



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Calvary

1921

St. Louis

1867

St. Michael

1851

St. John

1849



A Guiding Light

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #5, APRIL 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

April 1st

Gate Hours Change

All Archdiocesan
Cemeteries

On Friday April 1st, the day this publication is being sent out, the gate hours for our cemeteries will be expanding for the season! Our cemeteries will now be open from **8:00 AM to 7:00 PM**, and will remain on this schedule until September 30th.

Please note that this does not apply to parish and non-Archdiocesan cemeteries — only to Calvary, St. John, St. Louis, and St. Michael.

April 27th

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.

**April and
May**

Synod Listening Sessions

Various locations
throughout the
Archdiocese

Pope Francis has issued a worldwide invitation to all Catholics to participate in the upcoming Synod of Bishops. The theme of this Synod is For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission. Listening sessions will be held throughout parishes in the Archdiocese through May. Find more information at <https://www.archlou.org/synod-2022>



Welcoming Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre

We are delighted to join the entirety of the Archdiocese of Louisville in welcoming Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre into our community as our new Archbishop! We are very excited to work with him going forward.

He was officially installed as Archbishop on Wednesday, March 30th 2022. Archbishop Fabre is the 10th Bishop and 5th Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville since its inception in 1808 by Pope Pius VII.



Farewell to Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz

We also want to extend our sincere appreciation for Archbishop Kurtz and the fantastic leadership he has shown during his 15 year tenure. We wish him all the best, and deeply appreciate his commitment and service to our Louisville Catholic community.

Archbishop Kurtz plans to spend the first 5-6 months of retirement at his home in Wilmington, N.C. before returning to move into the rectory of St. Patrick Church, which is shared by several priests.

Options for Burial

OUR
MINISTRY



There are many words associated with burial that may be unfamiliar to you if a death has occurred or you're beginning to pre-plan for yourself. The variety of terms, conditions, and decisions to make can feel overwhelming no matter the situation. It may be helpful to start at the beginning and break down your options one by one. One of the first decisions that needs to be made is do you, or your loved one, wish to be buried traditionally or be cremated?

Traditional burials require a casket, a vault, a grave space, and a marker. (A vault is a lined and sealed outer receptacle that protects the casket from the weight of the earth and heavy maintenance equipment that may pass over the grave.) There are four marker options— level, bevel, slant, and monument. Each grave in our cemeteries is "zoned" for a particular type of memorial for aesthetic, operational, and maintenance reasons.

Cremation burials can be simpler, and typically cost less, than traditional burial. Cremated remains require a worthy vessel (typically an urn but not always), a vault, and inurnment in a grave or niche. Scattering of ashes is never permitted — The cremated remains of the person should be treated with the same amount of respect that is given to be human body from which they came. There are several options for inurnment, including crypts in a community mausoleum, traditional grave spaces, and niches in one of our columbaria. We have multiple columbaria in Calvary Cemetery, located indoors in the Assumption Chapel and outdoors such as in the St. Anthony Columbarium.

Future care and maintenance is included in the price of all graves, crypts, and niches purchased through Catholic Cemeteries. There is also the option to purchase urns, vaults, markers, and monuments through us, however we do not sell caskets.

If you would like more information, please give our office a call or make an appointment with one of our counselors.

OUR ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

About Local Parish Cemeteries

Did you know that there are 46 total cemeteries within the Archdiocese of Louisville? Of those, only 4 are operated and maintained by the Catholic Cemeteries office. The rest are parish cemeteries that are mostly independent operations. Only 2 of these parish cemeteries are located in Jefferson County (St. Andrew Cemetery and St. Edward Cemetery), with the rest spread out across the surrounding counties in the Archdiocese.



Because they are run independently, Catholic Cemeteries of Louisville does not have access to their records, cannot schedule burials, see their available plots, or assist with members of the community that may wish to be buried in one of these cemeteries. We are there for them to provide guidance and support, but the maintenance, operations, and burials are performed by the affiliated parishes themselves. The parish cemeteries within the Archdiocese are incredibly valuable and wonderful resting places. It can be very comforting to know that your remains, or those of your family, will forever reside within your personal parish.

