

What to Expect at A Burial



Sacred Heart Parish and Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery require at least 72 hours' notice prior to funerals.

Burials are planned according to the family's wishes. You may bring flowers and music to the cemetery. A small table is provided to set a book or the remains on. It is your choice to have a full funeral or a simple prayer during burial.

Questions

While planning the burial, you may be asked the following questions:

- † Will the funeral be on the same day as the burial?
- † Do you want a priest at the burial?
- † Are arrangements being made through a funeral home?

Planning A Burial

1. Phone Sacred Heart Parish to request a **burial date**.
2. A **burial permit** is required by law. If you are using a funeral home, they will provide this to the cemetery. Otherwise, you will need to provide it. The permit contains the legal name of the deceased and the date on which they died. It may be called a burial permit, death certificate, or cremation certificate.
3. The cemetery caretaker will be contacted. They will arrange for the grave opening.

Ground Burial of Urn

This is what you will typically see before the burial. A hole approximately 1 square foot large and 18" deep will be dug and covered with a green rug. If you need a different size hole, let us know ahead of time.

Someone will need to kneel on the rug and place the remains into the hole; this can be a family member, or the cemetery caretaker. Flowers may be placed in the hole or laid beside.

Once the family is finished paying their respects, the grave will look something like this.

After all the family has left the cemetery, the caretaker will fill in the hole.



Columbarium Burial

Before the burial, the columbarium niche will be opened. Each niche should hold 2 urns.

The opening size is: C1: 11" high x 12" wide x 14" deep

C2: 12" high x 12" wide x 13" deep.



Family will place the urn and any special mementos inside the niche.

Once all the family has left, the caretaker will replace the niche door.

For door engraving, please see the caretaker for details. Once the engraving has been ordered, the caretaker will drop off the niche door to be engraved. (The niche will have a temporary door.)

Please make sure you view the final engraving at the monument store. After that, the caretaker will pick it up and re-install it on the columbarium.



Full Casket

The plot is usually marked the day before with spray paint.



The morning of the burial a back hoe comes in and digs a hole not much bigger than the casket and about 6 feet deep.



A board may be placed over the hole for safety.



Later that morning, the burial vault company brings in the grave liner and sets up for the funeral.



Plastic grave liner



Concrete grave liner

Arrangements for the grave setup are made through the funeral home.



Once the burial ceremony is over the grave may look like this. The casket is usually lowered after the family has left.

The burial vault company then puts the lid on the burial vault and lowers the casket.



The back hoe will come back to fill in the hole. Sometimes this takes a few hours; the cemetery caretaker remains in the cemetery with the body until the burial is complete.

After the backfill, the cemetery caretaker looks after cleanup, leaving the grave close to level. Grass is usually planted in the spring.

To arrange for a headstone please obtain a list of headstone requirements for the plot in question. This can be found on the website or at the parish office. Once you have the requirements, you can talk to a monument company. The cemetery does require that a headstone permit be filled out and paid for before any headstone is installed.



Headstone requirements have changed in the past; some of the ancient headstones are much larger than now allowed. This is a very small cemetery. There is limited room for vehicles to turn around and plots are small with no boundaries between them.

Once the headstone permit has been approved by the cemetery caretaker, arrangements will be made through the monument company for installation of the headstone.