



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Calvary

1921

St. Louis

1867

St. Michael

1851

St. John

1849



A Guiding Light

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #14, OCTOBER 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

Oct 25th

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 other name, whether the infant was buried prior to that month (even decades ago) 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.

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

Any who have been affected by the loss of an infant are invited to attend and pray with us for their baby and all others.

Nov 2nd

All Souls' Day Mass

Calvary Cemetery
Section 7
11:00 AM

Join us and Vicar General Fr. Jeffrey Schooner for the annual All Souls' Day Mass for all of the deceased members of the Archdiocese. This is an outdoor event; a tent and chairs will be available.

Death and Grief

Everyone who has lost a loved one experiences a pain that can feel overwhelming at times. Our mission at the Catholic Cemeteries is to provide a witness of God's love to all persons who walk through our doors, with the hope that they will find comfort and peace. We reach families during one of their most difficult and vulnerable times. We try to provide a witness of God's love by treating every person and family with compassion, by showing that every life and every person is important to us, and by showing that dignity cannot be taken away from anyone.

We have identified two areas of our ministry that require special attention: the burial of persons with limited or no resources and the burial of babies.

Our Catholic Cemeteries do not deny burial to anyone because of the lack of funds. Every person is someone's parent or someone's child. Most importantly, every person is God's child and, therefore, has dignity. Donations by families of unused graves allow us to better assist those families and individuals with limited or no resources.

Burying a child is one of the most difficult situations that parents have to face in a lifetime. When a child dies, the order of nature is reversed, which makes it much harder for families to accept. We all expect our parents to go before us but not our children.

In 2010, we developed the "In God's Hand Garden," which offers families a way to memorialize a beloved child with a special place for quiet prayer and reflection. Over fifteen hundred granite pavers are available to families for inscription. In addition, on the last Wednesday of each month, Deacon Scott Haner presides over a prayer service to remember stillborn children or children that lived for any length of time. The names of all children buried during that month in the Catholic Cemeteries are mentioned, and other names, even if buried earlier or in another cemetery, can also be spoken at the request of families and friends. Everyone is invited to attend.

I often remind my staff and myself to never underestimate the influence that our words and actions can have in the life of another person. Mother Teresa once said "if you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one." We reach out and minister to one family at a time.

Through my family and my experience with this ministry, I have learned that when you feel God's love burning in your heart, you want to share it with everyone around you, like a child with a new soccer ball who is dying to go outside and play with his friends. I have learned that when you feel that burning faith, you are transformed, you transform other people around you, and then great things happen.

OUR MINISTRY



*Written by Javier
Fajardo, Executive
Director*

Gate Hour Change & Seasonal Decoration Guidelines



As a reminder, our opening hours are changing as of October first. The new gate hours are from 8 AM to 5 PM. This change does not affect our office hours, which remain 8 AM to 4:30 PM weekdays and 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. The office is closed on Sundays, but the grounds are open 7 days a week.

Regarding decorations, November 15th to February 28th is the only time of the year we allow artificial decorations at ground level. Because the starting date is coming up shortly, we thought it would be a good idea to refresh everyone on our general decoration guidelines.

Artificial decorations include flower baskets, wreaths, votive candles (solar powered only), flags, shepherd hooks, etc. Please note that glass vases or bottles are not permitted and nothing can be buried in the ground. Artificial decorations in vases or saddles on above-ground markers and monuments are also permitted year round. Never use wires or stakes to attach decorations, however.

On lots with a monument privilege, shrubbery or ivy may be planted by cemetery personnel with the approval of management and placed under a special care plan. This plan requires an annual fee which includes trimming, fertilizing, mulching and insect control. Contact the office at 502-451-7710 for more information regarding our special care plans.

Kailyn Beal, Media & Projects Coordinator

OUR
STAFF

One of the more recent office hires, Kailyn has been part of the Catholic Cemeteries team since July 2021. She started part-time as the Records Coordinator, then became the full-time Media and Projects Coordinator in April of 2022.

Coordinating projects and media involves a variety of areas throughout any given day or week. One of her primary ongoing tasks is the creation of the bi-monthly e-newsletter *A Guiding Light* (which you happen to be reading right now!). This involves writing, editing, taking photos, and distributing the material. She also manages the social media accounts for the Catholic cemeteries, primarily Calvary.

“Our Facebook and Instagram pages have been instrumental in staying visible and connected to our community.”

She also is in charge of long term record projects, such as updating our data management system, a project in which we are currently in the midst. This will be a total overhaul of the processes currently in place, with the end goal being streamlined and more user-friendly systems.

On a completely different note, she also receives many requests for old records searches, which involves researching in burial record books and files that are often over 100 years old.



"I love being able to help solve family genealogical mysteries, and to help people find their long-lost family members. It's really rewarding."

Kailyn and her husband Stuart live just a few minutes from Calvary Cemetery with their two cats, Rudyard and Roisin (both named after their favorite bars). She enjoys international traveling, and together she and her husband have visited 15 countries so far. When not at work or in another country, she likes reading, gardening, and learning to cook.

The Majestic Ancient Ginkgo

Some trees can be easily identified by their leaf appearance, and the ginkgo is no different. Their unique fan-like shape and stunning color change is what makes this tree stand out! There's a large one planted in Saint Louis Cemetery — have you seen it? The leaves will be turning yellow for the season shortly, and the color is nothing short of glorious (as you can see below).



