



# *Sacred Places*

Vol. 24 No. 2  
Fall 2013

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## ***Sacred Places (Online Editions)***

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Since 1990, in the Spring and Fall of each year the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre has published a newsletter entitled *Sacred Places*. Past issues have featured articles on bereavement, cremation, and other items related to the Cemeteries. We have archived these newsletters on our website and have moved away from the paper form of this newsletter.

If you enjoy receiving *Sacred Places* and would like to continue reading it we ask that you obtain future copies and sign up for them at [Click here:](#)

Or Email us at: [newsletter@holyroodcemetery.org](mailto:newsletter@holyroodcemetery.org) to be placed on our electronic mailing list for future editions. Our newsletters are only available in electronic format.



Follow us on Facebook. Learn about cemetery programs, events, announcements via:



[Click here to find us on Facebook](#)

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## **Getting Through the Holidays When You've Lost a Loved One**

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*The prophet Isaiah tells us  
"the people in darkness have  
seen a great light".*

"People in darkness" is an effective way of describing someone who is mourning. Very often in our time of grief we can tolerate the days; but the nights are much more difficult. The darkness seems to magnify our grief. At this time of the year, many people observe that the days are getting shorter. For those who are mourning their lament is that the nights are getting longer. With each passing day there seems to be more twinkling lights and decorations. Christmas carols begin to fill the air everywhere. Going through a holiday season after losing a loved one can be very difficult. We at Catholic Cemeteries of Rockville Centre Diocese would like to help guide you. We are offering a prayer service at each of our cemeteries.

Holy Sepulchre – 3442 Route 112, Coram  
- **Saturday, September 28, 9:30 a.m.**

Cemetery of the Holy Rood – 111 Old Country Rd., Westbury  
- **Saturday, October 12, 9:30 a.m.**

Queen of All Saints – 115 Wheeler Rd., Central Islip  
- **Saturday, October 26, 9:30 a.m.**

***Through prayer, song and a reflection given by one of our cemetery chaplains, we hope to strengthen you so that you may experience this season as best you can.***

***Please feel free to invite family and friends to come with you.***

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## ***What makes Catholic Cemeteries different from Non-Catholic counterparts? What makes them unique?***

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Catholic cemeteries serve the Church in ways that are distinctly Catholic.

This distinctiveness can be seen in the attitudes and actions of the people in the organization – whether or not they share the Catholic faith.

These distinctions make a Catholic cemetery recognizable as Catholic. Catholic cemeterians see what they do as more than just a job. It is a ministry. The demeanor of those who work and serve at our Catholic cemeteries is of paramount importance. Sincerity, sensitivity and courtesy must all be combined with a genuine knowledge of the precepts of our faith, as well as an expert knowledge of the skills of the cemeterian.

We are sometimes criticized by our families that we run our Catholic cemeteries too much like a business.

To be sure, decisions involving pricing, capital improvements, finances, labor wages, maintenance agreements and the like are a necessary function of a cemetery operation. These items need to be addressed in order to ensure the cemetery's financial and operational viability. However, decisions are often made regarding families' needs and requests without concern for the bottom line. This is where our Catholic cemeteries differ from our non-Catholic counterparts.

There are no sales gimmicks to get families to visit our cemeteries.

We do not publicize when we assist families who are experiencing financial difficulties or when we perform other charitable acts.

Instead, we go about our business of burying our deceased as a corporal work of mercy.

When families visit our cemeteries they will be reminded in many ways, that death is not the end, but the beginning of a new and eternal life. They will be renewed in the realization that we as Catholics, not only participate in a worldly life of loving one another, but we also partake of the immortal life of the resurrected Christ, both in this world and in the life beyond.

There is a sincere desire to alleviate the suffering of the bereaved. This again brings into sharp focus what our facilities have to offer that is unique to our Catholic faith. All buildings and grounds appropriately reflect our mission and purpose. Our regular scheduled memorial Masses offer families the opportunity to pray for their deceased family members who await the glorious day of resurrection. Our special bereavement services bring together people experiencing the pain of grief for a program of prayer, song and memories.

In caring for our loved ones' remains, we ensure that our cemetery grounds and buildings will be maintained for perpetuity.

Families take comfort knowing that the Catholic Church will always be there for them. Again, decisions that are made involving finances and operations will guarantee that our consecrated grounds will be in existence long after we are gone from this worldly life.

*Business or ministry?* Our strong Catholic identity will strengthen us and ensure that God's people will be served. Catholic cemeterians are dedicated and determined to carry out this mission. ***That is what makes us different. That is what makes us unique!***

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## ***Looking forward Catholic Cemeteries***

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- **Paved roadway work** has been arranged for our Catholic Cemeteries and the three parish cemeteries managed by Catholic Cemeteries. Holy Sepulchre is now complete.



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## ***Church lifts ban on cremation; 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

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In 1963, the Catholic Church lifted the ban on Cremation. Cremation is permitted, providing that the reasons for choosing cremation are not contrary to Christian belief. Namely that cremation is not chosen in denial of Christian teaching on the Resurrection and the sacredness of the human body.

Although cremation is permitted, Catholic teaching continues to stress the preference for burial or entombment of the body of the deceased. This is done in imitation of the burial of Jesus' body.

The church clearly prefers and urges that the body be present during the Vigil and Funeral Mass. If cremation is to be chosen, it should take place following the Rite of Final Commendation. However, the diocesan bishop may for a good reason permit the cremated remains to be present for the Funeral Liturgy.

Church teaching insists that cremated remains be given the same respect given to the corporeal remains of a human body. The manner in which they are carried, the attention given to their transport and placement are equally important

The cremated remains of a body are to be buried or entombed, preferably in a Catholic Cemetery. Scattering remains, dividing remains and keeping cremated remains at home are not considered reverent dispositions.

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre offer a wide range of final resting places for the cremated remains of a loved one. Families can choose from cremation niches or in ground burials of cremated remains. Most single grave plots at our cemeteries can accommodate up to three cremation urns in addition to the usual spaces for casket burials.

For further information, contact the cemetery office and ask to speak with a customer service representative. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

For more information:

[Catholic Update ©1997 - Cremation: New Options for Catholics by Fran Helner](#)

# **PLEASE KEEP ENTIRELY OFF GRASS**



**DO**

**DO NOT**

The lawn areas of many sections throughout the cemetery are bordered with a metal edge. This is intended to keep the lawn area intact and provide a neat edge around roadways for aesthetic appeal.

Lately we have had several complaints from visitors regarding punctured tires. The metal edging is sharp and can easily damage a tire when visitors park on the grass or drive too close to the edge.

The roadways are wide enough so that vehicles can park along roadways and other vehicles have ample space to pass.

Parking on the grass disrupts the growth of grass and causes unsightly tire marks. It is also not considerate to those who have purchased burial privileges along roadsides.

The cemetery will not be responsible for damage due to tires as a result of parking on the lawn area. Please do yourself and the cemetery a favor, by keeping your vehicle entirely off the grass. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



## **The Catholic Cemetery is a Sacred Place**

Eternity and time collide at the cemetery. Death is evident and sorrow waits at every shadow. Each monument bears the symbol of the cross reminding us of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Overlaying the sorrow is hope and as we meet with our grief, we experience pain, and yet we marvel as our pain is miraculously transforms into faith. Although we feel lonely, we are not alone for our Catholic faith urges us to recall that we are part of Christ's Mystical Body; the communion of Saints. As we gaze upon all monuments of those who have gone home to the Lord, we recognize our own frailties, and come to understand that our home is truly with our Savior

## **The Catholic Cemetery is a Shared Place**

Our loss and bereavement isolates us from others as we sit at the cemetery and meet with our grief. As we remain still for a time and turn our attention outward, we observe others also meeting with their loss. We see the workers and local wildlife, all with their own concerns impacting upon our solitude and jarring us into community. We are reminded again that we are not alone.

## **The Catholic Cemetery is an Exposed Place**

Winter chill and snow, summer heat and drought are interspaced with spring's joy and autumn's color. Everything is exposed to the elements as the cycle of seasons march through their course reminding us that nothing remains unchanged and there is a time and a season for every purpose under heaven. Nothing remains unchanged in nature, living plants grow, blossom, then wilt and fade away. Inanimate objects, subject to the divine principle of entropy return to their basic elements under the sun's glare and winter's icy chill. We would like things to always remain as they once were at some past happy time in our lives, but through the relentless march of change we recognize that we are not alone when we venture forth into the unfamiliar.

## **The Catholic Cemetery is an Active Place**

We may consider the cemetery to be a dynamic environment. It is active and perhaps can be thought of as a work-space rather than a static museum to our memories. As cemetery employees perform their duties, it is a reminder of the inner working of the Holy Spirit and in some inexplicable way, our expectations are changed and the inanimate reminders of loss are replaced with expectancy of one day joining with the community of Saints for eternal reunion. All this an outward sign of the change in perspective we all must undergo.

We let go of our desire for everything to remain the same and embrace God for allowing us to have whatever the time we were able to spend with our loved one. We truly understand what it means to live the Paschal Mystery.

## **A Catholic Cemetery is a Remembering Place**

We are reminded that God is part of our total human experience. It reminds us life is continuously changing. We may not like to acknowledge this fact but we also know in the recesses of our hearts that change is inevitable. Jesus, fully acquainted with grief, bore our sorrows and yet at the tomb of Lazarus wept. The soul longs to break free of the grief we experience, weary of the cold isolation imprisoning us within the museum of our thoughts. When our inner looking grief melts away like the winter snow in the spring sun, flowers bloom and a bird's song fills our gray hearts like the colors of a kaleidoscope. A stranger's smile and the touch of God's gentle hands warms the frozen heart, lifting our downcast Emmaus eyes as hope springs forth like a fragile but powerful intrusion into our cold landscape. A present joy or pleasure replaces, for a fleeting moment at first, yet eventually for increasing periods of time, the inward looking of self, retreats under the intrusion of activity within the shared and sacred space. "Thou prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

In this way a Catholic Cemetery is different from all secular cemeteries. Under the Spirit of God, grief is transformed into hope. Our loss is not forgotten nor is it ever rendered irrelevant. Now in place of looking backward as we travel forward; we reconsider our future joy as we await the great reunion with those who have gone before us. With eager anticipation we close the door behind us as we exit the museum of our mind, thankful for its lessons. How can we fully appreciate the spring unless we first endure the winter? In a similar fashion, how can we fully appreciate eternal life without first walking through the valley of the shadow of death?



