

Who Can Be Buried in the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of San Jose?

The Catholic cemeteries of the Diocese of San Jose are rooted in a two thousand year tradition of care for and burial of its dead. The care with which we bury the dead expresses our faith in the victory over death of Our Lord Jesus Christ and our hope in the Resurrection.

1. In accordance with church law, baptized Roman Catholics, whether active or inactive in the Church, and Catechumens preparing for baptism have a right to burial in a Catholic cemetery (canon 1176 and 1183, par.1).
2. By permission of the Bishop of San Jose, the following persons who are not Roman Catholics may also be buried in diocesan cemeteries:
 - Immediate family members of persons already interred in the cemetery or with burial rights (e.g., spouse, children, parents)
 - Children whose Catholic parents had intended to baptize them but they died before their baptism (canon 1183)
 - Persons with a demonstrable connection to the Catholic community (e.g. teachers at Catholic schools, persons who attended Catholic schools, employees of the diocese or its schools)
 - Persons who have previously obtained burial rights
 - In the spirit of Christian unity, participating members of other Christian churches and communities for whom we share a common understanding of baptism and with the approval of their pastor or minister (Principles and Norms of Ecumenism #137)

Bound by ecclesiastical law and civil regulations the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of San Jose requires a Christian Burial Permit, signed by a Catholic priest or deacon for the exercise of burial rights or interment in a diocesan cemetery. The form is provided by the cemetery staff.

Catholics are to contact their own parish priest to sign the Christian Burial Permit. Catholics who are not registered with a parish, may go to the parish nearest their residence.

Non-Catholic Christians are to contact their own minister to sign a form affirming membership in a faith community and indicating their approval. The form is provided by the cemetery staff, which upon receiving it will issue a Christian Burial Permit.

The exercise of burial rights and internments are subject to the approval of the Bishop of San Jose, acting through his vicar general. The burial guidelines related to Non-Catholics are subject to change based on the needs of the diocese.

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