As such, we want to highlight these other Catholic cemeteries within our Archdiocese. One that we visited recently is Saint Brigid Cemetery in Vine Grove, KY. Located about 45 minutes outside of Louisville, their parish is home to 319 families and counting.

Saint Brigid Catholic Church was established in 1907 as a mission of Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Stithton, because a church was needed in the small rural town of Vine Grove. In 1918, Saint Brigid was raised from a mission to a parish. The church was built in 1929. Saint Brigid operated a school from 1938 to 2004. Teaching support came from the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount, Kentucky.

The cemetery was established in May 1918 and remains active today.

Saint Brigid staff can be reached by phone at (270) 877-2461. For more information, their website is <http://mobile.stbrigidvg.org>.

Greg Nichols, Foreman

OUR STAFF

After recommendations by college friends, Greg joined the maintenance crew at Saint Michael Cemetery as a summer job in 1980, and "has stuck around ever since."

At first, his primary duties were mowing and doing maintenance work on the cemetery equipment. As time went on, he progressed to assisting with the daily interments, operating the backhoe, and eventually was promoted to his current position of Foreman. He can still usually be found working in Saint Michael, but has also added Saint Louis and Saint John to his rotation over the years.

A typical workday starts with checking in at the main office in Calvary Cemetery to see what is on the agenda: upcoming burials to prepare for, marker foundations to pour, work requests to complete, etc. ("I plan ahead as much as possible, but you never know when things may come up or weather may change and affect the plan.") Once he has confirmation of what is needed for the day, he delegates tasks and locations to the grounds crew, and then works with them on whatever projects he can, including operating backhoes and maintaining the equipment.

He notes that people often have misconceptions about how his job works. They'd be surprised by how much technology, personnel, and coordination is involved in the day-to-day operation of a cemetery. Sometimes people ask him if he digs graves by hand, which makes him laugh a bit, but he understands: "It's a unique business."

Outside of the office, Greg enjoys seafood, NASCAR racing, traveling, and attending Jimmy Buffet concerts. He highly recommends the Riverbend Music Center in Cincinnati, a frequent stop on the singer's tours — and hey, Jimmy & band will be there again in July!



"Working in the cemetery has completely changed since I first started in 1980. The equipment is better, the operation is bigger, and even the surrounding neighborhoods have grown."

Springing to Life



The months of April and May are particularly beautiful arounds these parts! The plants are in bloom and many of our wildlife species are out enjoying the newly-warm weather. If you visit our grounds during the spring and summer months, you may spot a variety of flora and fauna showing off.

We spoke with Kenny Popp, the Director of Operations and nature enthusiast, for more details on what to look for this spring.

According to him, watch for the Yoshino Cherry trees in sections 24 and 27 as standout bloomers. For reference, think about the iconic pink-bloomed trees in Washington D.C. — these are the same kind! The blossoms begin emerging in late March to mid April.

In front of our office building, the weeping purple fountain beech has golden leaves which will transition to purple, a process which Kenny says typically lasts until May.

Spread throughout our grounds are flowering dogwoods which begin blooming in late April to early May. (A word of warning: The flowers only last for about two weeks — don't delay in visiting if you want to see them.)

We also host an array of wildlife to look for in the spring: birds, squirrels, deer, coyotes, and even a snapping turtle on one memorable occasion!

As pictured to the right, Blue Jays often make their home in our grounds in the winter, and may be seen nesting from late March to early June. They particularly love the small fruit from the cherry and dogwood trees.

Share with us on social media if you notice a particularly beautiful scene! We'd love to share your photos or videos on our Facebook and Instagram pages — links below to follow us if you don't already!