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## Christmas Ornament Mass

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The Christmas Holiday season is not a happy one for everyone. If you are in the midst of grief, you may feel overwhelmed not only by your loss, but also by the expectations of others. There is an inherent need to remember those you have loved in a special way and, hopefully, we can provide you with such an opportunity.

At Holy Rood, Holy Sepulchre, and Queen of All Saints Cemeteries, during the Saturday Mass on **December 7th**, family members will be invited to place an ornament on our Christmas trees in memory of their loved ones. You are invited to bring an ornament with you to be placed there during the offertory procession. Please remember that our chapels are public places, so we recommend an ornament that can be easily replaced, if necessary. The ornaments will remain on the trees throughout the Christmas season and can be picked up any day from January 1<sup>st</sup> through January 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## Candle Lighting Service

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It has been said that a cemetery is for the living. Although it's true that a Catholic Cemetery is the final resting place of the mortal bodies that were temples of the Holy Spirit until the Lord comes in glory, it is also a place where we, the living, come to remember those we love who have gone before us. It is a place where we come soon after the funeral filled with sadness and loneliness.

In time, however, we come to the awareness that the cemetery is a place of comfort; we live in the hope that those we love are safe and secure in the Lord. We are also comforted in the simple act of remembering our loved ones, as the visit to the cemetery renews a bond we know can never be broken.

On **Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we will have an opportunity to remember, in a special way, those we love that are interred in Catholic Cemeteries. **Beginning at 3:00 PM at Holy Rood Cemetery**, [the Diocesan Choir](#) will preside over a ceremony of prayer, song and remembrance. All will participate in a candle lighting ceremony at which time those who were interred since **November 1<sup>st</sup> 2011** will be remembered by name as requested.

***We invite all to attend, pray, sing, and remember.***

If you plan to **attend**, please contact the cemetery office at **(516) 334-7990** no later than **Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>** with the name of the deceased who was interred after November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, whom you wish to have remembered.

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## All Souls Day Masses

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The Catholic Mass is a memorial and [Eucharist means 'thanksgiving'](#). Mass is a re-enactment of the ultimate and supreme sacrifice of Jesus; the only death that offers all souls true security and for which we are eternally grateful. It gives us hope as we honor the one who came to be with us for a season, who left to prepare a place for us and who calls us to be with Him always. Knowing that death does not have the final say, and love does, we are strengthened in the face of our losses.

**Catholic Cemeteries will be celebrating Mass on All Souls Day**  
**(Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>) at**  
**09:30 am Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Bishop Murphy**  
**11:00 am Queen of All Saints Cemetery, Bishop Brennan**  
**09:30 am Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Bishop Perez**

Our cemeteries have been hosting these masses for more than two decades uniting the solemn ceremony of the Mass with remembrance, love and respect for all who have gone before us.

On All Souls Day, we not only remember the dead, but we apply our efforts, through prayer, almsgiving, and the Mass, to their release from Purgatory. There are two plenary indulgences attached to All Souls Day, one for visiting a church and another for visiting a cemetery. While the actions are performed by the living, the merits of the indulgences are applicable only to the souls in Purgatory. Praying for the dead is a Christian obligation. In the modern world, when many have come to doubt the Church's teaching on Purgatory, the need for such prayers has only increased. The Church devotes the month of November to prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and **participation in the Mass of All Souls Day is a good way to begin the month.**

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## Saturday Masses at our Chapels

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In time, we come to the awareness that the cemetery is a place of comfort; we live in the hope that those we love are safe and secure in the Lord. We are also comforted in the simple act of remembering our loved ones, as the visit to the cemetery renews a bond we know can never be broken. **Please join us for the monthly masses at Catholic Cemeteries.**

[Mass Schedule](#)

[Decoration – Placement and Removal Schedule](#)

[Holiday Schedule](#)

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## Mausoleum Decoration Programs

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Christmas Chapel Plants



Easter Chapel Plants



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## Gravesite Decoration Programs

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Mother's Day Floral



Father's Day Floral



[Know this before](#) you purchase your holiday decorations?

Christmas Blanket and Pillows



[Catholic Cemeteries "Green" Programs?](#)

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### On Our Website

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[www.holyroodcemetery.org](http://www.holyroodcemetery.org)

Decoration and  
Memorial Programs  
are now available on line.

Checkout  
with **PayPal**<sup>®</sup>

Fast, easy, secure.

