



Sacred Places

Vol. 28 No. 2
Fall 2017

Video – Catholic Church & Cremation



Above is a screenshot of our May 2017 Telecare TV production, which focuses on the Catholic Church's teaching on cremation.

The Catholic Church insists that cremated remains must be given the same respect as the body, including the manner in which they are handled and the attention given to their appropriate transport and placement. The cremated remains of a body are to be buried or entombed, preferably in a Catholic cemetery, and using the rites provided by the Order of Christian Funerals.

You will find this video airing on Telecare (Channel 29/137 on Cablevision or Channel 296 Verizon Fios TV). You can also view the video by clicking the screenshot above or by clicking the link on our website, www.holyroodcemetery.org.

Telecare operates with the mission of spreading God's word through its religious and educational Catholic programming to people of faith wherever they may be. The purpose of Telecare's mission is to bring people of the Catholic faith, indeed all people, closer to God.

Telecare touches the lives of millions of viewers served by Verizon FIOS and Cablevision. Telecare is available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, providing unparalleled, comprehensive Catholic, informative and spiritual programming.

For many homebound and hospitalized, Telecare is their only conduit through which to celebrate their faith. Telecare also provides parochial schools with religious educational materials created for every grade level—from kindergarten through 8th grade.

New Corporation Name

As of September 1, 2017, Catholic Cemeteries will be actively operating under a new corporation, similar to other Catholic organizations located in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The name of this corporation is **Catholic Cemeteries of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre, Inc.** This new corporation name will be reflected on our website, www.holyroodcemetery.org, and on cemetery brochures and publications going forward.

As our newly formed Cemetery Board begins to meet regularly, some changes will inevitably take place at our cemeteries. Among those changes will be the appointment of a President to oversee all aspects of the strategy, operation and vision for the future of the organization.

Despite these changes, rest assured that our mission and focus on the betterment of service to our diocese and families will not change.

Communication Enhancements

In October 2016, Catholic Cemeteries installed an electronic sign by the office at **Cemetery of the Holy Road**. In May 2017, we installed four new electronic signs at our cemeteries:

- 2 signs at **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery**
- 1 sign at **Queen of All Saints Cemetery**
- 1 additional sign at **Cemetery of the Holy Road** (by Railroad Avenue entrance)

Besides welcoming our visitors, these signs display important information such as the cemetery Mass and event schedule, decoration placement reminders, and other important updates.



Beneath each electronic sign, visitors will notice a posted sign. While all visitors are responsible for their own safety, these signs provide additional indicators on the current conditions of the cemetery. Based on the conditions, one of the following signs will be posted:

1. **WELCOME**
Standard greeting. Regular visitation rules apply.
2. **CAUTION INCLEMENT WEATHER WALK AREAS AT RISK**
For rainy, snowy, icy days. Walk areas include concrete paths, paved road surfaces, and lawn areas.
3. **WARNING ROADSIDE-CHAPEL VISITATION ONLY**
People should not step on road surfaces nor lawn areas. Flooding, Icy (slippery surfaces) and Snow conditions. If one cannot see the lawn one cannot see the hazard, therefore car side and chapel visits are stated.
4. **VISITATION NOT RECOMMENDED**
The gates (the hours) might be open for winter care services or for exiting people, but ice and snow cover the walkways and road surfaces as well as the lawn areas. Therefore, it is too risky to be on the grounds.

As always, visitors must use their own knowledge and common sense to ensure a safe visit.

Please like our [Facebook page](#) or visit our [website](#) for the latest cemetery updates and a full schedule of cemetery events.

In addition, Catholic Cemeteries recently posted section maps and visitor safety warnings within our cemeteries. We hope that visitors will find these postings helpful!



Range Renovations at Holy Road



During the first and second weeks of September, we will embark upon a renovation of grounds in Sections 15, 18, and 19 at Cemetery of the Holy Road. The ranges and plots affected are:

- Section 15 – H – 63/64 to 123/124**
- Section 15 – J – 1 to 53**
- Section 18 – NN – 11 to 129**
- Section 18 – OO – 32 to 128**
- Section 19 – CC – 37 to 91 & 123 to 131**
- