



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Calvary

1921

St. Louis

1867

St. Michael

1851

St. John

1849



A Guiding Light

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #11, APRIL 2023

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

Visiting Hours Change

Calvary Cemetery
Saint Louis Cemetery
Saint Michael Cemetery
Saint John Cemetery

On Saturday April 1st, the gate hours for our cemeteries will be expanding for the season! Our cemetery gates 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 26th

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.

May 31st

Infant Prayer Service

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

Read more about the Infant Prayer Service, and what that entails, on page four.

Reminder of Cemetery Etiquette



Our cemeteries are open 365 days a year, even holidays, except when they are closed for severe weather.

We do see an uptick in visitors during the summer months due to schools being closed and the warm weather. However, with that influx comes more instances of improper behavior on our grounds.

So here is a little reminder as we go into the summer of what is acceptable, and not acceptable, if you are a visitor in our cemeteries.

- **Running:** We do allow walkers and runners through our grounds, but please respect the sanctity of these grounds and remain fully dressed. Shirts are to be worn at all times.
- **Recreational items:** Items like skateboards and kites are also not allowed. Although we do have beautiful and park-like grounds, please remember that our cemeteries are not parks. This is a sacred burial space.
- **Dogs:** As always, dogs are welcome, but they **must** remain leashed at all times while on our grounds. Please do not allow your dogs to walk over or void on graves; walk them on the pavement only.
- **Loud music:** Please be respectful that this is a place of remembrance and mourning; if you are playing music out loud, keep it at low volume so as to not disturb others.
- **Trash:** Throw any trash in our trashcans, not on the ground. We have cans situated at both gates, as well as within the cemetery along the roads.

The Infant Prayer Service

On the last Wednesday of each month, Calvary Cemetery hosts a small prayer group for the souls of departed infants. This is for miscarriages, stillbirths, or babies who passed after living for any amount of time. Those who have lost an infant, or wish to honor a friend or family member who has lost an infant, are welcome to join the service and pray with us for their baby.



This service takes place in Section 20, also known as the Holy Innocents section which is reserved for infants and children. Deacon Scott Haner currently presides over the service, having taken over for Deacon Bob Markert who held the service for years.

We spoke to attendees at the March prayer service, who called the service "very important", "close to sacrament", and "such a special event." They communicated how they appreciated their baby being acknowledged, remembered, and prayed for. We welcome you to join if infant loss has touched you in any way, regardless of whether they are buried in one of our cemeteries or not, and regardless of how long ago they passed — anyone with an infant to remember is welcome.



Deacon Haner

The infant prayer service is at 1:30 PM on the last Wednesday of every month, and can last around 30 minutes to an hour. There is some walking involved as the group prays over the burial locations of the requested infants.

Excerpted from Deacon Bob Markert's closing prayer:

"Parents, you carry your child always in your torn hearts as an image of beauty, fragile vulnerability, and precious simplicity and innocence... Your child now knows the forever experience of warmth, peace, and total love. From God's very lap your child blesses you."

OUR ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Exciting New Software Update



In the coming months, we will begin the process of updating how we keep our digitized records and how we do our sales. This will improve much of our back-end systems, and as a result, many of our front-end processes will be changing — for the better!

Our mapping system for Calvary Cemetery is among the first things that we hope will be updated. We aim to bring the ability for our counselors to view available property remotely, from a tablet or phone, while they are out on the grounds with families. They would be able to see who is buried where, what property looks available but is actually sold, which are reserved, etc. This would make the process of purchasing a grave less difficult and more streamlined for families, which is the ultimate goal in making these changes.

We will also be digitizing all of our paper records, starting with Calvary Cemetery, but the goal is to ultimately have records for all 4 cemeteries digitized and in our online database. At the moment, we have many records which only exist in the original paper form (and some are quite delicate as they are 100+ years old!) so as you can imagine we expect this process to be ongoing for quite a while.

