

Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Community Digest

A word from our CEO, Jerry Del Core

Christmas truly is the most wonderful time of the year. The lights, the sounds, the smells, and the smiles tend to bring out the best in all of us. Anticipating Christmas brings a renewed sense of hope in the air. Hope - individually and collectively; hope - for a better tomorrow; hope - for a better world. The hope and joy of Christmas eve and Christmas morning are unmatched as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We share gifts, food and drink, stories, and songs. We attend Mass together as a family. We create memories that last a lifetime.



While for many, Christmas is about joy and hope, for some, Christmas can be sad and lonely. We see families saddened by the loss of a loved one. These past 18 months have been trying as too many passed away too soon. I remember the first Christmas after my father passed away. Christmas was his favorite holiday of the year. My mother, who loves Christmas more than anything, refused to celebrate. She was angry. I clearly remember her saying "No tree." "No decorations." "No nothing."

As a family, we searched for ways to help her to honor my dad. We searched for ways to connect her with the church, to the birth of Jesus, and to the memory of my father. Nothing seemed to connect, except for her grandchildren. They could touch her heart.

If this sounds like someone you know and love, please invite them to our 20th Annual Remembrance Tree and Candlelight Vigil. It is a place where families and friends join one another in honoring the loved ones they have lost. If you lost a relative last year or 20 years ago, we invite you to honor them. Keep their memories alive!

Please gather with us on Thursday, December 9th at St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center (Sacramento), Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center (Citrus Heights) or All Souls Cemetery & Funeral Center (Vallejo). As one family in Christ, we celebrate the coming of Jesus. We decorate our Christmas trees with ornaments from families who entrusted the care of their loved ones to us. At each location, we celebrate with a special Candlelight Vigil that includes a blessing of the ornaments. Each ornament is decorated by you - honoring your loved one. Many families include photos and letters. This special event can bring you closer to your loved one. It brings back the good memories of life with you and your family.

You can stop by any of our three locations and pick up a free, clear plastic ornament to decorate as you see fit. Once done, bring it with you on the 9th. After the blessing, you can place your ornament on our tree or take it home for a special place on your tree. No matter how you keep your loved one alive in your heart, we invite you to join us on Thursday, December 9th at 7 pm for our 20th Annual Remembrance Tree and Candlelight Vigil event.

Hope to see you there. Merry Christmas!



Cemetery Christmas Decoration Guidelines

Decorating the grave of a loved one during the Christmas Season is a healing ritual that can help families get through what might otherwise be a very hard time in the grieving process. **Decorations may be placed on your loved one's grave starting on Saturday, December 11th** and may remain displayed **until Sunday, January 9th**.

Christmas decorations **are permitted on your memorial marker and within the flower vase** located on your loved one's grave. Christmas wreaths and artificial flowers are also permitted during this period. **All decorations, including Christmas trees, are not to exceed 18 inches in height from ground level.**

We strongly encourage you not to leave any items of value on your loved one's memorial marker.

Decorations placed prior to December 11th, over 18 inches high, and decorations not placed on the memorial marker or in the vase are not permitted and are subject to removal and disposal by Cemetery staff without notice.

Cemetery staff will begin removing and disposing of all decorations on Monday, January 10th. If you wish to save your decorations, please remove them by Sunday, January 9th. The Cemetery and its employees are not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged decorations.

If you have any questions please email us at info@cfcssacramento.org and include "Christmas Decorations" in the subject line.

God Bless and Merry Christmas

click link below to see a brief video on our Christmas Decoration Guidelines





Grief is like a Fingerprint

by Katerina Austin as seen in the Catholic Herald Magazine



Clichés run rampant, but they are most hollow when they are used by the helpless bystander to try to comfort the one who mourns. Even members of our closest groups can say things that feel so unhelpful. “She’s in a better place.” Yes, I hope so but she isn’t here. “It will get easier with time.” Perhaps, but maybe then I’ll feel the gulf is even wider. “He would want you to be happy.” Of course he would, but he never experienced this as I am now.

“God never gives you more than you can handle.” I can’t handle this.

