

Volume 12 | May 19, 2021

## Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Community Digest

### A word from our CEO, Jerry Del Core

The Coronavirus has impacted all of us for well over a year. Fortunately, the tide seems to be turning. **We send our thoughts and prayers to all the families who have lost a loved one during this pandemic.** While we cannot lessen the grief from losing a loved one, there may be a way to ease some of the financial loss due to a COVID-19 related death.

**For families who have been impacted by COVID-19 related death, we want to make sure you are aware and take advantage of FEMA's (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Funeral Assistance Program.**

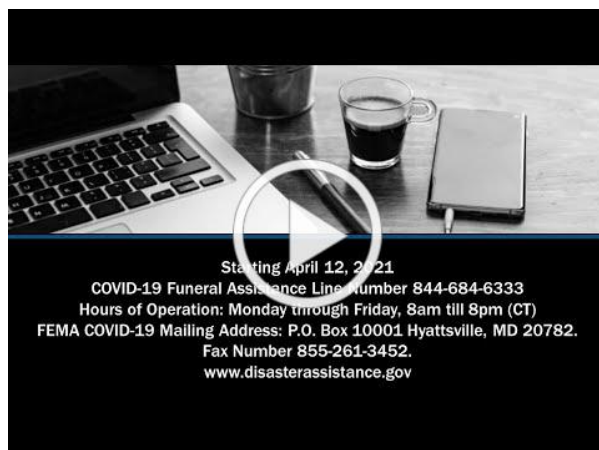
This relief program was made possible by a combination of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Act of 2021.



**If you lost a loved one due to COVID-19 on or after January 20, 2020, you may be eligible for financial assistance.** You can reach **FEMA Funeral assistance and apply by calling 844-684-6333.** **Click here for FEMA's checklist of items you need to gather.** Types of services eligible for reimbursement include, but are not limited to, funeral services, embalming, decedent transportation, memorial marker, cremation, burial location, casket or urn purchase and many more items.

If you had a loved one cremated and have not laid them to rest, you may want to honor them with a burial or niche location and submit that purchase for reimbursement. If you laid a loved one to rest and have not selected a memorial marker or headstone yet, you may do so and submit that purchase for reimbursement.

For more information, **visit our website at [cfcssacramento.org](http://cfcssacramento.org) to watch the FEMA Funeral Assistance video** and hit the "play" button. It is 9 minutes long, very detailed and most informative. If you would like one of our Family Service Advisors to reach out to you with more information, please email us at [info@cfcssacramento.org](mailto:info@cfcssacramento.org) subject line: FEMA.



**Click the play button above to watch the FEMA Funeral Assistance video.**

# Ask a Funeral Director

Kimberly Mai, Embalmer, EMF9674 & FDR4426

## Embalmer Apprenticeship...

Kimberly shares her journey on becoming an Embalmer and the Embalmer Apprenticeship program at St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center.



I was drawn to the funeral profession around the time I experienced a close death in my family. I had never considered this profession before. I was starting nursing school knowing that I wanted a career helping others. I couldn't stop thinking about the funeral professional who worked with my family during our loss. They were so thoughtful and caring. I needed to do some research only to learn that this career was a perfect mix of all the things I had ever wanted to do, including art and science.

In the winter of 2019, I completed my Mortuary Science Program at American River College (ARC). California law requires embalmers to complete a two-year apprenticeship, embalm a minimum of 100 decedents, and pass licensing exams to obtain a license.

Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services of the Diocese of Sacramento offers an apprenticeship program in which students receive hands-on experience under the direction of a licensed Embalmer. During my apprenticeship, I gained confidence in all aspects of caring for the body, including embalming, trauma restoration, cosmetics, and much more.

Nathan Skelton, my professor at ARC, suggested that I apply for the apprenticeship position at St. Mary Funeral Center, where he was once an embalmer himself. I reached out and so began my apprenticeship under Jonathan Biller, the Care Center Manager at St. Mary Funeral Center. Johnathan is a caring and intelligent individual who taught me more than just how to prepare decedents for viewings but how to model the behavior of a genuine person who cares especially during what is the hardest day of life for many people.

COVID-19 hit the funeral industry hard. I was only about halfway through my apprenticeship when the workload quickly became overwhelming. The Care Center and Funeral Department all work together very well by encouraging and supporting each other. This, along with the support and training I received from Jonathan, made this time of the pandemic a lot easier to manage.

