



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Calvary

1921

St. Louis

1867

St. Michael

1851

St. John

1849



A Guiding Light

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #26, AUGUST 2026

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.

Holiday Reminders

Monday, September 7 Labor Day Hours



The Catholic Cemeteries office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. No burials will be performed. Gates will be open for visitation from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

We hope you have a safe holiday weekend as the summer season winds down!



Upcoming Events

**Monday, November 2
at 11:00 AM**

All Souls' Day Mass

Join Most Reverend Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre and Catholic Cemeteries of Louisville in celebrating the annual All Souls' Day Mass for all of the deceased members of the Archdiocese at 11:00 AM on Monday, November 2 in Calvary Cemetery. The service will take place outdoors, under a tent with seating provided. Upon arrival at the front gate, please follow the guidance of our crew who will be directing traffic.



Following the All Souls' Day Mass at Calvary Cemetery, Archbishop Fabre greeted Kelly Osting, a member of St. Martin of Tours Church, and her young sons Benedict and Fulton, held by the archbishop. (Record Photo by Ruby Thomas)

All Souls' Day purposely follows All Saints' Day in order to shift the focus from those in heaven to those in purgatory. The theological basis for the feast is the doctrine that the souls who, on departing the body, are not perfectly cleansed from venial sins or have not fully atoned for past transgressions are debarred from the Beatific Vision, and that the faithful on earth can help them by prayers, alms deeds and especially by the sacrifice of the Mass.

Upcoming Events (cont.)

**September 30,
October 28, and
November 25**

Infant Prayer Services

Each month, the Catholic Cemeteries holds a brief prayer service to remember those infants who passed prior to birth, 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 prayer service will take place around the “In God’s Hand” statue (see photo below).

This statue is located in Section 20 of Calvary Cemetery.

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.



Cremation and the Catholic perspective

The following was written by Javier Fajardo, Executive Director of Catholic Cemeteries

Each year, more and more people choose to be cremated for different reasons. The two most common are financial and environmental. The cost factor tends to make cremation more attractive. Generally speaking, cremation is cheaper than traditional burial services. Cremation graves and columbarium niches are usually less expensive than traditional graves and mausoleum crypts.

Currently, the cremation rate in the United States is over 60% but only over 40% in Kentucky. Our bluegrass state is very traditional when it comes to burial practices, but that is rapidly changing. With that rapid change also comes a wide range of new practices regarding how families handle the final disposition of the cremated remains of their loved ones. It is our obligation at the Catholic Cemeteries to educate families on the proper ways to conduct the final disposition of cremated remains according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Cremation gives families options to customize, personalize, and be more “creative” when planning the final disposition of the cremated remains of their loved ones. Some examples of practices that show insufficient respect for the ashes of the dead body include scattering cremated remains, keeping the cremated remains at home, dividing the cremated remains and sharing them with family members and friends, turning the cremated remains into jewelry (pendants, rings, bracelets, etc.), and comingling cremated remains of more than one person. The rule of thumb is not to do to the cremated remains of a person what we would not do to the full body of that person.

Full size graves in our Archdiocesan Catholic Cemeteries are intended to accommodate the remains of one person. However, because of the sharp increase in the number of cremations, burial rights over a grave can be upgraded to allow for a second and even a third burial in the form of cremated remains. Therefore, a full size grave can accommodate one casket burial and one or two burials of cremated remains, or up to three burials of cremated remains. (see next page)

Cremation and the Catholic perspective (cont.)

OUR
MINISTRY

The Holy See has allowed cremation since 1963. As stated in the 1983 Code of Canon Law, “the church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the bodies of the deceased be observed; nevertheless, the church does not prohibit cremation unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian doctrine.”

Regardless of the form of the remains, the Church expects those who have been baptized as Catholics to take full advantage of the Order of Christian Funerals. These rites include prayers at the time of death and thereafter, a wake service allowing time for prayers and support, a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for both the living and the dead, and burial in a Catholic Cemetery as the final resting place for those who have fallen asleep in Christ. Our Archdiocesan Catholic Cemeteries welcomes persons of other faith traditions; those who were together in life should not be separated in death.