Grief is like a fingerprint-entirely unique to the one experiencing it. Like a fingerprint, the structure and contents of grief can be shared, but the real life, day to day reality of losing that particular person can never be fully shared. There are a few reasons for this: the person who has died is a unique, unrepeatable, incommunicable person, the person who is grieving is also a distinct individual, and the relationship that the two people shared is as unrepeatable as they are. And yet, sharing the experience of grief with others can help to bring about healing. You are not alone.

While clichés can offer wisdom, sometimes they only express part of the story. The statement that God never gives you more than you can handle is true-if the focus is right. If the focus is on you and what you can deal with then it all falls apart. Our Lord never gives us something to handle and then leaves us alone to take care of it. The central point of the cliché is that He does not abandon us in our suffering, struggles, grief, and loss. We cannot always depend on our own resilience. But we can trust that God will be with us through it all. Felt or not, He never leaves us. He promises “I am with you always, until the end of the age”(Matthew 28:20).

Still, sometimes we do not feel even the least bit hopeful. This time of the year can be particularly hard. While it seems like the world is celebrating one thing after another, those of us who mourn can feel more and more alone. It is even more important during these times to seek out community-to be with people. The Remembrance Tree and Candlelight Vigil at our local Catholic cemeteries on December 9th offers just such an opportunity for individuals and families to join together in fond remembrance of those they have lost. Please join us for this lovely event. You are not alone.



See article as printed in Catholic Herald by [clicking here](#).

Upcoming Events

Stay up to date on all of our events by clicking [here](#).



**20th Annual
Remembrance Tree and
Candlelight Vigil**

Thursday, Dec. 9th at 7 pm

**Pick up ornaments starting
Friday Nov. 26th**



Join us on Thursday, December 9th at 7 pm at one of the following locations. Can't make it in person? Watch it by clicking here on our YouTube Channel.

St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center, Sacramento
[by clicking here!](#)

Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center, Citrus Heights
[by clicking here!](#)

All Souls Cemetery & Funeral Center, Vallejo
[by clicking here!](#)

**FILIPINO FAMILY OPEN HOUSE
PAMASKONG REGALO**



**Friday Dec. 17th & Saturday Dec. 18th
9 am to 3 pm**

Call for appointment with Beda or Steve at 916-452-4831

cfcssacramento.org

*Nakaka pag salita po
kami ng Tagalog*



**ST. MARY CEMETERY
& FUNERAL CENTER**

**Learn more here by watching this short video on our Filipino Family Open House at
St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center.**

**FILIPINO FAMILY OPEN HOUSE
PAMASKONG REGALO**



Friday Dec. 17th, 9 am to 3 pm

Call Mario or Edwin at 916-726-1232

cfcssacramento.org

*Nakaka pag salita po
kami ng Tagalog*



**CALVARY CEMETERY
& FUNERAL CENTER**

**Learn more here by watching this short video on our Filipino Family Open House at
Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center.**

FILIPINO FAMILY OPEN HOUSE PAMASKONG REGALO



Saturday Dec. 18th, 9 am to 3 pm

Call Edwin or Mario at 707-644-5209

cfcssacramento.org

Nakaka pag salita po
kami ng Tagalog



ALL SOULS CEMETERY
& FUNERAL CENTER

Learn more here by watching this short video on our Filipino Family Open House at All Souls Cemetery & Funeral Center.



Join us for
**Saturday Morning Mass
in our Chapels**

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is held every Saturday to pray for faithfully departed souls buried at our cemeteries.

Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center in the Mausoleum
8:30 am

St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center in St. Joseph Chapel
All Souls Cemetery & Funeral Center in the Chapel
10 am

Visit our website: cfcssacramento.org

for up to date COVID-19 information; events; obituaries and much more



**CATHOLIC FUNERAL
& CEMETERY SERVICES**
OF THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

Mission Statement

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.



ST. MARY CEMETERY
& FUNERAL CENTER

FD2263



CALVARY CEMETERY
& FUNERAL CENTER

FD2262



ALL SOULS CEMETERY
& FUNERAL CENTER

FD2286

Visit our Website



Catholic Funeral & Cemetery | 6509 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95820 916-452-4831

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