Check our special on line discount offer  
Offer valid till December 23, 2013



## *e-Newsletter*

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

# *Sacred Places*

Vol. 24 No. 1  
Spring 2013

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### *Support Through The Grieving Process*

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Grief has been defined as a natural and necessary reaction to a significant change or loss in our lives. These key words in that definition however, natural and necessary, pose a significant challenge to people in our culture.

#### **Natural and necessary**

People sometimes have the mistaken impression that feelings associated with grief are unnatural. This is not true. We all experience minute episodes of grief (change) in our daily lives that come and go with little notice. These situations may seem relatively insignificant, like finding your first gray hair. Rarely do we identify the feelings associated with these situations until we encounter or accumulate more significant losses (changes).

When we experience a major loss however, our reactions are often much stronger. In these cases, grief can manifest itself in ways that cause us to question or doubt our own physical and/or mental well-being. For example, people who are grieving major losses can have difficulty concentrating or focusing. When a person is in the midst of a severe grief reaction, maintaining a daily routine (bathing, eating, etc.) can become a sizable challenge. They may have trouble sleeping, or may experience a lack of energy or loss of appetite. Activities that once were easy may become very difficult. People who are grieving often behave, think or feel differently than they did before the loss occurred. Their lives no longer follow the well-established patterns that previously defined their world. Major losses disrupt and threaten normal routines and cause people to feel

as if their lives are out of control. This can also produce a temporary state of depression. If these feelings of hopelessness or helplessness persist longer than 6 months or become overwhelming, professional help may be necessary to help maneuver through these difficult times.

#### **Change and Loss**

We experience minor changes and losses to some extent every day. For example, losing a glove or umbrella may cause a bit of inconvenience. These are rather common life experiences that we tend to ignore. The extent to which we react to any loss is dependent upon how significant the loss is and the amount of change that accompanies the loss. Minor losses may be upsetting enough to elicit a response (discovering that you lost an umbrella when it is pouring outside), but cannot compare to the fear and pain we feel when a loved one dies.

If you learned at an early age to hide feelings or refrain from expressing the disappointments of life, it may be difficult for you to know how to respond when more dramatic events occur. The key to accepting and adapting to the changes/losses is learning how to express feelings as each event occurs. Certain changes in life invariably challenge anyone's ability to cope. Examples include moving to a different town or new home, having our children leave home or losing a job. Other changes/losses like a separation, divorce or death are so dramatic that they can threaten anyone's ability to cope.

Read more on bereavement resources groups and programs at the [Catholic Cemeteries website](#).  
Just click on [Bereavement .....](#)

## **Ways of dealing with grief**

Grief is a complex process that could take weeks, months or in some cases, years to complete. Each loss produces a new chapter in the grieving process and as time passes, we gain a deeper understanding of the depth of each loss.

For example, if my spouse dies in the winter time, I will sadly remember the quiet moments we spent in front of the fireplace. After a few months, I begin to adjust to my new world. In the spring however, a new loss arrives when I realize that the garden is yet another reflection of their absence.

Each person needs their own special way to deal with grief and we offer the following suggestions:

Sharing - caring family members and trusted friends can be very helpful by listening to us tell our story.

Support Groups - an opportunity to meet other people who are also struggling after the death of a loved one.

Professional Counselors - Grief counselors are specially trained people who can help you through this difficult time.

Referrals - Family Service counselors at The Catholic Cemeteries can help you find the professional help you need.

## **Rituals of Remembering**

Rituals play an important role in dealing with loss. It often begins with a visit to the cemetery to choose a resting place (crypt, grave or niche), and continues with a funeral/memorial mass and interment. Finally, it will involve the placement of a memorial stone/marker which will serve as a permanent tribute to the deceased.

Many people visit the resting place of their loved one at regular intervals like birthdays and anniversaries. Our culture has also established Christmas Day, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Independence Day as regular times to place wreaths and flowers at the resting place. This is a way to continually remember your loved ones as a very real part of your life.

Talking to God in prayer enables us to communicate our anger, fears and inability to understand. Taking quiet time each morning and night to talk to God can lead us back to believe that our prayers are heard. God will support us in our journey and understands our unbelief. Prayer can be a real comfort during difficult times.

Having masses said and attending them, gives us a public opportunity to acknowledge our grief and remember the deceased. Remembering birthdays, anniversaries and other special events are an important part of ritualization. Gather family and friends together at those times to tell stories, reaffirm memories and to celebrate life.

## **Grief is Healthy**

In some cultures, people wear black clothing for one full year after the death of a family member, as a symbol of grief that lets the world know of their loss. In western culture, we have thrown away most of the 'old world' signs of bereavement. Rather than shedding tears, angrily shouting at God, and experiencing distractedness or forgetfulness, as signs that we have experienced a significant loss, we tend to isolate from friends and hide our sorrow.

Grieving is a process that people pass through in order to accept their losses. Grief is a natural human response which serves a very necessary and useful purpose. Avoiding the grief does not make the feelings go away or bring the dead back to life. The only way to get beyond the grief and resume some of the healthy activities in our lives, is to realize that we never get over it but can learn to go through it.

