CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Calvary	St. Louis	St. Michael	St. John
1921	1867	1851	1849

A Guiding Light

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #27, OCTOBER 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.

NEWS & EVENTS

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.)

Friday, December 4 at 6:30 PM

The Lighting of the Tree of Remembrance

Join Most Reverend Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre in prayer for our ceremony of The Lighting of the Tree of Remembrance in Calvary Cemetery.

Cemetery gates will be open for entry until 6:25 PM. **No entry will be allowed during the service.**

We will remember, honor, and celebrate the lives of loved ones, no matter where they are buried or when they were buried, by placing a complimentary "In Memory Of" personalized ornament on our Tree of Remembrance. During the lighting ceremony, ornaments will be provided and refreshments will be served.

Throughout the month of December, families can bring their own ornaments or request a complimentary personalized ornament at the Catholic Cemeteries office located in Calvary Cemetery. Ornaments will remain on the tree until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, 2027. Ornaments will be reverently buried if not collected by this date.



Upcoming Events (cont.)

November 25 and December 30

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 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.

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 Tree of Remembrance

The Catholic Cemeteries hosts multiple events throughout the year. The most attended event is the lighting of the Tree of Remembrance. The tree itself, a fir tree, is located next to the main gate of Calvary Cemetery. Throughout the month of December families will place complimentary ornaments, or their own, on the tree. The names of deceased loved ones, regardless of where they are buried, can be written on the ornaments, which will remain on the tree until the feast of the Epiphany on January 6, 2027. Any uncollected ornaments after that date will be reverently buried.

You may be asking why the most attended event is the lighting ceremony, especially since it takes place outdoors in December. Even though the weather is chilly, people still attend the prayer service. Early December can be a difficult time for a lot of people, whether they lost a loved one recently or not. Thanksgiving just took place roughly a week ago, Christmas is just a few weeks away, and New Year's Eve is quickly approaching. It can be mentally taxing to grieve a loss, especially when you are accustomed to certain traditions. There is a massive void left that can't be replaced.

We at Catholic Cemeteries recognize this and take great pride in hosting this annual event to help families include their deceased loved ones in the Advent and Christmas seasons. While they may be no longer with us physically, we know that the memories and moments we made with them will live on forever.

OUR ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Priest Section in Calvary Cemetery



Section 7 in Calvary Cemetery

In the coming issues, we will be highlighting specific religious order's burial sections. The first section to be discussed is Section 7 of Calvary Cemetery, where Diocesan Priests are buried.

Do you know where Archbishops Kelly, McDonough, Floersh, and Bishop Maloney are buried? If you said Section 7 in Calvary Cemetery, you are correct! This section is located near the middle of the cemetery and is extremely easy to find - you simply come in the main gate and go straight for 0.3 mile. This section is located in the middle of Calvary, which is fitting due to how central and prominent the leaders buried within this section were to the Archdiocese of Louisville.

One of the first things you notice when approaching this section is the number of headstones. The prominent names of archdiocesan leaders mentioned in the previous paragraph have slightly larger headstones than the priests. Their leadership helped shape the history and development of our local Catholic community. However, each priest buried here also represents a life of dedication and service to hundreds of families and to the archdiocese.

As we reflect on the lives of archdiocesan leaders laid to rest in Section 7, let us remember their dedication, compassion, and commitment. Their legacy will live on in the faith they helped fostered in the communities they served.

MARCELLO PIETRANTONI (GROUNDS DEPARTMENT)

OUR STAFF

In this edition we are featuring Marcello Pietrantoni. Marcello is a Groundskeeper in the Grounds Department. He primarily works at Calvary Cemetery and does a variety of tasks. He says that a typical day is highly dependent on how many burials are scheduled.

You may think that the only maintenance done in a cemetery is to mow grass. While he says that mowing grass is usually done from April to November, there are a lot of other tasks that need to be completed too. Marcello says that he will also “assist with burials, plant shrubs, trim trees and seed recent grave spaces.” The work doesn't stop in the rain either - a rainy day is a perfect time to clean and maintain equipment in the Grounds Department facility.

Marcello says that the most rewarding aspect of his position is “working in a peaceful, quiet, tranquil, environment.” He also says that he takes pride in contributing to the preservation of our cemeteries for all to enjoy.

Outside of work, you might see Marcello riding his motorcycle, gardening, and spending time with his family. He is also an avid photographer. His photos of our cemeteries are frequently featured on our Facebook page. We are proud to spotlight Marcello for his hard work and meaningful difference he makes in our workplace!



Marcello is a Notre Dame Fighting Irish fan

Quick selfie at Calvary Cemetery



NATURE & WILDLIFE

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree." - Emily Brontë

Fall is arguably the most beautiful season, especially within our cemeteries. Sometimes an area you have been multiple times before will feel completely different due to the trees changing colors. Below, you will find some of the best pictures highlighting this transitional period.

