

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY

The Catholic cemetery is the preferred place of burial for Catholics. Burial in the consecrated ground of the Catholic cemetery is a sign of baptismal commitment and gives witness, even in death, to faith in Christ's resurrection. It is most appropriate that the Rite of Committal take place in the cemetery consecrated and blessed for this function by the Church. Burial in a Catholic Cemetery best represents our faith and belief in the Resurrection of the Body.

Cremated remains of the body must always be treated with respect and reverence. Scattering or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. (*Order of Christian Funerals*, #417) The integrity of cremated remains must be respected. Dividing cremated remains among family and friends or having cremated remains cast into pottery and jewelry does not reflect proper respect for the dead.

Your Catholic Cemeteries provide a variety of options for the placement of cremated remains that reflect our faith while also providing opportunities for personalization. This allows for visitation, memorialization and prayer. Under certain conditions, cremated remains may be placed in a grave with a loved one already interred at the cemetery. Cemetery staff are available to answer your questions.



PRE-PLANNING

Recognizing that the goal of our lives is eternal life with God, preparation for death is an essential part of life for a Christian. Perhaps nowhere is the need for the advance planning of burial and funeral rites more important than when one has reviewed all of the Church's tradition and teaching surrounding death and burial and has selected cremation. We invite you to prayerfully consider the information provided in this brochure. The Catholic cemeteries' staff can provide you with additional information as you consider pre-planning decisions.

For additional information, please call:
1-888-784-8683 (toll free)

CALVARY CEMETERY
5041-35th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98105
Phone: (206) 522-0996

HOLYROOD CEMETERY
205 NE 205th St.
Shoreline, WA 98155
Phone: (206) 363-8404

GETHSEMANE CEMETERY
37600 Pacific Hwy S
Federal Way, WA 98003
Phone Seattle: (253) 838-2240
Phone Tacoma: (253) 927-3350

ST. PATRICK CEMETERY
S. 204th and Orillia Rd
Kent, WA 98032
Administered by Gethsemane Cemetery
Phone: (253) 838-2240

www.MyCatholicCemetery.org

CONSIDERING CREMATION?

CATHOLICS AND CREMATION



CREMATION FOR CATHOLICS



CREMATION CAN be an appropriate choice for Catholics. While burial of the body is preferred, since the reforms of Vatican II, cremation is an option unless it is chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching. For Catholics cremation is simply an alternative method of preparing the remains of the human person for Christian burial.

WITNESS YOUR FAITH

There is value for every Christian baptized into Resurrection Faith to contemplate the importance of the body—a body created by God and infused with the Life of the Spirit—and the importance of sacred burial.

The ultimate sign of God's presence in our lives is the humanity of Jesus Christ. He was born, lived, died and rose again. In baptism we became temples of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the human body, the visible sign of our humanity, takes on enormous importance. All that we do, say, hear, touch and feel as a person is through our body. Our body is not only important in a physical way but spiritually as well.

We affirm in faith that we look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. We are invited to respond in faith through our decisions and actions. What is our Catholic response?

I'VE CHOSEN CREMATION

The presence of the body best expresses the values which the Church affirms in our funeral rites. When possible, cremation should take place after the Funeral Liturgy and before the Rite of Committal at the cemetery. The rites do provide for the option of the Funeral Liturgy in the presence of cremated remains of the body. This is permitted in the Archdiocese of Seattle with the approval of the pastor.

In keeping with the sacred nature of the cremated remains of the body, the Church asks that they be treated in the same way as the body. This includes:

- Celebrating the full Catholic Funeral Rites
- Respect in the manner of carrying, placement, and final disposition of the cremated remains
- Burial of the cremated remains in a cemetery

Questions about cremation should be discussed with your pastor.

WHERE WILL MY GRANDCHILDREN FIND MY GRAVE?

If you are considering alternatives to cemetery burial, consider the value of a permanent place of visitation and prayer for future generations of your family.

Your permanent place of burial in a Catholic cemetery provides you with the opportunity to be present in the lives of future generations of your family yet unborn and to share the values of your faith with them. In communion with our brothers and sisters in faith, you will touch a new generation, prompt shared family memories, encourage prayer and provide comfort on their journey of faith.