The journey of grief is a very personal one and each person travels that distance in their own unique way. After a-while, you forget that you are embarking on a journey and can look back to see where you started. This is a frightening position for some people who fear that they will forget the loved one if life gets back to normal. Rest assured, you never forget. Within the human memory

**Additional Bereavement Resource and information is also available at:**

<http://www.drvc-faith.org/bereavement/>

## Take Care of Yourself

Eat nutritious foods at regular meal times. Although the feeling of hunger can disappear during periods of stress, grief is a time when good nutrition is most important. Multiple servings of fresh fruit, vegetables, and foods rich in protein (eg. whole grains) is good medicine for grief and helps maintain our strength.

Keep to a regular sleep schedule. Get plenty of rest during times when the rest of the world is also sleeping. One of the most noticeable symptoms of grief is low energy. Indulge yourself with a nap when you get tired. If you are concerned about sleeping too much or not enough, contact your physician.

Get enough exercise and fresh air. A walk with a friend, regular exercise or even walking alone are natural antidotes for depression.

Be creative. Create a chronicle of your journey that reflects the challenging and refreshing aspects of your life.



## Remember That Your Life Has Changed

- *It may take a long time to adjust to the loss.*
- *Be gentle with yourself.*
- *Allow yourself to receive the care you need.*

## Cemetery Mausoleum Chapels - Our Candle Memorials

According to A Handbook of Catholic Sacramentals, by Ann Ball (Our Sunday Visitor Books), the practice of lighting candles in order to obtain some favor probably has its origins in the custom of burning lights at the tombs of the martyrs in the catacombs. The lights burned as a sign of solidarity with Christians still on earth. Because the lights continually burned as a silent vigil, they became known as vigil lights.

Vigil Lights (from the Latin vigilia, which means "waiting" or "watching") are traditionally accompanied by prayers of attention or waiting. Another common type of candle offering is the votive light. Such an offering is indicative of seeking some favor from the Lord or the saint before which the votive is placed.

Lighting a candle is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered.

In the lighting of candles we remember and truly live the words of Our Lord: "**I am the Light of the World.**" In the lighting of candles we not only pray, but our prayers become smaller symbols of the One Light of Christ. In burning candles, our prayers rise up to Heaven day and night; prayers for the saint's intercession are also common because of their friendship with God in Heaven. Saints are powerful intercessors. The lighting of candles has been observed since the early time of the martyrs.

### Votive and Memorial Candles

(1 and 2 Year Candle Memorials are available)

[Visit our Candle Page at our website:](#)

[Click here for details](#)



## THE EASTER CROSS

*(A reflection from Sandra Bennett Queen of All Saints Cemetery Customer Service Representative)*

Contemplating the sacrifice for our love we are reminded that the cross is inhabited, that we were saved by the death of Jesus on the cross; that the suffering and the cross are a way of life and salvation for those who believe in Him.

This cross is a sign of life and hope because it is the Savior's Cross, the blossomed cross in the resurrection and memories of the tree of life, where all hope is born and nourished. The Easter Cross is the victorious cross, sign of hope in the middle of suffering and painful crosses we carry in this life, that reminds us that in each cross and in each suffering there is a seed of life, that we can make grow from the faith in Christ crucified and resurrected.

Those of us who have understood the love of God manifested in Jesus dying on the cross for us, have contemplated his open heart and have made ours the treasures that our Savior offer us, we proclaim the word on the Cross not as prophets of death and pain, but as messengers of hope, life, compassion and mercy.

To be these messengers, means we need to bring God's hope and compassion to those who are suffering and are going through painful times. We need to assist others in discovering the seed of life in each of their troubles to make it grow from our faith in Christ. He died to give us life. Carrying the Cross message also means to overcome the Christian difficulties and negative situations of life with the certainty that if our Savior carried our crosses and pain, no cross will be too hard to overcome and no suffering will stop producing hope and new life.

Another purpose of carrying the message of the Easter Cross is to bring attention to the sick and depressed, sense of safety to the elder, company to those who are or feel alone and abandoned; serenity and peace to the anxious and hope and strength to the young. This way we share with others what God shared with us and we become the messengers of hope by spreading the message of the Easter Cross.



Catholics believe in life eternal. Jesus said:

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will never die." (Jn.11:25-26).  
Just as Christ rose from the dead, He will raise our mortal remains to be like His in glory.



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## [On Line Decoration Services](#)

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In 2011 Catholic Cemeteries introduced Pay Pal to its website as an additional means for families to purchase items with our decoration programs.. **At present the Easter Palm Cross and Lilly Chapel Plant are also available on line.** Also our Mother's Day and Father's Plant programs for graves and crypts has been made available. [Read more here ...](#)

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## **Spring Decoration Program**

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The spring decoration program will again be offered for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Live floral decorations will be available for placement on gravesites and in the chapels of the community mausoleums. A beautiful, live potted plant will be placed directly in the planting area in front or rear of the monument. For those families who have mausoleum crypts, the flowers will be placed on stands in the respective chapels. The names of those remembered will be placed in a Book of Remembrance at the altar.

