

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

All Souls Day Field Mass

NOVEMBER 2, 2017



Funeral Rites A Threefold Ritual

The Order of Christian Funerals prescribes three separate rites to celebrate the journey of the deceased from this life to the next. Rich in tradition, each stage of the three-part Liturgy is important, not only to commend our loved ones to God, but also to support us through faith and hope. The ideal sequence of these three rites is The Vigil, The Funeral Mass and The Rite of Committal.

The Vigil (wake) takes place between the time of death and the Funeral Mass. This Rite is presided over by a priest, deacon or prepared lay person. It is a time when family and friends gather to reflect upon that person's life and to express their own feelings. The Vigil is usually held in the funeral home and this service consists of prayers and scripture readings. The Vigil is typically held before the funeral, and provides family members and friends an opportunity to gather in prayer and pay their last respects.





The Funeral Mass is the principal celebration of the funeral. Some of the symbols that are incorporated in the Mass include draping of a white pall over the casket signifying the person's baptism, the Easter Candle at the foot of the casket or the cremation urn, and sprinkling of holy water on the casket or urn.

The Funeral Mass allows family and friends to come together to pray and draw strength from our faith and one another.

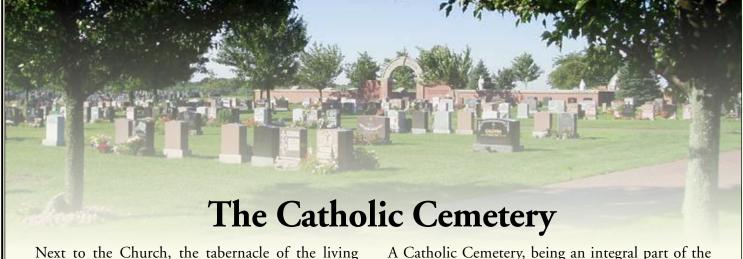
The Rite of Committal is the last of the Funeral Rites. This Rite consists of a Scripture reading and short prayers led by a priest, deacon or prepared lay person. The Committal Service is celebrated near the final resting place of the deceased person such as a gravesite, mausoleum or cemetery chapel. The Rite of Committal reaffirms our belief in the resurrection and eternal life.

CEMETERY COMMITTAL SERVICE

- Gathering at the final resting place provides the opportunity for saying farewells
- Commemorating the life of the deceased offers a possibility of greater closure and acceptance
- Assists families to face the reality of death and loss of a loved one

All who seek the Lord shall praise Him. Their hearts shall live forever and ever.

Psalm 22:27



Next to the Church, the tabernacle of the living God, is THE CEMETERY, the earthly home of the departed—God's acre, as Christian piety had referred to it—it is the most sacred of places... where our relatives are at sleep awaiting the resurrection. Because of the sacredness of the cemetery and of the blessed memories it invokes, we are to bestow upon it the care of love and see that the graves holding the mortal remains of our loved ones express our enduring remembrance for them.

A Catholic Cemetery, being an integral part of the Church's beliefs and rites, is normally selected by Catholics for the burial of their loved ones.

A Catholic Cemetery reflects the doctrine and liturgy of the Catholic Church and provides protection under Church law for the assurance of permanence, reverence and respect for the remains of the deceased. It is a unique place of prayer for the intentions of the souls of the faithful departed.



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