



CATHOLIC
CEMETERIES
& MORTUARIES

EVERLASTING FAITH. EVERLASTING LIFE.

April 2, 2020

Dear Catholic Cemeteries & Mortuaries Patrons,

As we move forward in the days ahead your Catholic Cemeteries & Mortuaries would like you to know that we are here for you and your family. As Catholics we know the burial of and praying for the dead are corporal and spiritual works of mercy; and of their importance to each of us in both our corporal and spiritual lives. During this pandemic, we are forced to balance our beliefs, rituals and traditions with what is required of us by local, State and Federal authorities to keep all of us safe and healthy. While our team remains committed to meeting needs of grieving families, the current Covid-19 pandemic has required us to review our current operations and service offerings to ensure your safety and the safety of our employees. As we continue our sacred ministry our primary focus must be on assisting those families with immediate need.

As of April 2, 2020, at 3:30 pm and in accordance with the most updated Guidance for Funeral Services from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, we will be implementing the following temporary policies.

Providing these essential services will allow families to address immediate needs while adhering to the guidance as provided. While Santa Barbara and Ventura counties have not yet issued guidance, it's recommended to follow the same protocols until we hear otherwise.

- In accordance with guidance and orders regarding public gatherings, all Catholic Cemeteries and Mortuaries will be temporarily closed for regular visitation and non-essential business matters until further notice.
- Cemetery and Funeral arrangements will be made by phone, online or by email.
- There will be a limit of (2) family members allowed for in office funeral or cemetery arrangements.
- One person may view the decedent to confirm the identity as required by the mortuary or funeral home.
- **Graveside service may be attended by members of one household of up to ten (10) people (members who live together at the same physical address); Essential funeral service staff and one clergy member.**
- Attendees must adhere to social (physical) distancing of at least 6 feet between the group of household members, the funeral staff and clergy member.
- If desired, family member or mortuary staff may film committal service.
- Assistance will be provided to schedule a memorial Mass at later date upon request.
- We will continue to follow the guidelines and recommendations issued by Federal, State, and local health officials on the steps we can take to help prevent the spread of the virus.
<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
- We ask that you adhere with the following if you have come in contact with anyone with Coronavirus Disease
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/COVHomeQuarantine.pdf>

We understand the disruption and pain caused by these changes and pray for your comfort, health, and understanding during these difficult times. Your Cemeteries and Mortuaries management are reviewing the situation daily and are committed to a return to normal operations as soon as it is possibly safe to do so. For updated information please visit our website at catholiccm.org or call 213-637-7801.

Sincerely with the Grace of God,
Catholic Cemeteries & Mortuaries
Archdiocese of Los Angeles

These are difficult days. But Jesus is walking with us. We need to believe in his love, believe in his power to change us and to change the world!

-Archbishop Gomez