

Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church

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Dear Friend in Christ,

Life is so full of joy – none of us likes to think much about death. It's an uncomfortable topic, but it is inevitable.

At the request of many within our Catholic community, the Diocese of Richmond has expanded their cemetery services to provide mortuary and cremation services and grief ministries. On Saturday, August 15th and Sunday, August 16th, staff members from the Office of Cemeteries and Funeral Services and myself will be at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church to discuss the spiritual and practical reasons for learning about Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services. Informational presentations will be held in the Church after the Vigil Mass on Saturday and after the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday. The presentation after the 11:00 am mass will be livestreamed so parishioners can participate at home. The sessions will include a short presentation with question and answer opportunities.

Catholic Funeral & Cemeteries Services is an integral part of the Church and the Catholic community:

"The Funeral Rites of the Catholic Church are celebrations which guide the Catholic community to pray for the deceased as well as those who mourn. Traditionally, these Rites affirm our belief in the communion of saints and trust in the promise of eternal life. Burying the dead is a Corporal Work of Mercy incumbent upon every Christian. I encourage all Catholics to consider the services offered by Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services to better understand the spiritual and financial benefits of planning for their funeral and cemetery needs."

—**Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout**
Bishop of Richmond

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to better understand the importance of a Catholic funeral and burial, your financial choices, and the Church's position on alternatives such as cremation.

In closing, I would ask that you take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed survey. This will provide valuable information to Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services on how we can better serve your needs.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. David Martin Ssentamu
Pastor