

## Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Community Digest

### A word from our COO, Scott Miller

The new Calvary Funeral Center has really taken shape over the past month. After months of underground construction, grading and foundation work, the structure began to be erected in early January.

As of the first week of February, we have a roof on the administrative building and the reception building. Final preparations for the chapel roof are underway and should be completed within the next few weeks. Interior framing is also well underway and we are starting to see the architect's vision come to life. In the past week, we have also completed the construction of the main fire water line, which is a critical step in keeping the project moving forward. The line has passed all inspections and we are now ready to connect to the building when the interior fire suppression work has been completed.



We have all heard 100+ times now....Supply Chain, Supply Chain, Supply Chain. And, yes, it is affecting this project as well, but our contractors have been outstanding at being flexible and changing tasks as needed to keep the project going. The City of Citrus Heights has also been outstanding in working with our team to make adjustments. Additionally, due to supply chain issues we are forced to order items such as stained-glass windows, interior furnishings and art work much sooner than in years past, but our internal team and our suppliers have all been diligent in ensuring we are making timely decisions and orders to ensure an on-time opening of the facility.

At this time, we are still on schedule for a Fall 2022 opening of the new Calvary Funeral Center.



# Students Help to Clean Cemetery Annually!

For many years, Rita Casagrande, eighth grade teacher at Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Sacramento, has used Catholic Schools Week as an opportunity to help her students practice community service. Yearly, Rita, her students and parent volunteers take



rakes, trowels, and buckets and spend time making the cemetery especially Angels Lawn at Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center just a little more beautiful.

Due to the construction of the brand new funeral center at Calvary, it was safer this year, for the students to travel to St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center in South Sacramento to offer their services. Under the guidance of Kore Higuchi, Senior Cemetery Manager of Grounds and Facilities, the kind volunteers worked to tidy up our Holy Family section on Thursday, February 3, 2022.

The winter wind had wreaked havoc among the crypts, niches, and memorial markers. Students respectfully asked what ought to stay and what should go. They gathered flowers, returned the ones that could continue honoring those who have passed, and cleaned up those that had wilted. Volunteers cleaned up trash that had landed in the landscaping beds, pulled any weeds that they found, and tidied the whole space.

Thank you to Rita, the students of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic School, and all of the parent volunteers who offered their time to serve and pay respect to all those buried at our cemetery.



**Getting to know a Funeral Director**  
**Tina Rheault** FD2262





Do you think it's possible to change your life by picking up a free book at church? Yes, it is, and here's my story of my path to becoming a Funeral Director at Calvary Cemetery & Funeral Center.

Back in 2017, I was struggling with burn-out in my job as a private school administrator and was considering options for a change. About that same time, I happened to pick up a free copy of Matthew Kelly's book "*Resisting Happiness*", available through a generous donation from one of our parishioners. I

was at first confused by the title – who would want to resist happiness? Isn't that what we all strive to have in our lives? One of the main messages in the book hit me with perfect timing:

*Place God at the center of the next decision you make by choosing not what you want or what is most advantageous to you, but what you honestly feel God wants you to do.*

I started looking at the job postings on the Diocesan website and pondered the listing for Funeral Arranger/Funeral Director three times before I realized that God was leading me to consider this as my next career path. I applied, was hired, and started training to work in this industry which was completely new to me. After 6 months, I became a licensed Funeral Director. I have now worked at three of our four funeral homes in the Sacramento area. I have had the honor to work with over 500 families, guiding them through the process of laying their loved ones to rest. I guide them from the tender moments just after their loved one has passed, through all the planning for funeral services and up to the committal services.

What I have learned is there is only one thing that brings comfort to a grieving family – not flowers, not hugs, not time, not support from friends. The one thing is FAITH. Without faith, your loved one is simply gone and all that is left is a vast emptiness. With faith, we have the promise of God's endless grace and mercy and the gift of eternal life through our savior, Jesus Christ.

We use faith in our funeral arrangements to help guide each family by helping them to understand the Rites of Christian Burial, helping to coordinate services with their parish and their priest, helping to make sure that the focus is on the hope and comfort provided by God in these dark days of their grief journey.

In these four years as a Funeral Director, I have called on my experiences as a cantor and choir member at two churches, Divine Savior Catholic Church in Orangevale and St. Patrick in Placerville, to understand the liturgy of the Catholic Funeral Mass. I use these skills to help families understand the Mass, to pick readings and prayers for the Funeral Mass, and help them coordinate song selections and musicians for services. I love to sing at Mass each weekend and at Funeral Masses during my off time. I also have the honor of teaching Catholic Faith Formation classes to children preparing for their sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. The church is the center of life for my husband and I. Now, I can truly say that I have found the *Happiness* discussed in that wonderful free book that I picked up five years

## Upcoming Events

Stay up to date on all of our events by clicking [here](#):



### Caring for the Caregiver Virtual Presentation

Thursday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> • 2 – 3:30 pm

RSVP [cfcssacramento.org/events](http://cfcssacramento.org/events)  
or 916.840.2138



Let us treat you to coffee, everyone who registers will receive an e-gift card to Starbucks.

Caregiving Today:  
It's a Balancing Act



Gail Arno, CMC:  
Director of Care Management

Understanding Alzheimer's  
and Dementia



Kate Kriner,  
Community Educator

Brought to you by:



[cfcssacramento.org](http://cfcssacramento.org)

Join us virtually to learn more about Caregiving and Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia. After you register, your login information will be emailed to you. Everyone that registers and attends will receive a e-gift card for a cup of coffee to Starbucks.

RSVP Here for the  
Caregiver

### MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

With Deacon Mike & Chaplain Barb Turner,  
Grief Ministry Trainers for the Diocese of Sacramento



**MARCH 19 & MARCH 20**

**9 am to 4 pm**

In person or Virtual

St. Mary Cemetery & Funeral Center #122903  
6509 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento  
-OR- via Virtual Lifesize Link

Attendance for both days are required

This free two day workshop provides training for those who are being called to offer comfort and support in their parish. At the end of the 16 hours of training, you will receive a certificate of completion.

To learn more and to RSVP:

[cfcssacramento.org/events](http://cfcssacramento.org/events) or 916-840-2138

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Join us for a two day training and workshop on the Ministry of Consolation with Deacon Mike and Chaplain Barb Turner, Grief Ministry Trainers for the Diocese of Sacramento. You can join in Person or Virtually, but must attend both days.

RSVP Here for the Ministry of  
Consolation



## Join us for Saturday Morning Mass in our Chapels

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

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



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

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.



**ST. MARY CEMETERY  
& FUNERAL CENTER**

FD2263



**CALVARY CEMETERY  
& FUNERAL CENTER**

FD2262



**ALL SOULS CEMETERY  
& FUNERAL CENTER**

FD2286

Visit our Website

