



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Calvary
1921

St. Louis
1867

St. Michael
1851

St. John
1849



A Guiding Light

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #15, DECEMBER 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

Dec 1st

Lighting of the Tree of Remembrance

Calvary Cemetery
Ceremony at 6:30

Read more on the next page.

Dec 27th

Infant Prayer Service

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

Each month, the Catholic Cemeteries holds a brief prayer service to remember those infants who were stillborn or who lived any length of time. Those who have lost an infant are invited to attend the service and pray with us for their baby and the others on the last Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. The service is held in Calvary Cemetery in the “Holy Innocents Section” (Section 20). The names of all of the infants buried during the month in any of the archdiocesan Catholic cemeteries will be mentioned during the service. Any other name, whether the infant was buried in a prior month or in another cemetery, can also be mentioned at the request of the families or friends. Holy water is sprinkled on the graves of those babies buried that month in the Holy Innocents Section. Severe weather will cancel.

Please call (502) 451-7710 if you would like to add an infant’s name to be prayed for.

Lighting of the Tree of Remembrance

OUR
MINISTRY



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 people have gathered each year for the tree lighting and blessing ceremony.

Join us on Friday December 1st at 6:30 PM for Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre's blessing and the lighting of the Tree of Remembrance, located by the Newburg Road entrance at Calvary Cemetery. Hot drinks and pastries will be available, as well as complimentary personalized glass ornaments. Participants are encouraged to hang ornaments —either one brought from home or provided by us— on the tree in memory of loved ones. This event 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 token of remembrance will honor the deceased and alleviate the pain of those mourning.

Important note: No entry will be allowed during the blessing ceremony – the gates will close at 6:25 PM.

Ornaments may remain on the tree until January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany. Remaining ornaments that are unclaimed after that time will be reverently buried on our grounds.



OUR ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

A Guide to Planning Ahead



*Written and published
by The Record
Newspaper, Feb. 2020*

Discussing death is often a difficult conversation. Many times, people wait until a loved one passes and are left with the responsibility of making decisions on their own. Catholic Cemeteries staff can help you through this process.

The staff can also guide you through making these decisions — giving you peace of mind now and giving your loved ones peace of mind later.

Following are some questions to help you start thinking about your plans. Schedule a tour with a family counselor to start the planning process.

Who can make my funeral arrangements?

Kentucky state law allows for a representative, called a “designee,” to make funeral arrangements on behalf of the deceased. This person is designated before death and denoted on the Funeral Planning Declaration Form. This form can be downloaded at therecordnewspaper.org/funeralplanning.

If no designee has been declared, Kentucky State law determines the next of kin in the following order: the surviving spouse, adult children, parents, grandparents, siblings, closest next of kin.

Who may be buried in a Catholic cemetery?

Catholic cemeteries are considered an extension of the parish. The church prefers that all Catholics are buried in the sacred grounds of Catholic cemeteries. However, non-Catholics may be buried there as well. Those who were together in life should not be separated in death.

If I have family buried at one of the Archdiocesan Catholic cemeteries, can I be buried in the same grave?

Multiple burials may be allowed depending on the restrictions that have been placed on graves either due to location or lot owner wishes — of those multiple burials, however, only one can be full-size (with a casket).

Sid Davis, Interment Crew

OUR
STAFF

Sid has been an integral member of the grounds crew at Catholic Cemeteries for 43 years — he has been with us through the span of four Archbishops. Originally starting as maintenance, he has become a member of the interment team, and has been in charge of gatekeeping for 30 years.

As you might've guessed, the first stop in his day is to open the front gates of the cemeteries, including Saint Louis Cemetery, upon whose grounds he has lived in for "25 years... on and off."

After the gates are all open, he checks in with the office at Calvary to get the paperwork needed for upcoming burials. Then, he and the rest of the team get to work laying off and marking the correct grave, setting up tents and chairs for the burials that are having graveside services that day, then meeting the processions at the front gates to lead them to the site of the service.

He is also responsible for laying out foundations, which means surveying the graves and measuring the areas in which a marker foundation will be poured in the future. In a good day, the team could measure and lay out 20 foundations.



"The best part of working here has been all the people I work with — the rest of the crew and the office staff."

Outside of work, he and his wife of 11 years, Laura, enjoy the good life: they like traveling to Florida — and try to go several times each year — and they spend evenings playing trivia and socializing with friends.

A Winter Visitor



One species of bird that is commonly found in and around Calvary Cemetery is the Cedar Waxwing. Typically residing further north, the Waxwing migrates south during the winter and it is during that time that they can be found on our grounds. (In fact, both of these photos were taken by our Executive Director through the window of his office!)

Their reason for choosing Calvary as a winter home makes sense when you think about their preferred habitat: open woodland with fruiting and berried trees. Their main source of food comes from berries and insects, and they typically forage in flocks, so you are more likely to see multiple birds at once rather than a singleton. They are particularly drawn to dogwood, serviceberry, cedar, juniper, hawthorn, and winterberry trees.

They are characterized by their distinctive coloring: shiny grey and brown wings, with splashes of red on their wings, and yellow on their belly and tailfeathers.

