

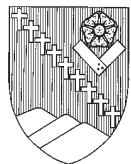
What to do when a Loved one Dies



*Notify your parish priest
that your loved one has died*

The priest or a pastoral staff person will help you:

- + To memorialize the loved one's life through the celebration of the sacramental action of the Order of Christian Funerals;
- + To decide on burial or cremation;
- + To obtain the *Authorization for Christian Burial Certificate* signed by your priest;
- + To plan the Catholic Funeral Rite:
 - *Vigil*, to encourage the family and friends to remember their loved one;
 - *Funeral Liturgy*, to celebrate the loved one's entry to eternal life;
 - *Rite of Committal*, is the final liturgical act by which the Christian community entrusts the deceased to the love of God.



**Catholic Cemeteries
of the Diocese of San José**

*Please use this pamphlet
as a guide to help you through
this difficult time*

Your priorities at this time may vary depending on several factors, but most survivors want:

- + The power to make sure your loved one's end-of-life wishes are met.
- + The opportunity to say good-bye to your loved one before they are moved to the morgue or funeral home.

THE FIRST MOMENTS AFTER DEATH

If you are present when your loved one dies in a hospital, nursing facility or hospice:

- + Notify a nurse of the death. The staff will arrange for your loved one to be moved to the morgue or funeral home.
- + You may have less control over the time you can spend with your loved one before they are moved, but be firm in requesting what you need.

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

When your loved one is moved to the morgue or a funeral home, you will then be able to take the time to make important decisions.

- + Look for any information that your loved one may have left regarding their end-of-life wishes, this includes: a will, pre-need planner, etc.
- + Contact your Priest, Funeral Director, and Catholic Cemetery to make the burial arrangements.

WHOM SHOULD YOU NOTIFY?

- + Emergency Services (911 when a loved one dies at home)
- + Notify your loved one's:
 - Parish Priest
 - Attorney
 - Doctor
 - Employer
 - Relatives & Friends
 - Insurance Agencies
 - Social Security Administration
 - Veteran's Office (if applicable)
- + Funeral Home
- + Catholic Cemetery

PREPARING FOR APPOINTMENTS

Important papers, of the deceased, that you will need:

- + Birth Certificate
- + Marriage Certificate (if applicable)
- + Death Certificate (ordered by the funeral director)
- + Social Security Card
- + Insurance Documents
- + Pension Information
- + Living Will
- + Trust Information
- + Veteran discharge papers (if applicable)
- + Your loved one's Address Book

MEETING WITH THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR

- + Confirm the dates and times of the Catholic Funeral Rite.
- + Based on the discussion with your priest you will select:
 - A casket if you choose burial.
 - An urn if you choose cremation (the urn may also be purchased from the Catholic Cemetery).
- + Compose your loved one's obituary (use of a photo is optional).
- + Prepare the Memorial program (use of photos is optional).
- + Select the Prayer card (use of a photo is optional).
- + Arrange transportation.
- + Pick your loved one's attire for burial.
- + Select flowers for your loved one.
- + Choose a guest book.

MEETING WITH THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY

- + Select and purchase the burial location.
- + Discuss the details of the Committal Service and confirm the date and time that it will be held.
- + Provide the Authorization for Christian Burial Certificate.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- + Eat and rest as much as possible. You may be alternately numb and/or emotionally exhausted.
- + Surround yourself with friends and family, and accept offers of help.
- + Choose the tasks most meaningful for you and delegate the others.

The Aftercare Process: Help with Bereavement for your family

Mourning and grief are normal components of the bereavement process.

Mourning is visible through tears and expressions of sorrow.

We grieve when we remember the loss of our loved one and feel the pain of missing them.

The act of honoring a loved one by visiting their burial site, praying for them, celebrating Eucharist at a monthly memorial Mass, and memorializing them helps the family to grieve.

Aftercare programs such as grief ministry may be available from your parish or region. Friends and relatives can also be present to the family during and after the time of loss.

One-on-one grief counseling is also available. Call your Catholic Cemetery or parish for referrals.



Gate of Heaven
Catholic Cemetery
22555 Cristo Rey Drive
Los Altos, CA 94024
650-428-3730
info@dosj.org

Calvary Catholic
Cemetery
2655 Madden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95116
408-258-2940
info@dosj.org

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY PROVIDES:

*A Corporal Work Of Mercy
and
Is a Ministry of The Church*

Christians commit themselves to care for the dying in order to help them pass their final moments in dignity and peace. Christians always maintain reverence for the bodies of the deceased. The Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs us in paragraph 2300:

"The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the dead is a corporal work of mercy; it honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit."

Catholic cemeteries are sacred places of prayer, reverence and hope. Perpetual cemetery care is provided for your loved ones. The prayers of burial and commendation used in Catholic cemeteries are from the Church's *Order of Christian Funerals*, which demonstrates in words the Church's hope in the Risen Christ both in this earthly life and in the eternal life yet to come. The Church's belief in the Communion of Saints is key to our hope in life after death. Catholics pray for the dead both in thanksgiving for their lives and we commend them to God's infinite mercy.

A monthly Memorial Mass is celebrated at the cemetery at which we pray for all those who have been born to eternal life.



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