

When the choice has been made to cremate a body, it is recommended that the cremation takes place after the Funeral Liturgy. (OCF, 418)

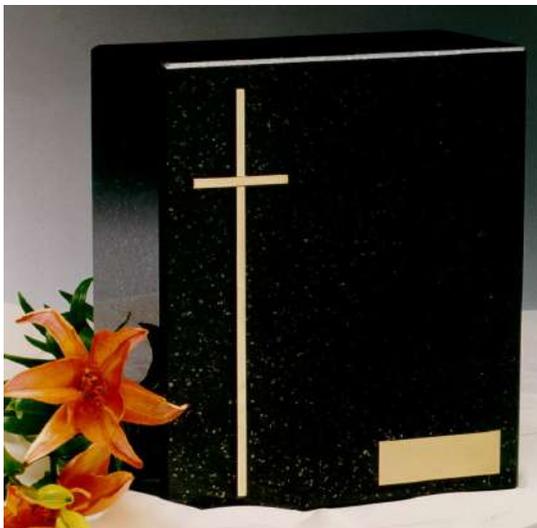
The cremated remains must always be treated with respect. They should be either interred or entombed, preferably in a Catholic cemetery.

A small table or stand for the cremated remains is to be prepared in the place normally occupied by the casket. The vessel may be carried to its place in the entrance procession or may be placed on the table or stand before the liturgy begins.

Commingling of ashes is not permitted. Separate compartments or urns shall always be used.

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

For information regarding mausoleum niche entombment or in-ground cremation interment, please contact the Gethsemane Cemetery office.



3139 Kutztown Road, Reading, PA 19605
610.929.2613 or 844.GETHCEM
info@gethcem.com gethcem.com

What we are about...

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 is

- To bury the dead, comfort the sorrowful and pray for the living and the dead.
- To offer our families choice and flexibility, coupled with unmatched service and care within a well maintained landscape, while preserving the dignity and identity of the Catholic Cemetery.
- To deny no person a proper and dignified burial, regardless of their means.



A Tradition of Trust Since 1895.

Christian Burial Guidelines on Cremation



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3139 Kutztown Road Laureldale, PA 19605

What the Church says concerning Cremation.

The Church, throughout the centuries, has followed the practice of burial or entombment after the manner of Christ's own burial – out of respect for the human body as a member of Christ and because of faith in the resurrection. It is still the expressed will of the Church that this hallowed and traditional practice be maintained. However, recognizing particular circumstances and varying cultures and customs in different parts of the world, the Church allows some latitude, under certain conditions, to those Catholics who request that their bodies be cremated. “The Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the bodies of the deceased be observed; nevertheless, the Church does not prohibit cremation unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian doctrine”. (Canon 1176, ss3)

The Christian Faithful are unequivocally confronted by the mystery of life and death when they are faced with the presence of the body of one who has died. Moreover, the body which lies in death naturally recalls the personal story of faith, the loving family bonds, the



friendships, and the words and acts of kindness of the human person, which acts and is experienced by others through that body. It is the body whose hands clothed the poor and embraced the sorrowing. (OCF, 411)

The Catholic Church commends its deceased members to the mercy of God by means of its funeral rites. It likewise asks that the Christian faithful continue to offer prayer for deceased family members and friends. The annual celebration of All Souls Day, the commemoration of all the faithful departed on November 2, attests to this salutary practice. Masses celebrated for the deceased on the anniversaries of death or at other significant times continue the Church's prayer and remembrance. For Catholic Christians, cemeteries, especially Catholic cemeteries, call to mind the resurrection of the dead. In addition, they are the focus for the Church's remembering of the dead and offering of prayer for them. (OCF, 416)



The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the cremated remains, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. (OCF, 417)

The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains at the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. (OCF, 417)

Whenever possible, appropriate means for recording with dignity the memory of the deceased should be adopted, such as a plaque or stone which records the name of the deceased. (OCF, 417)