Right now we have many of our burial location records available on the Locate a Loved One tool on our website, but with this digitization process, we will be adding thousands more burial location records which will be able to be found using Locate a Loved One.



All the updates will take time, and we appreciate your patience with us while we work on this transition to a better system so we can better serve you.

Rick Curry, Ground Crew Veteran

OUR
STAFF

Rick has been with Catholic Cemeteries for an amazing 55 years! He started in 1968 after a recommendation from his brother-in-law, Butch Johnson, who was then the foreman at St. Louis and Calvary. His first role was to dig foundations by hand, then to set up tents and chairs for burials.

Then, it came his time to be foreman at St. Louis, a position he would hold for 20 years. During that time, he managed and oversaw up to 8 crewmembers as they ran the cemetery. For the past 5 years or so, Rick has been stationed at St. Michael Cemetery, working alongside foreman Greg Nichols.

A typical day for him includes, as he says, “odd jobs” — filling in dirt, digging graves (not by hand, thankfully), cutting down dead trees, grinding stumps, etc. They also oversee work in St. John Cemetery, the smallest of our 4 Archdiocesan cemeteries which is located in the Portland neighborhood.

As you might imagine, he has collected many stories about the cemeteries over the half-century he has worked here. He recollects how on one memorable day, digging in Calvary Cemetery, he stumbled across something in the dirt — turns out it was a penny dating all the way back to 1819! “This land used to be farmland, and we were digging near the old farmhouse that was still here at the time,” he explains.



"I love working here. One of my favorite things to do is teach new crewmembers how to use the riding mowers."

When he's not at work, Rick enjoys the outdoors including camping and riding horses. He and his wife, Karen, have two children and own two horses (Magic and Mrs. Cam "Cammy"). He was a sheriff's horse patrol in Harrison County for 17 years until his retirement last year.

Oakleaf Hydrangea

Also called *Hydrangea quercifolia*, an oakleaf hydrangea is a deciduous shrub with big clusters of flowers. The blooms come in either white or pink, unlike other types of hydrangea which can be blue, red, or purple as well. The oakleaf type gets its name, as you might have guessed, from its distinctive leaves, which are shaped like those of an oak tree. They are multi-stemmed and spread by suckers, stems that emerge from the root system.



Source: www.thespruce.com/summer-blooming-oakleaf-hydrangeas-2132724

They are shrubs, so don't grow very tall — typical size at full maturity is between 4 to 8 feet tall and 4 to 8 feet wide. Oakleafs, like other hydrangeas, appreciate afternoon shade and not too much direct sunlight. Too little sunlight, however, can lower the intensity of the bloom color.

Oakleafs prefer well-drained, slightly acidic pH soil. Many people amend or add compost to their soil in order to make their hydrangeas happy.

**Have you seen the
Oakleaf Hydrangeas in
Calvary? They are
located by our office.**

These plants are native to North America, and thrive best in hardiness zones 5-9. (For reference, most of Louisville is within zone 7A.) They can live up to 50 years, if given proper care.

It's important to know that Oakleaf Hydrangeas are toxic to humans and animals if ingested. Because of this, it is also usually bypassed by deer, so it can be a great choice for a spring planting that is deer resistant — just be aware to keep children and pets away from the plant.