The cost for each plant ordered will be **\$25.00**. They will be placed the week before Mother's and Father's Day, and will remain there through the week of the holiday itself. Families are invited to take their plants home prior to their removal by our staff.

**If you placed an order last year, you will receive notification through the mail.** Otherwise, you may fill out the coupon below and mail it with your check as soon as possible.





Orders are placed and then delivered to the family gravesite 1 week before holiday.



Families plant at lot or remove their flowers. If they are to be kept by 1 week after the holiday. The cemetery staff then collects the remaining potted plants from the lots.



The removed flowers are planted around the grounds for all to enjoy throughout the summer time .

**2013: Mother's Day: # of Plants** \_\_\_\_\_ **2013 Father's Day: # of Plants** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total: \_\_\_\_\_ Plants @ \$25 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_  
 Section \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Plot \_\_\_\_\_  
 Or Chapel Mausoleum:  
 Corridor \_\_\_\_\_ Tier \_\_\_\_\_ Crypt # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of deceased Mother: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of deceased Father: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please make checks payable to: **Catholic Cemeteries**  
 Mail your order to: **P.O. Box 182, Westbury NY 11590-0182**

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**Why are some things allowed and other items a problem?**  
<http://www.holyroodcemetery.org/decoration.pdf>

**Supporting the Catholic Cemeteries**  
**Mother's Day**  
**and**  
**Father's Day**  
**Plant Programs:**

- Provides a holiday gravesite decoration for our loved ones
- Provides the cemetery grounds with common area floral beautification
- Recycles the plant and saves money
- Revenue supports Catholic Cemeteries missions



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## **Regional Bereavement Conferences**

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### **Focus - For Professionals & Bereavement Facilitators**

**Friday, April 19, 2013** "To the Bereaved," sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries and the Office of Faith Formation, Diocese of Rockville Centre, for the bereaved of all faiths and those caring for them, at St. Joseph's Parish, 39 N. Carll Avenue, Babylon, NY from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. We will have a keynote speaker and offer two workshops by prominent leaders in the bereavement field. Breakfast and conference folder are included in the registration fee.

### **Bereavement Program Information**

[Read more here ...](#)

### **Focus - Designated for "but" not limited to the Bereaved**

**Saturday, April 20, 2013** "To Help the Bereaved," sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries and the Office of Faith Formation, Diocese of Rockville Centre, for the bereaved of all faiths and those caring for them, at St. Frances de Chantal Parish, 1309 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, NY, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. We will have a keynote speaker and offer two workshops by prominent leaders in the bereavement field. Breakfast and conference folder are included in the registration fee.

### **Opening Presentation**

#### ***The Journey of a Compassionate Heart***

*How to live with loss, guilt, emptiness through self-compassion and compassion for others*

The Opening Presentation will be given by  
**Allen Siegel - MA, SFO, RN**

Allen Seigel is a Catholic/Interfaith Chaplain at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside.

*This presentation will explore how to live with the loss, guilt, emptiness that defines the post loss experience through the lens of compassion to self and compassion of others. The presentation is designed to be pastoral, practical and insightful.*

[Read more ...](#)

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## **Stations of the Cross**

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We invite you to join us on **Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**, at **12:00 noon** in the **Holy Rood Chapel** for the opening prayers. Weather permitting, we will follow the mile-and-a-half route throughout Holy Rood Cemetery as we commemorate Our Lord's redemptive death. If the weather is inclement, the ceremony will be held in the chapel. The service will conclude with final prayers and Veneration of the Cross in the Chapel.



*The Catholic Cemetery is established to carry out the sacred religious function of the burial of the dead and the care for their resting places, recognizing the deep spiritual significance of this Corporal Work of Mercy.*



**Cemetery grounds open everyday (weather permitting) 8 AM to 5 PM ~ Mausoleum Buildings open from 8 AM to 4:30 PM**  
**Office open 9 AM to 4:30 PM (Monday thru Friday) ~ 9 AM to 12:00 noon on Saturdays**  
**For further information please visit the website of the Office of Catholic Cemeteries [www.holyroodcemetery.org](http://www.holyroodcemetery.org)**

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## Why We Bury Our Dead – Our Relationship Transformed

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Why should we bury our dead?  
Why choose a Catholic Cemetery?  
Are Catholic cemeteries really necessary?  
Why do we visit the cemetery they're not really there?  
Why should we pray for the dead?  
Why not just have them cremated and scattered at their favorite place?

When we are faced with the death of someone we love so many things seem to happen all at once and so many decisions need to be made.

As we suffer from the shock of a death, we find ourselves absorbed by the distraction of needing to plan a funeral. And as we navigate our way through the confusion surrounding the aftermath of a death, are we confronted with the question of the necessity of a cemetery?

We must realize the importance of a place where we can go to remember, a place where our faith is alive and our hope in the future is evident. A Catholic cemetery is more than just a place where we inter our beloved dead it is a place where our relationship with the dead is renewed. We look to the very foundation of our faith and we find in it the acknowledgment of our relationship with the dead.