As the name might suggest, ginkgo trees are not native to North America; they originate in China and were not brought to America until the 18th century.

One of the most interesting facts about the ginkgo is that it is considered a living fossil. Why? Because it is one of the oldest living types of trees in the world. It is the last remaining survivor of an ancient group of trees that dates back to, get this, before the time of dinosaurs on Earth — which would be 250 million years ago. Fossils of ginkgo tree leaves, like the ones pictured, have been found dating back to 200 million years ago.

The oldest living ginkgo is thought to be around 3,500 years old and is located in China.

We can only hope that our ginkgo lives to be that long!

Learn more about burial options
at any of our cemeteries

Call (502) 451-7710

or visit

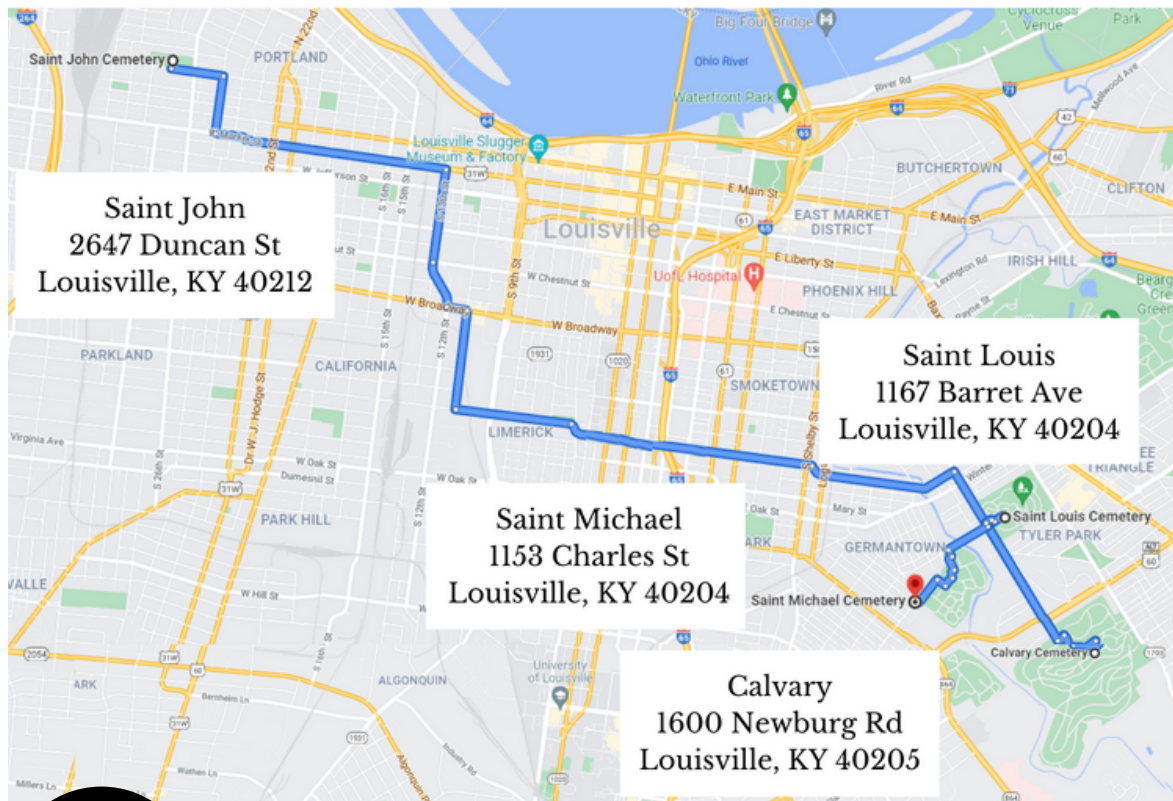
CatholicCemeteriesLouisville.Org

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*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.*

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Visit Our Grounds



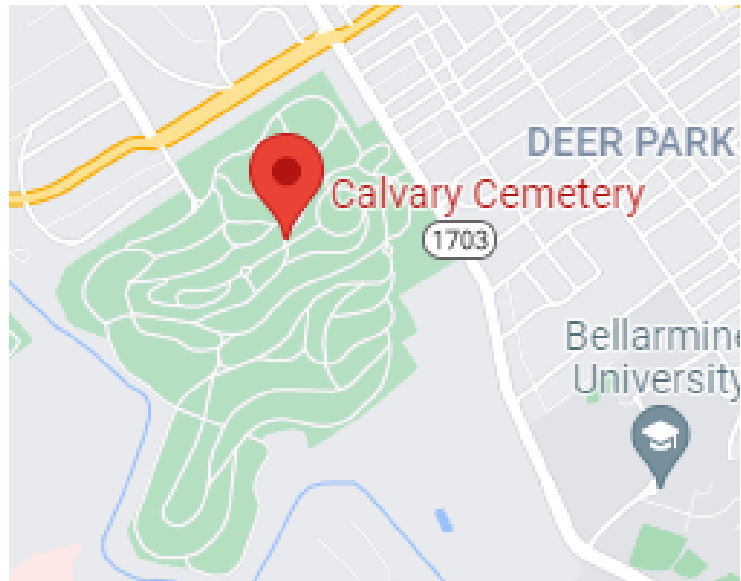
Open April-September: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
October-March: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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