When cremation is chosen, the Church recommends that the body of the deceased be present for the funeral rites. The presence of the human body better expresses the values that the Church affirms in the funeral rites. Nevertheless, the Holy See has given the bishop of each diocese the authority to allow the celebration of a funeral liturgy in the presence of the cremated remains of the body. The Catholic Church recognizes the dignity and sacredness of the human body and emphasizes that cremated remains should be treated with the same amount of respect that is given to the human body from which they came. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the cremated remains of the person, the proper care in transporting them, and their final disposition in consecrated ground, that is buried in a grave or inurned in a columbarium. Appropriate memorialization is recommended.

Burial in a Catholic Cemetery is a statement of continued belief in everlasting life, even in death. Let's work together to assure the continuation of the sacred values and commitments that the church has made to its faithful.

OUR ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Victor John Joseph Mature 1913 - 1999



*Above: Photo of Victor
Mature*

*Below: Angel of Grief
statue located on family
lot*



There are many notable people buried in the four cemeteries we manage, but arguably the most famous is Victor Mature. Mature was born in Louisville, Kentucky on January 29, 1913. He attended St. Xavier High School before enrolling at the Kentucky Military Institute and Spencerian Business School. He worked various jobs, including selling candy and his father's cutlery business, before pursuing acting. He moved to Los Angeles in August 1935 to begin his acting dream.

His first role came in *The Housekeeper's Daughter* in 1939. However, his first real breakthrough came in 1940 when he was the lead actor in *One Million B.C.* His acting career was beginning to flourish at the same time as World War II. He attempted to join the U.S. Navy but was rejected due to color blindness. He eventually joined the Coast Guard and was honorably discharged in 1945.

His most famous roles came in the following years. He came to be one of the most recognizable Hollywood actors of the 1940s and 1950s. Some of his most famous roles include Samson in *Samson and Delilah* (1949), a slave in *The Robe* (1953), and Doc Holliday in *My Darling Clementine* (1946). He was known for his self-deprecating humor. Mature famously once said "I'm not an actor - and I've got 64 films to prove it!" upon being rejected from a country club simply because he was an actor. He retired in 1979.

Mature continued to live in California and passed away on August 4, 1999 at his home. However, his final resting would be back in the city where his story began. He is buried in the Mature family lot, located at Saint Michael Cemetery, Section 7, Lot 46. A replica of the famed statue the *Angel of Grief* marks the graves on this lot.

KELSEY HOLMES (BURIAL COORDINATOR)

OUR STAFF

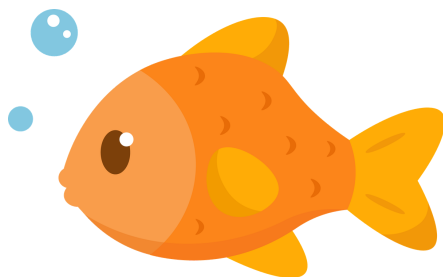


In this edition we are featuring Kelsey Holmes. Kelsey is the Burial Coordinator and was hired in February 2026. She oversees cemetery burial paperwork and “ensures that all of the details surrounding a loved one’s final disposition are properly handled.” This includes coordinating dates, times, locations, and other important details.

She says that the most rewarding aspect of her job is “being able to help people who have come to the end of their journey with their loved ones. Knowing that I can help make even one part of such a difficult process a little easier for a family is very meaningful to me.”

Outside of work, Kelsey enjoys spending time with her son, taking care of her two cats, reading a captivating book, and enjoying good food.

We are grateful to have Kelsey on our team and appreciate all they bring to Catholic Cemeteries!



One of Kelsey’s favorite quotes is “Be a goldfish.”

Maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)



*Above: Ginkgo tree in
Section 14*

There are a variety of trees in the Catholic Cemeteries but one of the favorites is a ginkgo in Calvary. This tree is located in Section 14, which is near the center of the cemetery. They are native to south-central China. Often they are called living fossils because they have been around for hundreds of millions of years.

Ginkgos are notorious for being extremely resilient. They are often planted in urban areas because of this. Don't be surprised if you see a ginkgo tree over 50 feet tall. They can actually grow up to be over 70 feet tall and 40 feet wide!

Whether it is sweltering in the summer or snowing in the winter, we know that this ginkgo will provide shade and serenity for all.



