



WHY CHOOSE A CATHOLIC CEMETERY

A Catholic Cemetery is an expression of our shared belief, it reflects the spirit of community between the faithful living and deceased, and reaffirms our belief in the final resurrection.

A Catholic Cemetery is not only a sacred place, it is a place of prayer, reflection and devotion.

❖ **THE CATHOLIC FUNERAL**

When a loved one dies, we have many things to think about before the funeral takes place. All too often the majority of our time is consumed with the material aspects of the funeral.

What we would like you to think about is the Christian Burial Rite itself. This is only a brief guide, and we invite you to talk with your Pastor for a more in depth understanding.

The Christian Burial Rite has three parts and each part has its own distinct role. They are as follows:

The Vigil

The Funeral Liturgy

The Rite of Committal

- ❖ **THE VIGIL:** The Vigil is the first rite celebrated after death. It may take place in the home of the deceased, at a funeral home or even in the church. During this time of loss, this is the first opportunity for us to gather and find comfort in the word of God.
- ❖ **THE FUNERAL LITURGY:** The Funeral Liturgy is the second time we gather as a community to hear the message of hope and resurrection. The Funeral Liturgy ordinarily takes place with the Funeral Mass, and is customarily celebrated in the Parish Church. Families may assist in the selection of readings, hymns, servers, pallbearers and other elements of the Funeral Liturgy.



- ❖ **THE RITE of COMMITTAL:** The Rite of Committal is the final rite of Christian Burial. It is at this time that, as a community once again, we commit our departed loved ones to the hands of God. It is also a time in which we can pray for the strength and peace to continue on during this most difficult time.

These Rites are not just “services”. As you can see, the Christian Burial Rite is a way in which we show reverence and respect to our faithful departed. It is a way to find comfort and strength as a community, and a way to proclaim the belief, of both the faithful and the deceased, in the final resurrection.

- ❖ **EULOGIES:** The proper place for a eulogy is at the funeral home during the Vigil. Another appropriate setting would be during the social gathering after burial is concluded. Eulogies at the Funeral Liturgy are generally discouraged.
Once again, we wish to stress the importance of the complete Christian Burial Rite. It is there for the living as well as the deceased.
- ❖ Your Pastor can answer any questions you may have, as this is only a guide to assist you during a difficult time. God bless you.