Learn more about burial options
at any of our cemeteries

Call (502) 451-7710

or visit

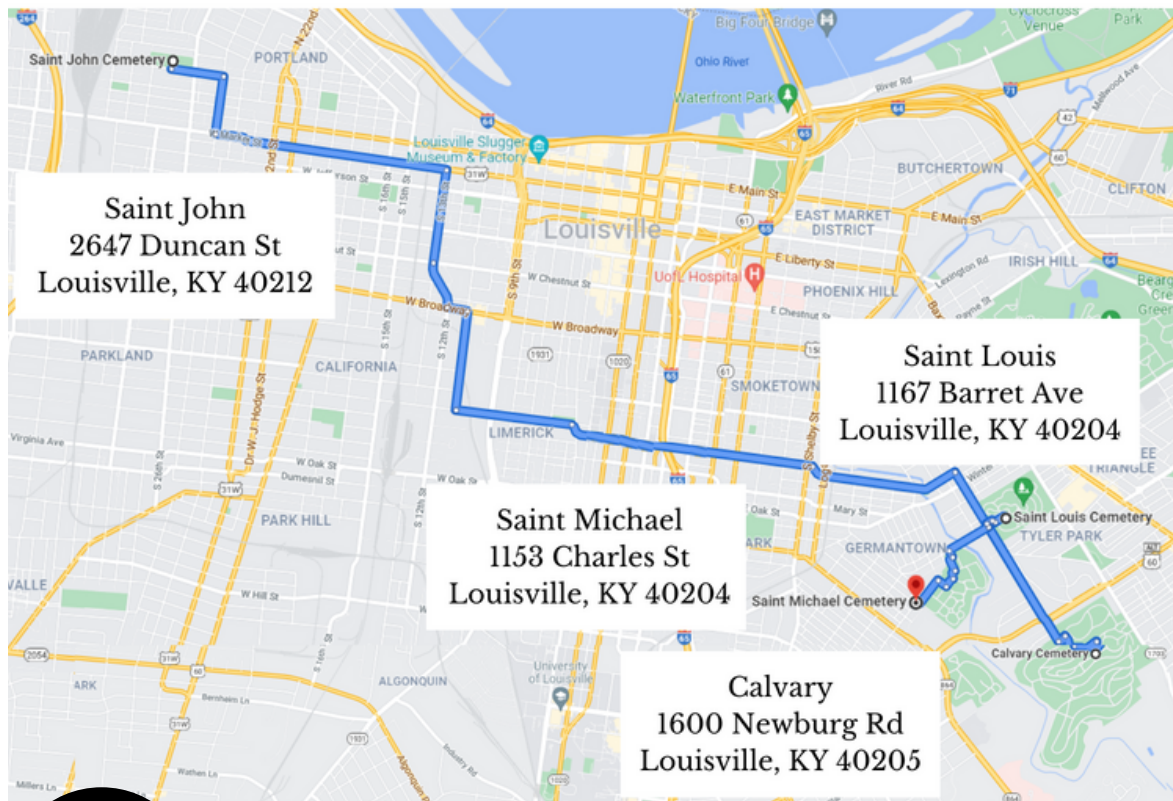
CatholicCemeteriesLouisville.Org

“

*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



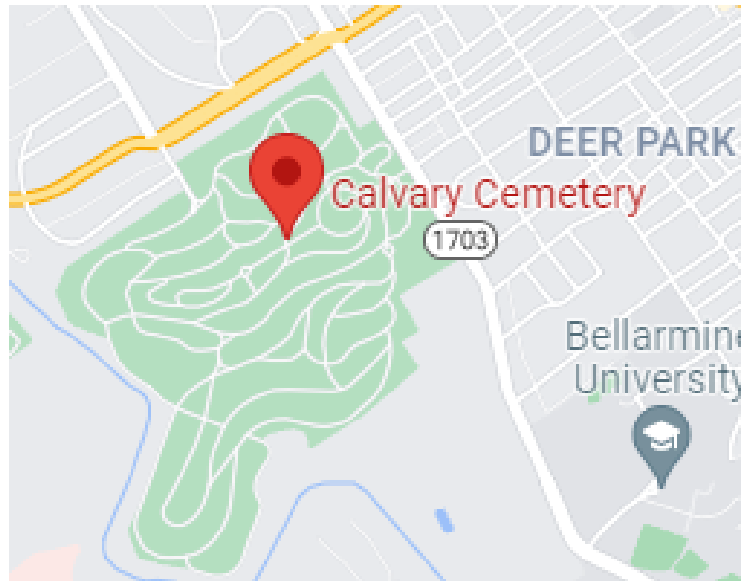
Open April-September: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
October-March: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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