When Mary Magdalene went searching for our Lord at the tomb, she was distressed when she thought His body was stolen. She then stated to the man who she thought was a gardener, "they have taken my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him." By that statement she acknowledged that our Saviors' death did not dissolve her relationship with Him. As Catholics we bury our dead in a Catholic cemetery, because we acknowledge that their death does not obliterate our relationship with them. We bury our dead because we believe that the body must be treated with reverence. As Joseph of Arimathea and the women who were with Jesus ministered to His body with care and reverence before being placed in a tomb, we also treat our dead with reverence.

It is our Catholic faith that directs us to bury the body in a sacred place. The body is not a thing to be tossed aside; it is not a shell nor a husk but the body of the person we love. "The Church's belief in the sacredness of the human body and the resurrection of the dead has traditionally found expression in the care taken to prepare the bodies of the deceased for burial." (OCF 411) *As we would not leave a body at someone's favorite place why is it acceptable that we scatter their cremated remains?*

When we are confronted with the death of someone we love, will we be influenced by those seeking to diminish the teachings of the Catholic Church? Will we be influenced by those who see a funeral mass as an inconvenience? Will we allow ourselves to be convinced that to obliterate the human person by scattering them to the wind is as reverent as burying them in a place set aside as sacred? *We must not be tempted by this new secular theology and allow our dead to be treated as empty shells and simply discarded.* We must remember that our relationship with the dead is not dissolved by death. As a community of faith we must turn to the teachings of our Catholic Church and avoid the temptation of treating our dead with little or no regard for the sacredness of the human body.

Our Catholic faith teaches us that "[t]his is the body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed with the bread of life. This is the body whose hands clothed the poor and embraced the sorrowing. Indeed, the human body is so inextricably associated with the human person that it is hard to think of a human person apart from his or her body. Thus, the Church's reverence and care for the body grows out of a reverence and concern for the person whom the Church now commends to the care of God." (OCF 412).

Interment in a proper place, a sacred place, challenges the modernists push to undermine our faith and our ancient traditions. The Catholic Church once forbade cremation because it was being used to challenge its' teachings on the resurrection with the objective of destroying the Catholic faith.

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*While cremation is no longer banned if it is not anti-Catholic in purpose, one must question if scattering is now being promoted to undermine the teachings of our Catholic faith.* As people of faith we must always question the motives of those seeking to undo our most sacred teachings.

When looking through our oldest records at Saint Brigid's Cemetery, Westbury, it is amazing to discover the diversity of the people buried at this sacred place. The records at Saint Brigid's Cemetery (a section within the Cemetery of the Holy Rood) tell a story and acknowledge a life once lived. *The records preserved in perpetuity give the assurance that the final chapter of a person's life is recorded, no matter how obscure a life lived may have been.* Without a burial in a sacred place the record of someone's life would not exist and the final chapter of the book would remain unwritten. As Catholics we bury our dead because of our belief in the promise of the resurrection and we do so in a Catholic cemetery because we recognize that their death did not terminate our relationship with them, it was merely transformed.

*Catholic cemeteries fulfill not only our obligation to bury the dead but to console the sorrowing and to pray for all God's children, living and dead.*



## Options for the Disposition of Cremated Remains

### A Glass, Bronze, Marble, or Granite Front Cremation Niche (each holds 2 urns)



**A gravesite lot inurnment (each holds 3 urns) and placement in a family crypt (\* under many circumstance we can accommodate 1 urn inside the purchased crypt space – see office for details).**



**Need an urn? Want to learn more of the cremated remains burial procedures? [Read more ....](#)**

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## Saturday Masses at our Chapels

In time, we come to the awareness that the cemetery is a place of comfort; we live in the hope that those we love are safe and secure in the Lord. We are also comforted in the simple act of remembering our loved ones, as the visit to the cemetery renews a bond we know can never be broken.

Please join us for the monthly masses at Catholic Cemeteries

[Click here for the Schedule](#)

### Brochures and Literature

[Cremation Planner Guide](#)

[Overview Guide for Lot Owners and Visitors](#)

[How Do I Purchase a Monument ?](#)

[How Do I Inscribe a Family Monument ?](#)

[Can I Get the Cemetery Monument Cleaned ?](#)

*Cemetery gates are open everyday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.*

*Offices closed noon Saturdays, on Sundays and the following holidays:*

### Forms and Documents

[Do you Have an Aging Plan?](#)

[Bouquet holders for Gravesite flowers?](#)

[Cemetery Donation Programs?](#)

### Schedules

[Cemetery Chapel Masses](#)

[Holidays for Office Closings – Days of no burials](#)

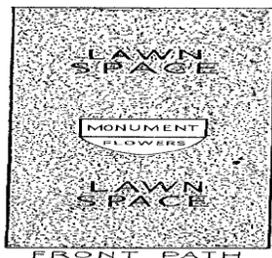
[Seasonal Decorations and Planting](#)

## ***Have You Moved?***

It's important to keep your current address on file in case you have to be contacted for any reason <http://www.holyroodcemetery.org/changeofaddressform.pdf>

## ***Planting Regulations***

[Rules and regulations – Read more ...](#)



As warm weather approaches, we would like to remind you about the planting regulations. In monument sections, annual flowers such as geraniums, begonias, impatiens and marigolds may be planted in a bed that can extend 18” in front of the monument. Bouquets of fresh flowers are permitted in monument sections in vases that are ground level, and in shrine sections in the vase that is part of the bronze memorial. No glass vases, statues or other breakable items are permitted as they could cause injuries to employees as they are maintaining the grounds. **As a reminder - Items placed in violation of the planting and decorating rules and items deemed unsightly or out of season are removed and disposed of in accordance with stated policies.** Potted plants are permitted for holidays. All holiday decorations will be picked up on the following Monday.

