

# Coronavirus Update

April 1, 2020

Due to the global pandemic related to the COVID-19 virus, The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton is taking the following steps:

1. The monthly memorial Masses held on the second Tuesday of each month are being suspended. In lieu of this Mass, The Catholic Cemeteries is making a donation to The Sisters of the Precious Blood. This will allow them to celebrate a Mass at their location in memory of the souls interred in one of our Catholic Cemeteries during the month.
2. The Annual Spring Masses to be celebrated during the months of April and May 2020 are being postponed. We will make every effort to reschedule these Masses in AUTUMN. The cancelled Masses are

- Saturday April 4, 2020 - Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery in Stoney Creek
- Saturday April 18, 2020 - Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Burlington
- Saturday April 25, 2020 - Holy Cross Cemetery in Paris
- Saturday, May 9, 2020 - Marymount Cemetery in Guelph
- Saturday, May 23, 2020 - Resurrection Cemetery in Ancaster

We will evaluate the reasonableness of conducting the Masses currently scheduled for June at a later date.

3. Funerals will continue to take place at all of our cemeteries. Funeral size is limited to 10 people as per direction from the Ontario Government. This does not include staff, but does include clergy. For families who wish to be present during the lowering of the casket or interment of ashes in the ground, please be advised that we will strictly be enforcing our policy requiring all visitors to view this procedure from the paved laneway.

Prayer services during entombments inside the mausoleum will continue. Families will not be allowed to be present during the entombment process. Families are to leave the mausoleum after the prayer service. Entombments will only take place after the families have left the mausoleum.

Prayer services for victims of the COVID-19 pandemic, or suspected to be related to the pandemic will be held outside of the mausoleum. Cemetery staff will not perform the entombment or interment until the family has left the cemetery premises.

4. Holy Cross Cremation Centre in Paris Ontario is suspending all viewings of the cremation process until further notice.
  
5. Our cemeteries currently remain open for visitation, however, all mausoleum buildings are closed to the public except for entombments. Public washrooms are subsequently not available. We encourage all families and visitors to be respectful of others, practice appropriate physical distancing, and follow all Provincial directives with respect to public group sizes.

We apologize for any inconvenience the above actions may cause. We pray that all of our families, visitors and staff stay healthy. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes, please do not hesitate to contact The Catholic Cemeteries at 905 522 7727.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton