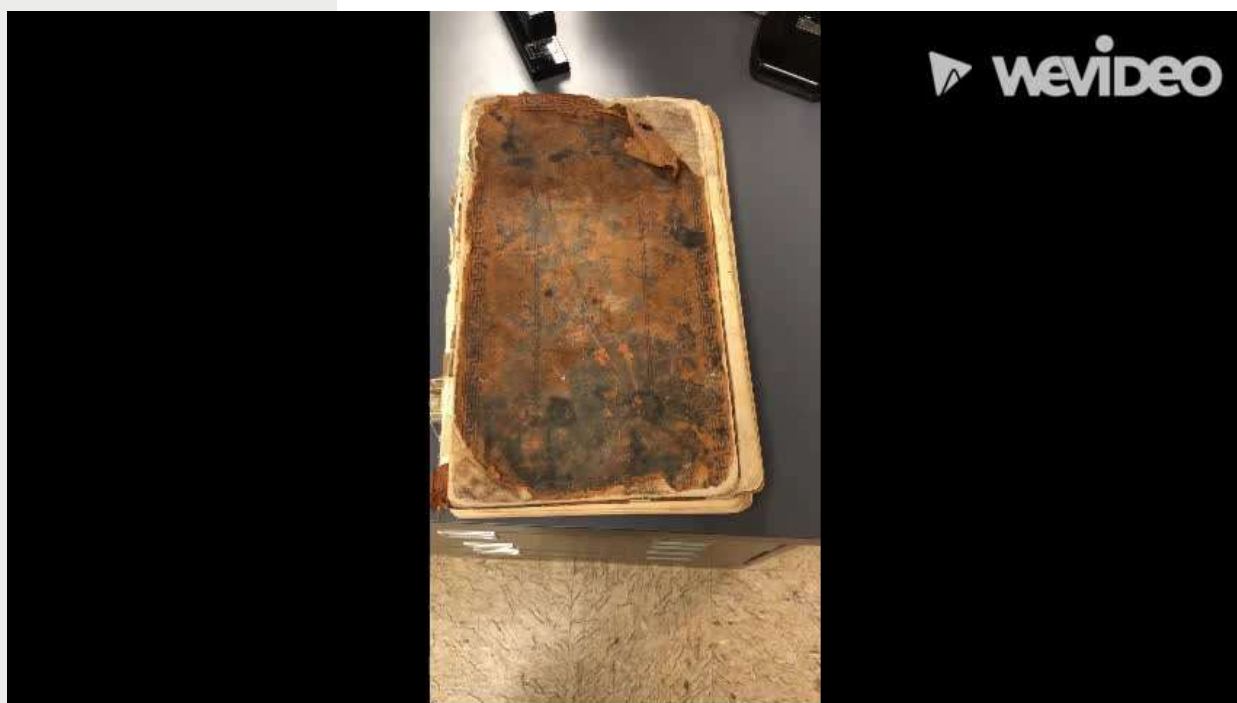
OUR  
ARCHDIOCESAN  
CATHOLIC  
CEMETERIES

# Behind the Scenes of St. John Cemetery

The smallest and the oldest of our four Archdiocesan cemeteries, St. John Cemetery is also perhaps the most unique. It is located in the Portland neighborhood, while the other cemeteries are all relatively close to each other, each being in the Germantown/Highlands area.

When St. John Cemetery was planned in 1849, it was affiliated with the Church of the Immaculate Conception, commonly called "St. Mary's," and thus was originally known as St. Mary's Cemetery. The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth deeded the 9 acres of land to the Diocese of Louisville, and the first burial took place in within two years.

This cemetery is undoubtedly rich in history, being over 170 years old, and we are so lucky that we have several original record books among our files. (Some of these books are still in active use!) Take a look below at a sample of these historic records, and get a feel for what they can tell us about the past of Louisville & its Catholic community. Note how many were listed as born in Ireland — This follows the rise of Irish Catholic immigrants in Louisville. As you can see, the exact locations of burials were often not recorded, which can make searching for people a fun challenge!



## OUR STAFF

# Patrick Sexton, Family Services Department

Patrick is the newest member of Family Services, having joined in 2020, but he has quickly grown to become a crucial part of the Counselor team.

His initial role with Catholic Cemeteries was actually as the Media and Records Coordinator, which is a separate department. However, when a position became available on our Family Services team, he decided to make the jump and hasn't looked back since.

Each day can be distinct, he acknowledges, because "every family situation and every burial is unique, but I enjoy being able to help grieving families through a difficult time."

As a counselor, the primary role is meeting with families to help them purchase graves and markers. There are many components that happen behind the scenes as well: communicating with vendors including granite companies, correctly writing contracts and additional documentation, answering phone questions, surveying newly-made markers for correctness, and more.

Pictured to the right is Patrick in action obtaining a rubbing of a marker. These are sometimes needed by outside monument companies to ensure that they have the specific font, spacing, and designs requested by a family. When a rubbing is needed, counselors take blueprint paper to a marker with the existing elements on it and use a special tool (AKA, a tennis ball) to gently create an impression of the surface on the paper.

In his free time, Patrick enjoys watching sports, reading, learning to cook "whatever looks good on Instagram," sampling local coffee, and hiking.



***"Everyone in the Family Services department, along with the rest of the office, is incredibly helpful! I really enjoy doing what we do every day."***

# A Guide to Planting at Our Cemeteries



As you may know, we have plenty of wildlife around our grounds that love munching on plants! Deer are particularly notorious for ruining a beautiful planting. They roam in herds and live all over the Highlands area especially.