They also have a notable tuft on the top of their heads, as you can see in both photos, along with a black mask-like mark around their eyes.

Waxwings are songbirds, and you may hear their thin whistle-like song if you are visiting Calvary this winter. Make sure to look up, especially if you are near a berry tree, and you may just spot one!

As always, feel free to share any photos or videos of wildlife you spot in our cemeteries to us via our Facebook page.



Learn more about burial options
at any of our cemeteries

Call (502) 451-7710

or visit

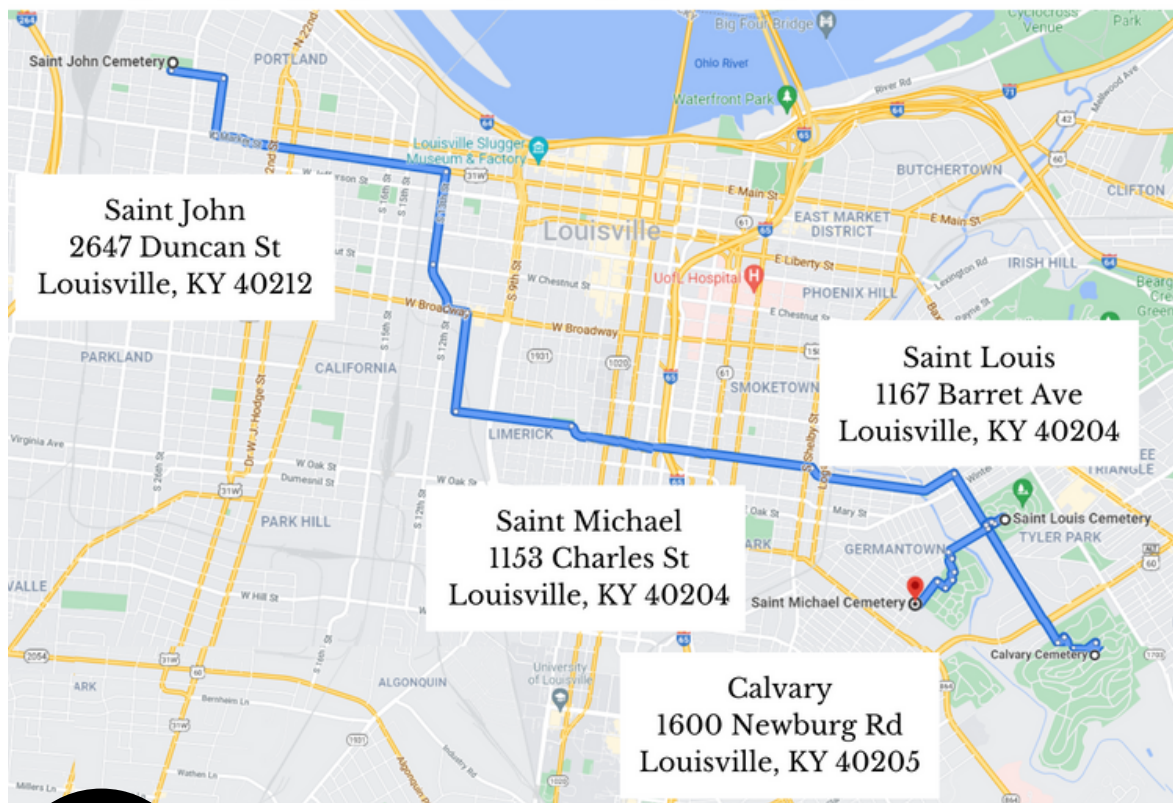
CatholicCemeteriesLouisville.Org

“

*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



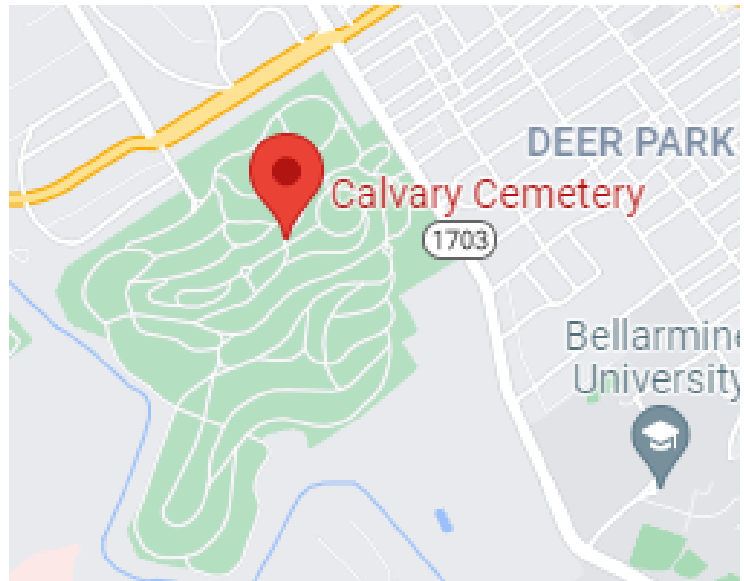
Open April-September: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
October-March: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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