*Left: Green ginkgo leaf
(notice distinct shape)*

*Right: Golden ginkgo
leaf in autumn*



Learn more about burial options
at any of our cemeteries

Call (502) 451-7710

or visit

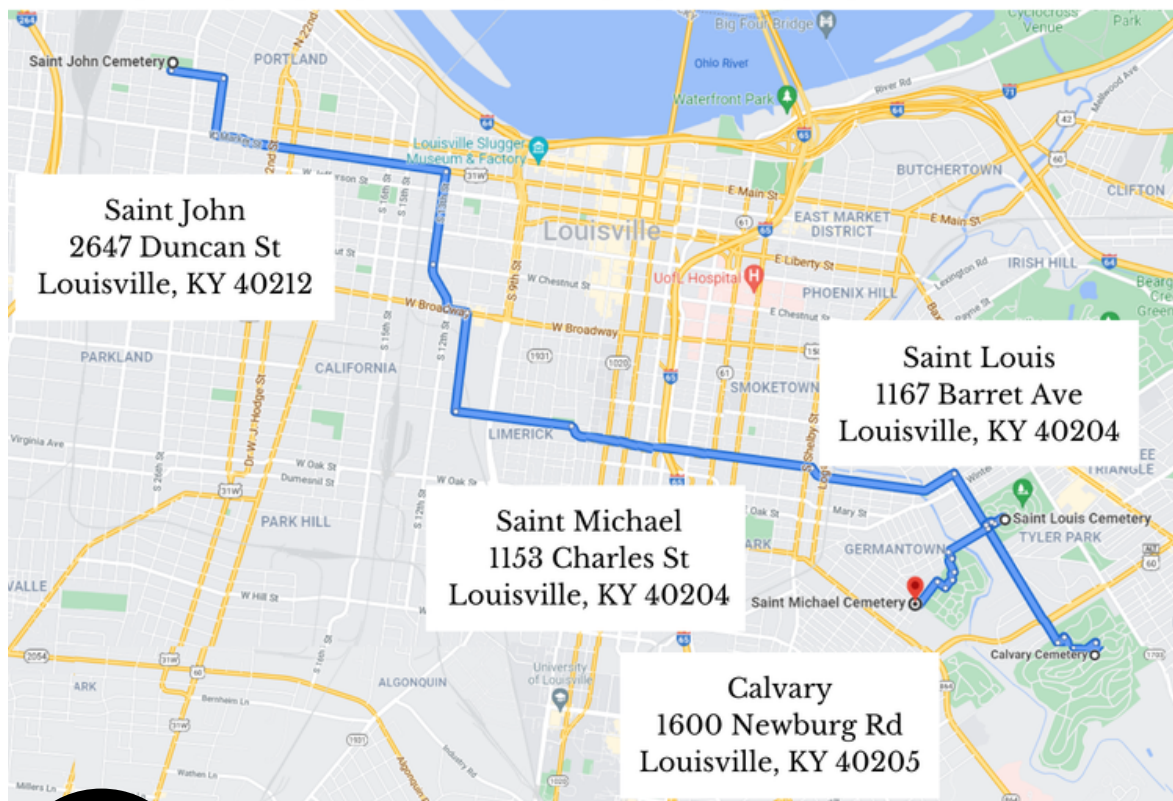
CatholicCemeteriesLouisville.Org

“

*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



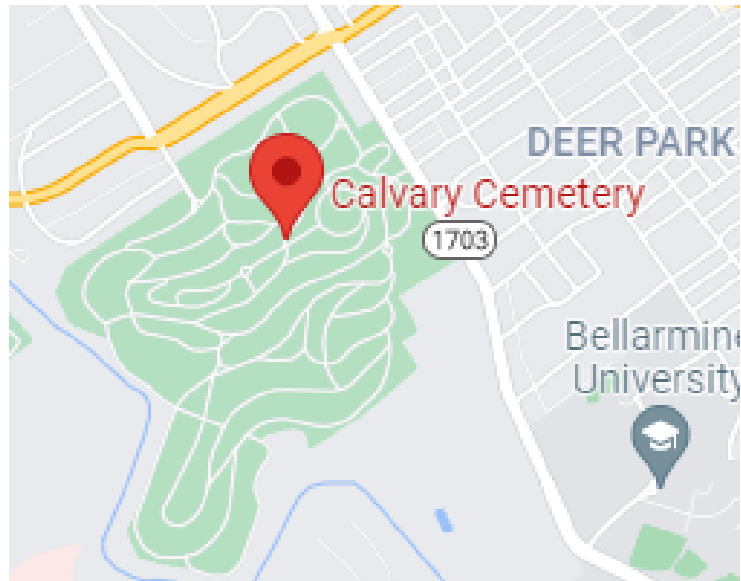
Open April-September: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
October-March: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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

