

THANK YOU!

We hope you have benefited from reviewing these Directives for Catholic Burial.

Please remember that it is most important to contact your parish **AT THE TIME OF DEATH OR BEFORE, IF POSSIBLE.** Doing this enables your Pastor and parish staff to begin making all the detailed preparations necessary to help give you and your loved ones the prayerful attention they deserve.

Funeral liturgies may also be prepared with your parish on a pre-planning basis by appointment.



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**Diocese of
Gaylord**

DIRECTIVES FOR CATHOLIC BURIAL

Prepared by:
Oakwood Catholic Cemetery
and the
**Secretariat for
Justice and Peace**
in cooperation with the
**Secretariat for
Worship and
Liturgical Formation**

WHY DOES THE CHURCH HAVE DIRECTIVES ON BURIAL?

The Catholic Church has always respected the Dignity of the Human Person from conception to natural death. That Human Dignity does not leave the body at death. The body has served the living person as a Temple of the Holy Spirit, and therefore deserves to be revered after death.

GREEN BURIAL

Lately there has been a renewed interest in Traditional Burial, now called "GREEN BURIAL." GREEN BURIAL is fully in accord with Catholic Teaching. GREEN BURIAL is distinguished by:

- Burial must take place within 48 hours.
- No vault is necessary.
- The body may be placed in a bio-degradable coffin or wrapped in a blanket (shroud).
- The body may not be embalmed.

Embalming typically uses chemicals that are very harmful to the environment. Vaults and metal coffins can be environmentally harmful as well. Respecting the environment as much as possible is supported by Catholic Social Teaching.

MODERN BURIAL

The use of embalming, metal coffins, and vaults has become common practice in MODERN BURIAL. These practices may be continued, and are also fully in accord with Catholic Teaching.

FUNERAL LITURGIES

The Catholic Funeral Liturgy consists of three parts: a **VIGIL SERVICE** (usually held the night before the funeral), a **FUNERAL** (usually a Mass), and a **COMMITTAL** (interment) **SERVICE**. The **VIGIL SERVICE** may take the form of a Liturgy of the Word or the Liturgy of the Hours. The rosary is not a part of the official funeral rites of the Church. It may be prayed publicly in addition to the **VIGIL SERVICE**, but not as a substitute for it.

CREMATION

Cremation **IS ALLOWED** in the Catholic Church. However, out of respect for Human Dignity, the Church prefers that:

- The body be present for the Funeral Liturgies, then cremated afterward.
- The cremated remains be buried (interred) as soon as possible after cremation.
- Cremated remains may not be scattered in wind or water, and may not be mixed with other remains or divided among various containers or jewelry.

Contact your parish or Oakwood Catholic Cemetery for a detailed brochure on Cremation for Catholics.

SAYING GOODBYE

Catholic Burial Directives are intended to allow a family to say a final "Goodbye" to their loved one. When a loved one dies, those who remain have the opportunity and the obligation to say Goodbye with the utmost dignity and love. Families may do this by proper attention to Funeral Liturgy planning. They may also care for their loved one after death by hand-building a wooden coffin, making a blanket (shroud), or by locating local artisans to assist.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:

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