Among plants that deer love to snack on are hostas, daylilies, English ivy, and evergreens such as arborvitae. Unfortunately, they like some very popular choices!

We always recommend those who are thinking about planting at a gravesite choose plants that are deer-resistant if at all possible. Some flora that deer do not prefer include:

- Zinnias
- Verbena
- Catmint
- Lamb's Ear
- Lily of the Valley
- Daffodils
- Foxgloves
- Poppies

But wait! Before you head over to your local nursery, stop and review the planting guidelines for the Catholic Cemeteries of Louisville. We have specific rules in place to ensure we are able to maintain the cemetery grounds to the highest possible level.

Annual or perennial flowers may be planted on monument, slant and bevel marker lots. No plantings are allowed on level marker graves or graves without markers. Rose bushes are not allowed.

Any flower borders must be kept within six inches to the front and sides of the marker and mulched with wood mulch. No landscape fabric, rocks, coping, curbing, fencing or other borders are allowed. These flower borders are the responsibility of the family and must be kept tidy and weed free.

Please visit our website for more information on our planting rules!

Learn more about burial options  
at any of our cemeteries

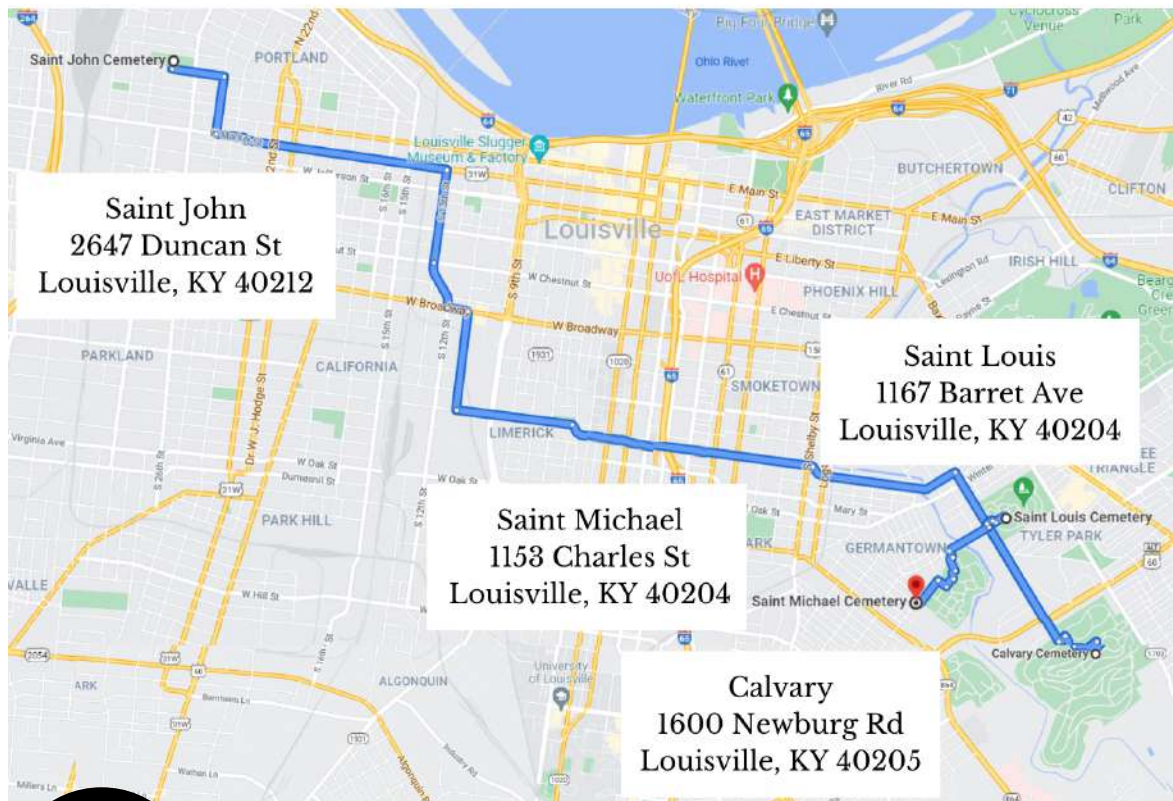
Call (502) 451-7710

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

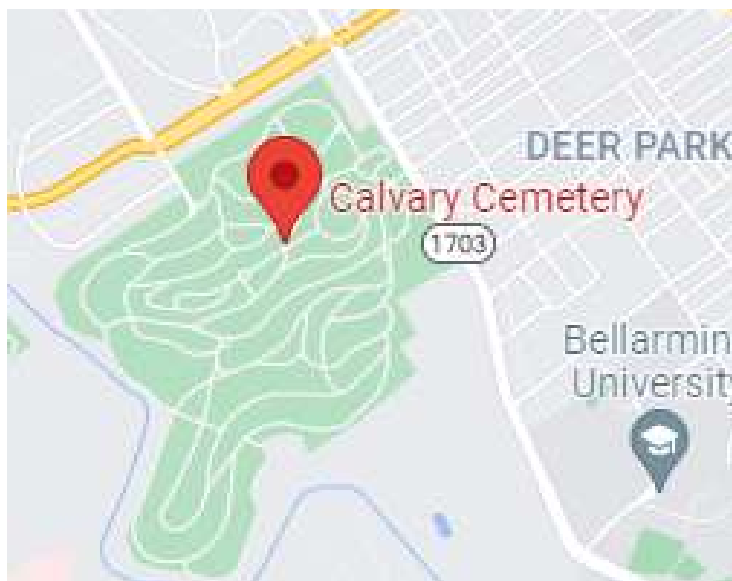


# Visit Our Office

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