Learn more about burial options
at any of our cemeteries

Call (502) 451-7710

or visit

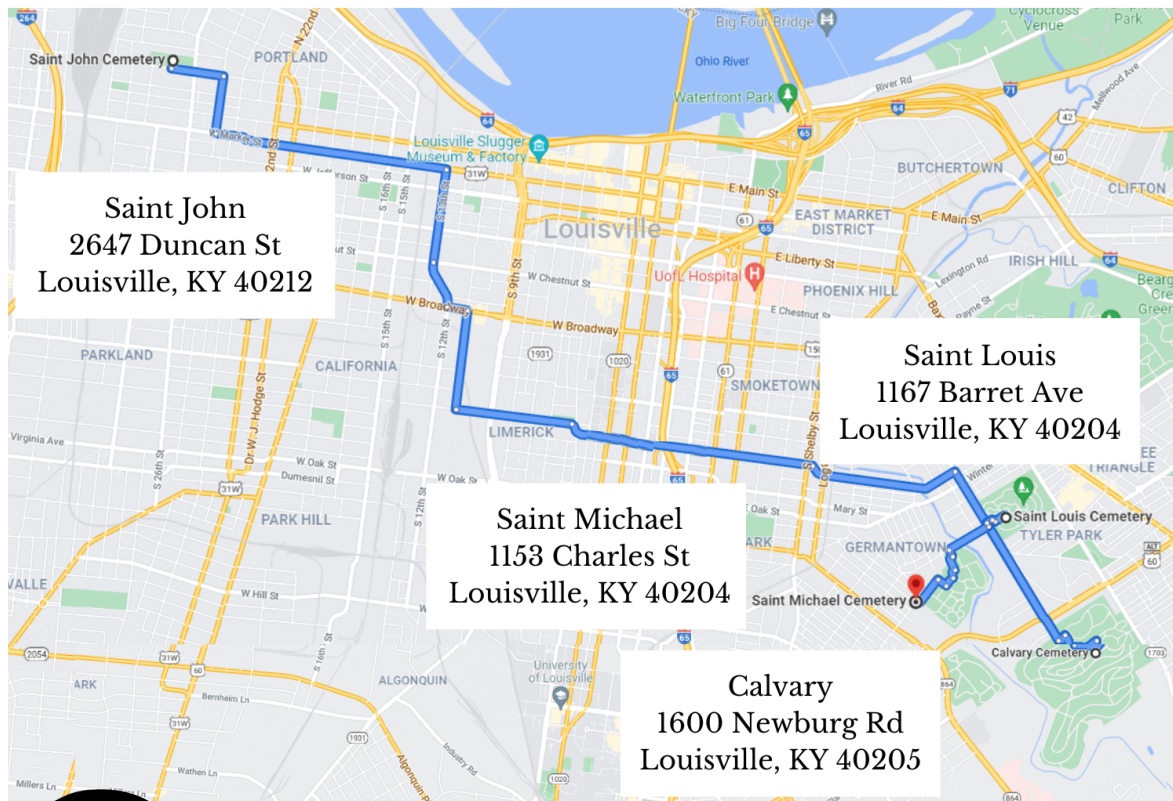
CatholicCemeteriesLouisville.Org

“

*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



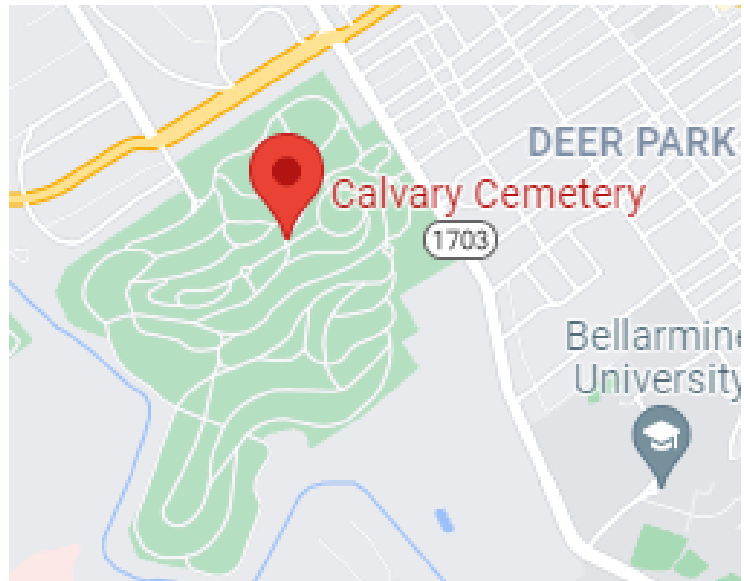
Open April-September: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
October-March: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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