*When does the cemetery pick up and remove items from the gravesites?* <http://www.holyroodcemetery.org/info.pdf>

## Spring Plantings

*A reflection from Cemetery Manager Andreas Zielinski*

*“Understandably, most cemeteries have strict guidelines about what can and cannot be planted in order to avoid maintenance problems, obstructions and invasive plant issues.”*

*“Does the cemetery owner or association even allow planting? Is there a limited list of plants allowed? What are their requirements?” – **Journal Star, April 30, 2011***

Renaissance, rebirth, all words we associate with Spring. A beautiful time of the year when we work on our gardens and personalize gravesites utilizing our creativity. We kindly ask that you exercise your planting privilege to comply with the rules and regulations of the cemetery. Namely, keep planting to annual flowers only within an 18” semi-circle in front of your monument. In the flat marker baby sections, planting is permitted within an 8” semi-circle. No planting is permitted in flat marker sections where there is a bronze vase.

Annual flowers within a semi-circle is by no means a new regulation at the cemetery. Below is a copy of a diagram printed on Burial Certificates very early on at Catholic Cemeteries.

For a more in-depth explanation of grave decorations and planting rules and regulations, please visit the following link: <http://www.holyroodcemetery.org/files/50221882.pdf>

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## Memorial Day Masses

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Memorial Day Mass celebration on **Monday, May 27, 2013**

11 AM Cemetery of the Holy Rood at the Holy Rood Chapel  
11 AM Holy Sepulchre Cemetery at Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel  
12 Noon Queen of All Saints Cemetery - Field Mass

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## Saints – More than just Names

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A reflection provided by Cemetery Manager, Todd Haffner

When I first joined Catholic Cemeteries, I noticed that each mausoleum corridor was named for a particular saint. Initially, I did not attach much significance to this practice other than the practice was a clever religious version of street names, and helped me navigate the various mausoleum buildings. I have come to appreciate that this practice symbolizes much more. It is yet another method to advance our ministry, at Catholic Cemeteries, and bring our tenets of the faith to life.



While counseling bereaved families, I would navigate the mausoleum halls, and over time, the saints became more than just names. Upon reflection, they became inspirational, a source of comfort, and even – dare I say – friends. I realized that they are not distant “Holy Rollers,” but rather welcoming models, devote disciples of Jesus, and a reminder that our community does not end with death. Our tenet – Communion of Saints – was flourishing for all to see.

One such saint is Padre Pio. Almost daily, I pass his life-size statue gazing serenely over his corridor, in the Holy Rood Chapel mausoleum; reminding all of his fortitude and full devotion to the Cross of Jesus. Who is this protector? Who is this guardian? I learned that Padre Pio (1887-1968) was born Francesco Forgione in Pietrelcina, Italy to peasant farmers. After a life of exceptional devotion, he was canonized in 2002, by Pope John Paul II.

At age 15, he had joined the Capuchin Friars and took the Franciscan vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Throughout his life, Padre Pio was a man of extraordinary faith, devoted to the redemption of man through prayer, sacramental reconciliation and the celebration of the Eucharist. I was impressed to learn that he lived his vocation despite his many severe health issues and personal trials, because of his unconditional trust in God.

In September 1918, Padre Pio received the permanent Stigmata, the five wounds of Christ. The Stigmata was visible until his death some fifty years later. This humble servant was embraced as a symbol of hope and a beacon of virtue, by many. In spite of his world-wide notoriety and ongoing demands for his time, he ceaselessly helped people grow spiritually through word and deed. He gave of himself to all, especially the poor, the suffering and the sick. Like all the saints, Padre Pio’s virtues are worthy of reflection and imitation today.



When joining Catholic Cemeteries, I understood that it was more than just a job; it was a ministry. I knew that our catholic cemeteries are sacred ground and symbolize our Catholic belief in the Holy Spirit and the promise of resurrection and life everlasting. I knew we are an integral part of the Funeral Rites, of which every Catholic is entitled to partake. I now embrace that they also demonstrate our belief in the communion of saints; that our relationship with other Christians does not end with death. By the cemetery invoking our Catholic saint names, it helps us all to reflect upon, honor and imitate their virtues. Our saints offer us the opportunity and benefit of their intercessory prayers. They are real, not distant figures willing to help. By praying to the saints, Catholics recognize this special unity. The next time you visit one of our mausoleums, please enjoy and find solace ***in the fact that the saints are much more than just names.***