



May our farewell express our affection; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope.

One day, we shall joyfully meet again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

The Vigil (Wake), Liturgy (Mass), and Committal (Burial/Entombment) each have distinct purposes in the journey to healing and wholeness.

- Catholics and non-Catholic members of Catholic families may be interred in a Catholic cemetery.
- There are five Catholic cemeteries in Wood County.
 - Mt. Carmel, 23rd & Fairview Avenue, Parkersburg, WV
 - Immaculate Conception, Wadesville, WV
 - Greenhills, Volcano, WV
 - Old Catholic, N. Western Pike, Parkersburg, WV
 - St. Francis Xavier, 15th & Oak Streets, Parkersburg, WV
- Cemetery maintenance is provided by sale of plots and other services, the annual cemeteries collection, donations, and income from a small endowment fund.



Cemetery Manager

(304) 863-6832

CatholicCemeteriesParkersburgWV.com

Rite of Catholic Burial



*The Funeral Vigil,
Liturgy, and Committal
set us on a path to a
true healing, wholeness,
and peace.*



Trusting in God, we have prayed together and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see our loved one again and enjoy his/her friendship.

Although we disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of his kingdom.

Therefore, let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Your Christian Burial Rite...

...the most important thing you can do for your family.

Vigil (Wake)

The Vigil or Wake is a time to laugh, cry, remember, and pray. A time to rejoice in all that the deceased was and is. This can truly be a healing time for all those who are hurting.

The Vigil for the deceased is the first way that the Church captures the sentiments of those who are grieving and sets them in the context of our faith. A prayer service with readings selected from Scripture to fit the circumstances of the deceased, a homily that comforts and gives hope, intercessions that speak to the faith of those gathered around the deceased, and prayers selected from the rich resources found in the Order of Christian Funerals can do a great deal to prepare people to enter into the Christian spirit of the Funeral Liturgy. The Rosary or other prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary can be a part of the Vigil.

Liturgy (Mass)

The Funeral Liturgy or Mass is our great "Thank You" to God who created us, died for us, and who is calling each of us back to Himself. In this step, the focus shifts slightly from emphasis on the deceased to God's saving works through Jesus Christ. The Mass, particularly at the time of death, is truly a special moment, a holy moment, a God-moment.

Committal (Burial)

The last step – the last concrete act we can do for our loved ones in this world – is the Committal, the burial or entombment of the remains of the deceased. The relationships, bonds, and communion we build with one another in faith are not broken by death. Resting in a holy place with brothers and sisters is a profound statement of that belief.

A Catholic cemetery is a sacred place of honor and respect for those who have died. It is a memorial to all who are interred there. It is a sacred place where Catholics come to express their grief and hope in the resurrection for their loved ones who have preceded them in death. It is blessed ground, fitting for someone whose body was a temple of the Holy Spirit on earth and now awaits the resurrection from the dead.

To have a minister of the Church present at this final moment is a great source of consolation to those who will now need to continue their journey in life without their beloved.

Things to Know

- A pre-need burial selection may be made today calmly, responsibly, and economically with a low down payment and interest-free monthly payments.

- Since 1963, cremation has been an option for Catholics. The need to actually bury the remains is still important, both in faith and practicality, and so our cemeteries offer:

- Columbarium – an above ground burial crypt.
- Graves – smaller sized graves that allow for grave markers.

- Donation of bodies and/or organs for medical research or to various types of "organ banks" is an appropriate action, but should be arranged in advance. Upon eventual disposition of the body or its parts (ashes are returned to the families) an appropriate burial should take place in keeping with the traditions of the Catholic Church.

- All life is sacred and the remains of fetuses and stillborns of Catholic parents should be given a reverent Christian burial. A no-cost burial service is available for fetuses and stillborns, if desired.