Have a picture you want featured? Feel free to email us at cemeteries@archlou.org or drop by our office!









Learn more about burial options at any of our cemeteries

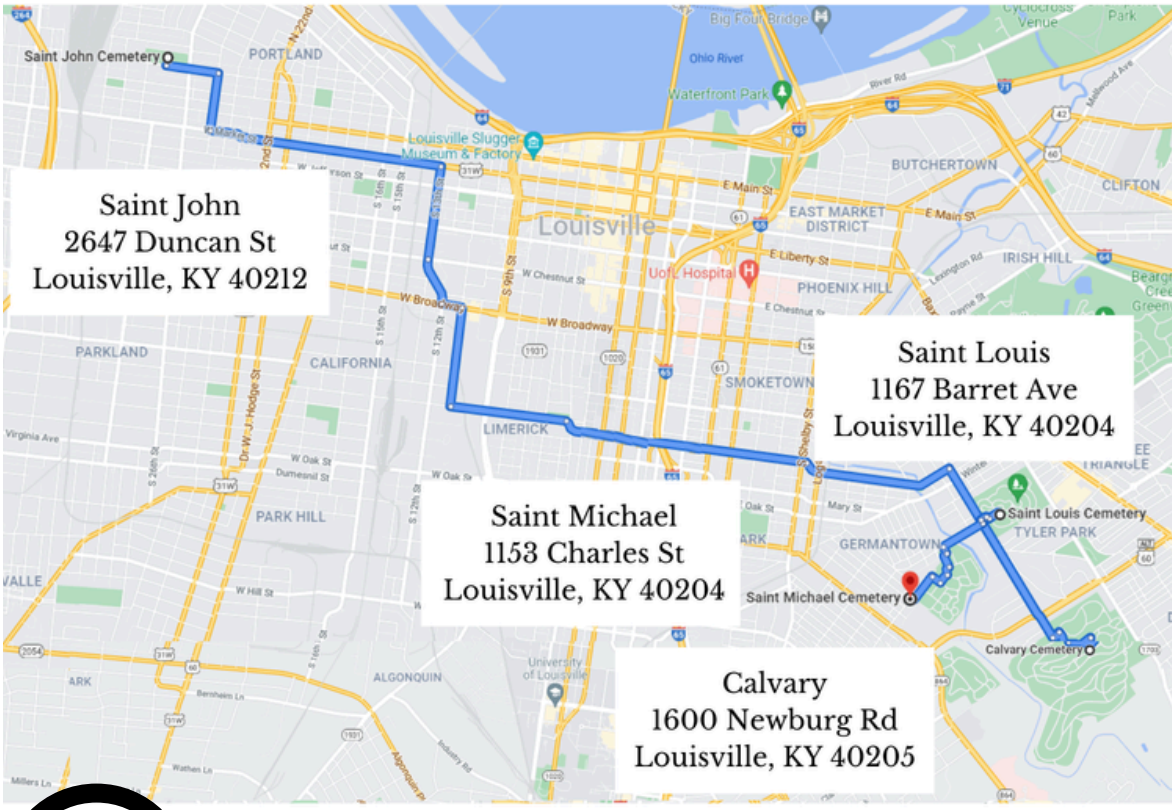
Call (502) 451-7710

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



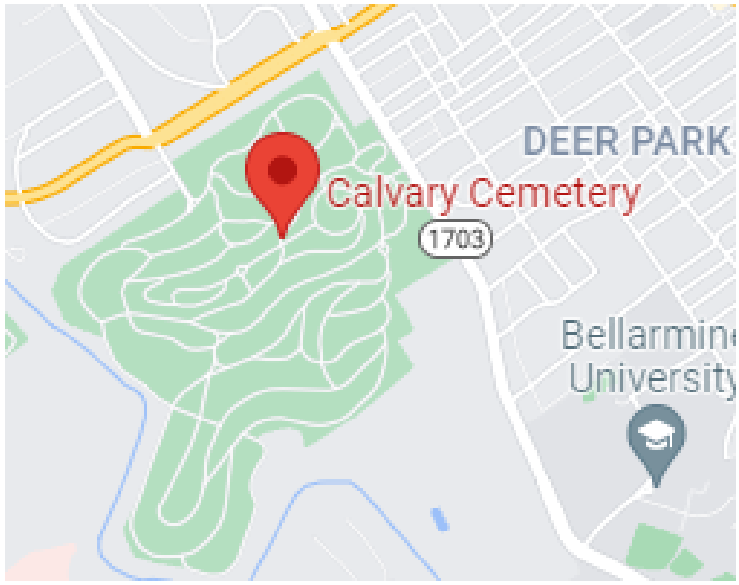
Open April-September: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
October-March: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

Copyright (C) 2024 Catholic Cemeteries, Archdiocese of Louisville. All rights reserved.