Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Community Digest

A word from our CEO, Jerry Del Core

Greetings! I trust you and your families are healthy and safe. It would be an understatement to say this has been the craziest summer ever. Between COVID-19, record high temperatures and smoke from fires across the states, we have all been challenged on many levels.

Know that our staff remains committed to helping families as much as we can. A year ago, we would never have imagined being where we are today. We never would have considered the limitations we have been asked to adjust to. A few months ago, we could not hold vigils or funeral masses – at all. Today, with



the guidance of Bishop Jaime Soto, we hold outdoor funeral masses to serve and accommodate families.

In turn, we appreciate your support and flexibility as we continue to adjust to CDC, State and County guidelines for funeral, mortuary, cremation and cemetery services.

If you have been considering funeral, mortuary or cremation services or cemetery property, please join us for our "Open House" on Saturday, October 3rd or Sunday, October 4th between 10am – 4pm (See specifics below). We offer "Private Tours" by appointment only. This will allow us to ensure that your visit will be safe, protected and have limited exposure to others.

You will have the opportunity to ride in a private golf cart and tour our beautiful cemetery grounds. You can visit our mausoleums and funeral centers. You can spend time visiting your loved ones who are with us.

Most importantly, you will be able to ask questions and get accurate answers from our experienced team of Family Services Advisors. Learn all your options, including zero percent interest for up to 48 months and how to lock in today's prices.

Our "Open House" is a great way to start the conversation, make sure your wishes are known and ensure that your family is not left with a financial burden. To reserve your appointment, **please click here** or visit **cfcssacramento.org/open-house**.

I hope to see you there.

Jerry Del Core

P.S. – If Saturday, October 3rd or Sunday, October 4th do not work for you, please email us at <u>info@cfcssacramento.org</u> and we will arrange a special day and time or zoom call just for you.

Open House Weekend, October 3 and 4 10 am to 4 pm Reserve your private tour <u>click here</u>



St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center 6509 Fruitridge Rd., Sacramento 916-452-4831



Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center 7101 Verner Ave., Citrus Heights 916-726-1232



All Souls Cemetery & Funeral Center 550 Glen Cove Rd., Vallejo 707-644-5209



St. Joseph Cemetery, 10/3 860 West St. Woodland Holy Cross Cemetery, 10/4 1741 Wescott Rd., Colusa 530-438-4998

Funerals in a COVID world.



Today, families are not only faced with the loss of a loved one, but then must adjust to the continually changing COVID-19 guidelines and protocols. What is acceptable? What is legal? Can we continue family or cultural traditions? Can we have a Mass? Can all of my family come? These are all questions families and the industry have been asking for the last 7 months and the answers continue to change. All of us at Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Sacramento, "CFCS" have been, and will continue to, work tirelessly to ensure that we can provide families with the best possible experience during a very difficult time.

As of today, families can still have all three Catholic Funeral Rites for their loved one at a CFCS location. A Vigil, Funeral Mass and Committal are all possible although they do look a little different than they historically have. Vigils/Visitations may take place indoors or outdoors based upon the number of people attending. Occupancy for each location varies based upon State and County requirements. Contact tracing is required for indoor and outdoor Vigils/Visitations and seating has been arranged and/or restricted to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Funeral Masses are permitted but are required to occur outdoors with a few very limited exceptions. This has been a hardship for some Parishes that may not have the space or staff to comply with the various guidelines. So we have established multiple outdoor locations for Funeral Masses at St. Mary Cemetery and Calvary Cemetery and are conducting multiple Funeral Masses on a daily basis. Outdoor Masses are restricted to 100 total attendees and all contract tracing and social distancing protocols are in place per State and Local guidelines. Indoor Masses may occur but they are limited to 10 total occupants including the Priest, Funeral Director and others assisting with the services. Unfortunately, this is not a viable option for most families.

As some family members should not or cannot attend services during the pandemic, CFCS has been able to offer livestreaming for all indoor services at the St. Mary Chapel. Although this is not ideal in a "normal" situation, it has been a welcomed accommodation for family and friends who are unable to be at the service in person.

Committals are currently limited to 100 attendees and must comply with all social distancing protocols per State, Local and Diocesan guidelines. Eight family members are permitted to be graveside with the Priest and Funeral Director. Ropes are installed to establish a perimeter around the grave and all other attendees may be present on the outside of the roped boundary. This provides additional protections for our Clergy and still enables family and friends to be part of the service.

We are here to serve you and your family and are working diligently to ensure all three Catholic Funeral Rites can be conducted in accordance with the various guidelines.

Please visit our website for continued updates at cfcssacramento.org.

God Bless,

Scott Miller COO

Meet our new Sr. Manager of Funeral Services

My name is Chris Porfiri, the new Senior Manager of Funeral Services for CFCS at St. Mary Cemetery and Funeral Center. I am absolutely delighted to have been selected to lead our team of funeral professionals here in Sacramento! I have relocated from Bakersfield, where I entered the funeral service profession in 2005, after a 25year career in the broadcasting industry. I learned working directly with families as a licensed funeral director, and then as a manager at a very busy funeral home and cemetery in Bakersfield.



The difference at St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center, is that the practices and traditions of the Holy Catholic Church are THE major foundation on which

our staff assists families in arranging services for their loved ones. Having been raised in the Church by a mother and father who were deeply devoted and very involved within the church structure all of their lives, my twelve years of Catholic education and being a proud 3rd degree member of the Knights of Columbus, I feel confident and honored to have the trust of my fellow Catholics, at their time of need.

Thank you for helping to Fill the Bin!



In an effort to help children at two Catholic Schools prepare for their new school year, St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center fills a large storage bin with school supplies collected from the community. Thank you all for your generous support.

On Wednesday, August 5th, CEO Jerry Del Core and Nicole Zamora, Director of Community Outreach delivered the

donated items and checks to the Principals at both St. Patrick Academy and St. Charles Borromeo Parish School.

St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center staff collected the goods from Friday, July 24th until Saturday August 1st in the parking lot of the cemetery. "The best part was welcoming all the donors and seeing their joy even through their masks," expressed, Kimberly Mai, Apprentice Embalmer, who worked the bin on its final day, Saturday, Aug. 1st. "It was wonderful seeing people young and



old donate to help the kids, it was great, even a Priest stopped by to make a donation," said Andria Phillips, Transportation Assistant after working the event on Saturday, Aug. 1st.

Upcoming Events: cfcssacramento.org/events



Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services is a full service provider of End-Of-Life care for the Catholic Community in the Diocese of Sacramento. We accompany families as they affectionately honor their loved ones in harmony with the Catholic Rites of Christian Burial. We cooperate with Parishes from Vigil to Mass and the Committal, bringing to all the consolation and mercy of Jesus.



CATHOLIC FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES of the diocese of sacramento

Mission Statement







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