

INTRODUCTORY GUIDE  
TO FUNERAL AND  
BURIAL PLANNING

When a death occurs, there are many decisions and tasks to manage, usually within a short time-frame and often while under emotional strain. Pre-planning can ease this stress and simplify the logistics. Think of the process as building a stool with three legs, each leg representing an essential aspect of your plan:

THE CHURCH —

*What church community do I want the funeral to be celebrated within?*

— THE FUNERAL HOME

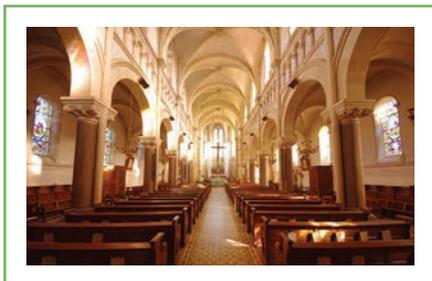
*Who do I entrust to put all my choices into action?*

THE CEMETERY

*Where do I want to rest for eternity?*



*A mindful plan eases the burden on loved ones.*



## THE CHURCH

What church community do I want my funeral to be celebrated within? Your parish can be a valuable resource to help you clarify your wishes and give guidance to your survivors. They will work with you in planning the Catholic funeral rites. Pre-planning your funeral Mass or Memorial Service includes:

- People you'd like to involve
- Vigil Service (Wake)
- Visitation preceding the funeral
- Mass / Memorial Service
- Readings
- Music
- Eulogies
- Luncheon
- Accommodations for visitors



## THE FUNERAL HOME

A Funeral Home helps to put into action those choices you've made, both at the church and the cemetery. By pre-planning, you have the time to view all the possible options. You will know if a particular funeral home can meet your needs, especially if you have special wishes, such as natural burial. You can gather all the information you need prior to making a decision.

Things to know about choosing a funeral home:

- They will be your first call after someone dies, since they are the only ones licensed to handle a body.
- Caskets and full-body vaults are purchased through them.
- They are there to assist you in planning a visitation/memorial service if you wish to have one.



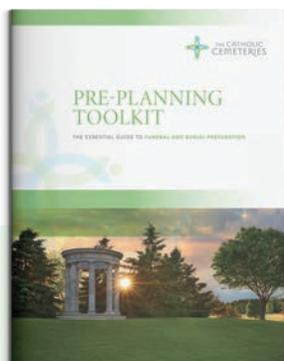
## THE CEMETERY

By choosing a Catholic cemetery as a final resting place, you are making a statement of your belief in the resurrection of the body and everlasting life.

- You know that you will have a place where your loved ones and future generations can remember you.
- Someone will be able to walk you through all your options for the type of burial you want and your memorialization options, where you/your loved one's final resting place will be cared for forever.
- You can view the peaceful beauty of your eternal earthly home.

The Catholic Cemeteries has five cemetery locations and offers:

- Traditional ground burial
- Above ground burial
- Cremation (in-ground or niche)
- Natural burial
- Private family mausoleums



*The Catholic Cemeteries offers a free 20-page Pre-planning Toolkit that can assist you with the planning process outlined above.*

SEE LAST PAGE



THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARING:

## WHAT TO THINK ABOUT NOW

Following the death of a loved one, survivors face many decisions and tasks. You can take steps now that will reduce the emotional strain and distress of your survivors:

### GATHER YOUR VITAL STATISTICS AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

This information will be helpful for preparing an obituary and securing benefits.

### MAKE OR UPDATE YOUR WILL

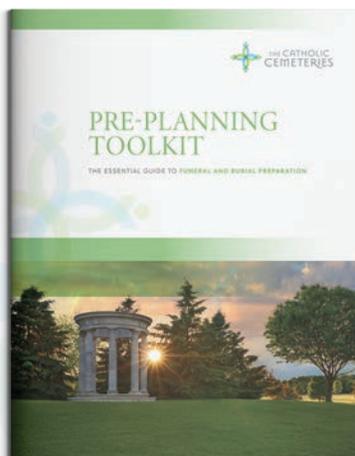
A will is a vital part of estate planning—everyone needs a will. With a will, you name the person or persons to administer your estate, handle financial matters and act as guardian for minor children. Without a will, a probate judge makes these decisions and the cost can be as high as ten percent of your net estate.

### LOCATE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

The greatest loss of revenue to most estates is due to the failure to locate critical documents, including those that are personal, financial and insurance related. These documents must be conveniently stored and not kept in a safe deposit box.

### PRE-PLAN CATHOLIC FUNERAL AND BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Your advance planning will give your family the guidance they need to feel comfortable that they are carrying out the decisions you have made.



## GET OUR FREE 20-PAGE PRE-PLANNING TOOLKIT

There's a great deal of documentation involved when someone dies, so the best planning is done well before a time of need. Our Family Service Counselors can help guide you through this process while lessening the burden and stress on you and your family.

Our free 20-page *Pre-planning Toolkit* offers a detailed, step-by-step process to help you outline all your wishes. This Toolkit helps you organize the following:

- Personal information & vital statistics
- Funeral logistics and details
- Burial details
- Tasks for Survivors
- Personal papers
- Insurance Information
- Financial Information
- Social Security Benefits



### GET STARTED TODAY!

Speak with one of our Family Service Counselors who will walk with you through the process of pre-planning, offer consultation about your options and provide a *Pre-planning Toolkit* to you.

CALL US (651) 228.9991

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VISIT US: [catholic-cemeteries.org](http://catholic-cemeteries.org)



THE CATHOLIC  
CEMETERIES

*Where remembrance begins*