

Thursday, August 6, 2020

Dear Priests, Deacons and Parish Administrators,

As we continue to adjust to the new realities facing us, we thought it important to update you on the current operations of the cemeteries and mortuaries during the Covid-19 pandemic. As you are aware, our management team has been working diligently with Archdiocesan, State and local officials to ensure the safety of our patrons, visitors and staff while continuing uninterruptedly in our sacred ministry.

As the weeks have progressed in compliance with health orders issued, we have amended our operations and procedures accordingly. Please see below our current temporary policies. In addition, and for your convenience, we have highlighted several items of particular significance below:

- Following proper protocols, **funeral services will be celebrated outside our six mortuary chapels without attendance limits.** Attendees must adhere to social (physical) distancing of at least 6 feet between the group of household members, the funeral staff and clergy member.
- **Graveside services throughout our eleven cemeteries will continue without attendance limits.** Attendees must adhere to social (physical) distancing of at least 6 feet between the group of household members, the funeral staff and clergy member.
- We continue to have **normal cemetery visitation hours throughout all eleven cemeteries.** For safety reasons the cemetery may limit the number of cars entering the cemetery at any time. Access to **office facilities are limited to appointments only;** visitors requiring information should call the cemetery office.
- Our cemetery and mortuary staff are **available for funeral and burial arrangements in both at-need and preneed capacities.** All arrangements are by appointment only with great sensitivity given to the dignity of the patrons as we adhere to necessary safety protocols.

We hope that this information will prove useful to you and your staff, as we know it is a great concern to many. You will find detailed information in the attached letter and on our [website](http://CatholicCM.org), CatholicCM.org. Given the changing nature of the situation, should we be required to make any further modifications, we will keep you updated.

Please know that the employees of cemeteries and mortuaries are committed to meeting the needs of our patrons, their families and the church. We appreciate your prayers and support, as we keep you in ours.

Sincerely with the Grace of God,

Catholic Cemeteries and Mortuaries Management Team