

## A MINISTRY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

### CATHOLIC FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES

#### Embracing New Traditions: Cremation

Cremation is a practice that has been accepted by the Catholic Church for over 50 years. While traditional burial is preferred, as Christ was buried in the tomb, the Catholic Church offers two options when choosing cremation. In the Catholic Tradition, a funeral enables family and friends to join together in a celebration of faith to remember the life of a loved one who has passed. ***It is preferred that the body of the deceased is present for the vigil and funeral services; however, it is possible to have a memorial service with the cremated remains present.***

***To respect the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Church teaches that cremated remains should be kept together (not scattered or divided) and preferably interred in the consecrated grounds of a Catholic Cemetery.*** The cemeteries offer sacred places for the living to memorialize their loved ones, with a variety of burial choices including personalized glass front niches and beautiful cremation burial sites.

Archbishop Vigneron in his pastoral letter, “In Union With Christ’s Dying And Rising” pastoral letter writes:

***“While the Church permits cremation when circumstances justify it, the choice of cremation must never express a denial of Church teaching. Further, cremated remains must always be treated with the same respect the Church accords to the bodies of the deceased, and this includes their reverent disposition in a cemetery. If the body of a Catholic is to be cremated, the Church clearly prefers, indeed urges us, that it be present for the funeral rites.” [13]***

Be assured of our prayers and support at this time to support you through the faith we believe in and profess through Christ, Jesus, The Risen Lord.

*For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.*

— Romans 6:5