This job can get incredibly emotional. But I remind myself that it needs to be done so the family can receive comfort. I try to give everyone the same amount of care and attention, whether they are young or old. I prepare decedents for their funeral services and I always love dressing someone up in their Sunday best, doing their hair and makeup for their final goodbye.

If you are considering studying Mortuary Science or looking to learn more about becoming a Funeral Director, Assistant or Embalmer feel free to reach out to me by email [click here](#) or Jonathan by email [click here](#). I am happy to say I have fully completed the Mortuary Science and Apprenticeship program and now I am an Embalmer and full-time employee with St. Mary Funeral Center.

## Meet our New Cemetery Manager

**Kore Higuchi, Senior Cemetery Manager, Grounds & Facilities**



Hello, my name is Kore, and I am excited to join the team at St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center as the Senior Cemetery Manager Grounds & Facilities. I look forward to continuing the processes of making our cemetery grounds a beautiful and peaceful place for you to visit your loved ones.

For the last eighteen years I have gained experience managing grounds and facilities in both Arizona and locally here in the Sacramento Valley.

Most of my expertise has been in managing programs that support athletics and providing professional level playing surfaces for multiple sports and users including NCAA National championship games and a few Super Bowls for the National Football League. I look forward to sharing my background with staff and enhancing the appeal and aesthetics of the cemetery lawns and landscapes throughout the region.

I was born and raised in Arizona where I met my wife of 20+ years. We have three children who still live with us and our energetic dog. I have my Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from Penn State University and am a volunteer soccer coach for high school age boys and love to be outdoors as much as possible.

## Cemetery Decoration Guidelines

[Click here for a printable version.](#)

# Cemetery Decoration Guidelines

Guidelines have been established to provide opportunities for families to decorate the resting places of loved ones while ensuring the safe and consistent maintenance of the cemetery. Here are examples of allowed and prohibited items and practices. This is a guideline intended to provide general direction to families and is not intended to encompass all potential situations.

Prohibited, broken or any item deemed to be hazardous to guest, staff or others will be removed and disposed of at the Cemetery's convenience and without notice to families. Wilted or dried flowers will be removed. The Cemetery is not responsible for lost, blown or stolen items under any conditions. The Cemetery reserves the right to remove any and all items at any time for any reason.

### Approved Decorations

- Flowers in cemetery provided vases
- Potted plants and figurines on memorial
- Solar lights placed at edge of memorial
- Decorations less than 18" high



### Prohibited Decorations

- Fencing, Rocks, and Physical Barriers
- Potted plants and figurines on the grass
- Solar lights surrounding the grave
- Decorations exceeding 18" high
- Balloons or Glass Objects



 **CATHOLIC FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES**  
OF THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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## Upcoming Events

Stay up to date on all of our events by clicking here:



### Memorial Day Mass & Patriotic Celebration

Monday, May 31, 2021 at 10 am

*Join us in remembering our fallen heroes*  
**MEMORIAL DAY MASS**  
CELEBRATE • HONOR • REMEMBER

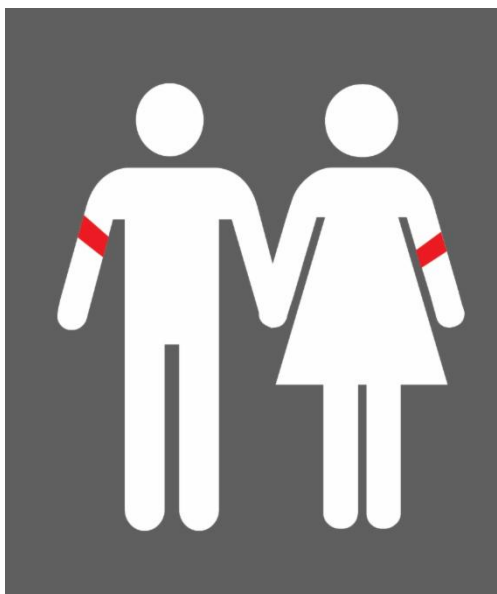


**MAY 31, 2021 • 10 AM MASS**  
FOLLOWING MASS WILL BE A PATRIOTIC PRESENTATION AT OUR VETERANS SECTION

Register to attend Memorial Day Mass at one of the following 3 locations:

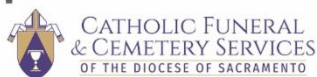
- **St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center, Sacramento**  
by [clicking here:](#)
- **Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center, Citrus Heights**  
by [clicking here:](#)
- **All Souls Cemetery & Funeral Center, Vallejo**  
by [clicking here:](#)

### Blood Drive June 4, 2021



**Help save a life.**

**Schedule your  
blood donation  
appointment today.**



**Join us on Friday, June 4, 2021 8:30-2:30 PM  
at St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center in the Reception Room**

Register by [clicking here to save a life.](#)



## Employment Opportunities & Job Fair

June 23th 3 pm - 6 pm or  
June 26th 9 am -12 pm

**Bring your resumes and dress to impress,  
meet hiring managers and interview on the spot.  
Wednesday June 23rd 3-6 pm or Saturday June 26th 9 am-12 pm  
at St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center in the Reception Room.**

Learn more about our employment opportunities by [clicking here.](#)



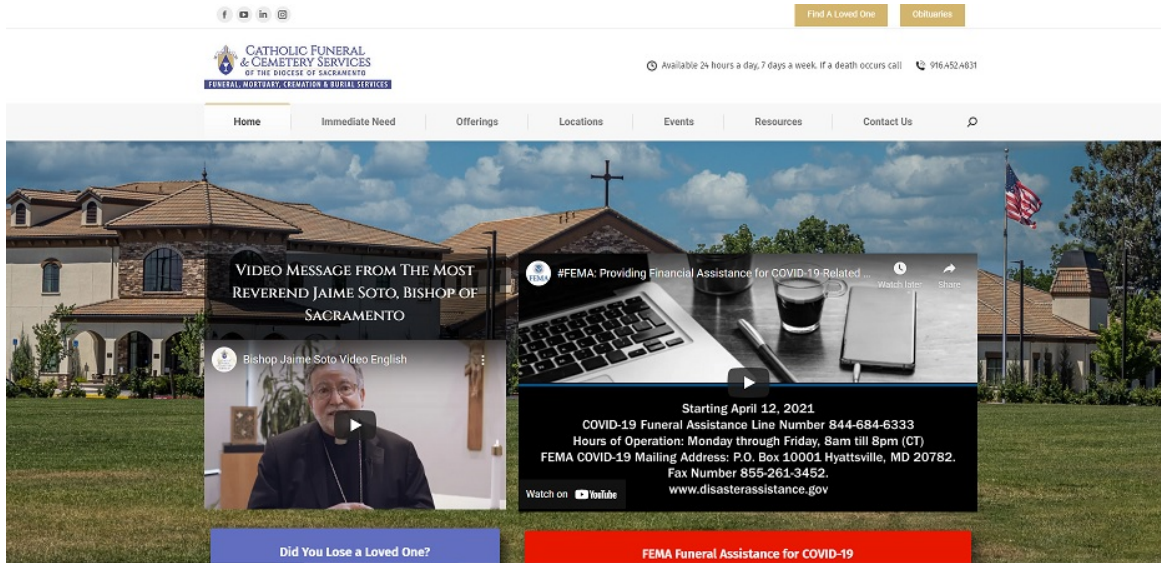
## Join us as we resume Saturday Morning Mass in our Chapels starting June 5

**The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is held every Saturday to pray  
for faithfully departed souls buried at our cemeteries.**

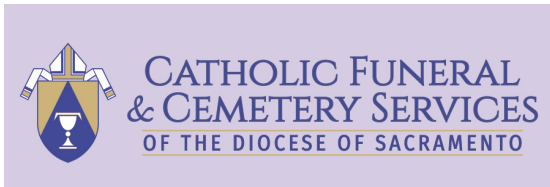
**Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center in the Mausoleum  
8:30 am (please note new time)**

St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center in St. Joseph Chapel  
All Souls Cemetery & Funeral Center in the Chapel  
10 am

Visit our website: [cfcssacramento.org](http://cfcssacramento.org)  
for up to date COVID-19 information; events; obituaries and much more



# Welcome to our new website



## Mission Statement

Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services is a full service provider of End-Of-Life care for the Catholic Community in the Diocese of Sacramento. We accompany families as they affectionately honor their loved ones in harmony with the Catholic Rites of Christian Burial. We cooperate with Parishes from Vigil to Mass and the Committal, bringing to all the consolation and mercy of Jesus.



Visit our Website



Catholic Funeral & Cemetery | 6509 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95820 916-452-4831

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