



Blessed Ground Cemeteries

The Diocese of Providence

The Diocese of Providence – Burial Process

Upon the passing of a loved one, there are a few steps that need to be taken in order to ensure a holy, religious and dignified Catholic funeral. The Office of Catholic Cemeteries exists to provide the necessary assistance for the interment of the faithful departed. From purchasing a lot, to final graveside prayers over a loved one, the Catholic Cemeteries Office will help you through this transition.

Generally, a local funeral home will call the Catholic Cemetery Office with information relative to the intentions of the family, such as when and where the deceased will be buried. Funeral homes contact the Office of Catholic Cemeteries with information about the life of the deceased, along with the proper information as to when and where the burial will occur. Family members may then determine if they will purchase a grave or lot on a pre-need or at-need basis. A pre-need lot is bought before an actual death occurs. These lots, usually large in size, are purchased for future use by the family. An at-need lot is purchased at the time of burial, when a family member has passed and needs a grave or lot to be buried in. In either situation, pre-need or at-need, the manager for the corresponding cemetery must be contacted in order to select a grave site for the burial of the deceased. The Funeral Home will generally call the manager (or lead foreman) to make an appointment at the specific cemetery for the selection of a grave. People can also call the cemetery by themselves and make an appointment to buy a grave for future use. Once a grave or lot has been chosen, and the date and time selected for the funeral, details pertaining to funeral masses and committal services are then discussed with a parish priest and the Catholic Cemetery Office.

A funeral Mass may be held in a parish to be determined by the family of the deceased. Generally, the Mass will take place in the parish from which the deceased was a member. After the funeral Mass has taken place, the deceased may be taken to a chapel of the cemetery for committal services. Final prayers are said for the deceased before interment and, as Catholics believe, the hope of future resurrection. Most families have their committal services in the cemetery chapels, but graveside services are also available, weather permitting. After the committal services have concluded, the deceased is respectfully laid to eternal rest in the holy, sacred ground of Catholic Cemeteries.

For more information, please contact the Catholic Cemetery Office at 401-944-8383.