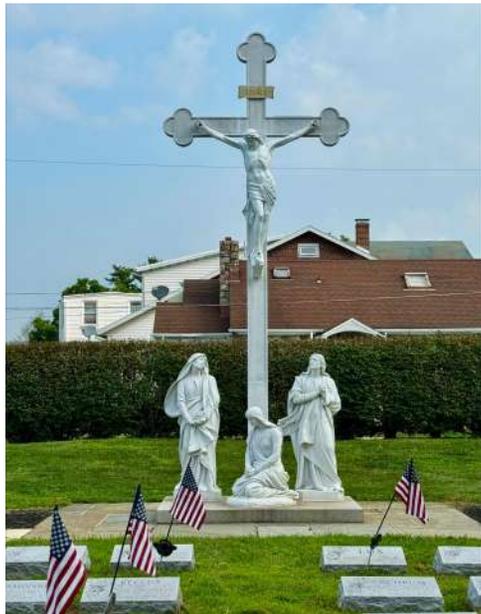


Some Catholics do believe in cremation when it's chosen in line with Church teachings. Catholic cremation can honor both tradition and personal needs. This gives families a way to respect their faith and make practical choices.

While these are guidelines to assist you in making your most important decisions, we urge you to discuss your thoughts and ideas with your priest.

You don't have to make these decisions alone. Whether you're planning ahead or supporting a loved one, clear guidelines can help. At Gethsemane Cemetery, we support our Catholic families with care and respect. We honor the sacred meaning behind your decisions.

We offer many memorialization solutions that reflect the unique need of Catholic families who choose cremation and can be consecrated at-need. Our caring and knowledgeable counselors are here to help you with a cremation plan and memorialization that honors the Vatican guidelines and reflects a life well-lived.



Catholic Cemeteries are places of prayerful remembrance and profound expectation of future glory. They are an important part of our Catholic funeral rites and traditions. For a Catholic, burial in a Catholic cemetery is a final act of faith. An expression of our shared belief, it reflects the spirit of community between the faithful living and deceased and reaffirms our belief in the final resurrection. It is imperative that we preserve those traditions for future generations.

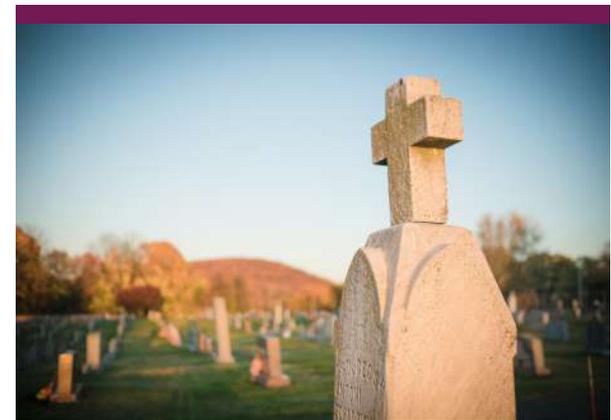
Our Mission

Conversations about death and burial are often postponed or avoided, leaving families uncertain during an emotional time. At Gethsemane Cemetery, we walk beside you with compassion, offering education, guidance, and a full range of burial options rooted in Catholic tradition.

Our mission is to ensure no one faces these decisions alone and that every person, regardless of their means, is honored with a dignified, meaningful resting place that brings peace of mind to those they love.



Cremation Guidelines for the Catholic Faith



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While the soul of the faithful departed ascends to his particular judgment, and the faithful pray for him, the Church remains concerned with his bodily remains, making sure they're handled in a manner befitting the dignity of a human person, as well as pre-empting any actions that would call into question the resurrection of the body at the end of time (see CCC 997-1004).

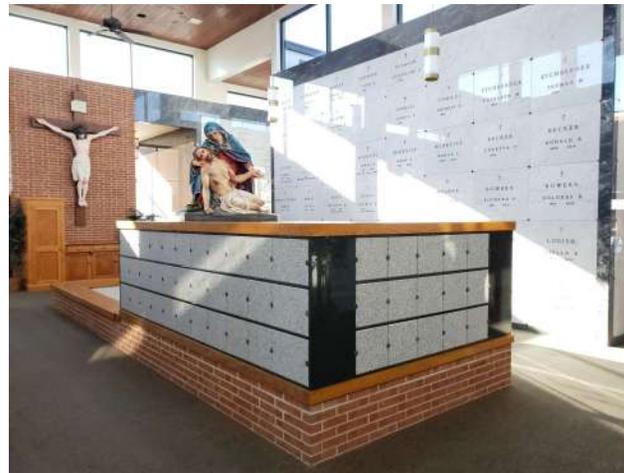
The Vatican Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has upheld a rule mandating that the ashes of the deceased be preserved in a consecrated place.

The dicastery issued an instruction in 1963 permitting cremation as long as it was not done as a sign of denial of the basic Christian belief in the resurrection of the dead. The permission was incorporated into the Code of Canon Law in 1983 and the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches in 1990.

The dicastery provided further guidance with the 2016 instruction, "Ad resurgendum cum Christo" ("To Rise with Christ"). That instruction emphasized the Church's recommendation to follow "the most ancient Christian tradition" of the pious practice of burying the dead in cemeteries or other sacred places, as it is considered one of the corporal works of mercy and, mirroring the burial of Christ, more clearly expresses hope in the resurrection when the person's body and soul will be reunited.



When, for legitimate motives, cremation of the body has been chosen, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority (ARC 5).



In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects. These courses of action cannot be legitimized by an appeal to the sanitary, social, or economic motives that may have occasioned the choice of cremation (ARC 7).

Preserving the ashes of the departed in a sacred place "ensures that they are not excluded from the prayers and remembrance of their family or the Christian community" and "it prevents any unfitting or superstitious practices."



When the deceased has requested cremation and the scattering of their ashes for reasons contrary to the Christian faith, a Christian funeral must be denied to that person according to the norms of the law (ARC 8). Subsequent Masses offered for the repose of the person's soul would certainly be allowed and encouraged.

The conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted. Only in grave and exceptional cases dependent on cultural conditions of a localized nature, may the ordinary, in agreement with the Episcopal Conference or the Synod of Bishops of the Oriental Churches, concede permission for the conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence (ARC 6)

"The conservation of ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted," the 2016 instruction said. "Only in grave and exceptional cases dependent on cultural conditions of a localized nature, may the Ordinary, in agreement with the Episcopal Conference or the Synod of Bishops of the Oriental Churches, concede permission for the conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence."

"The ashes may not be divided among various family members and due respect must be maintained regarding the circumstances of such a conservation," it said.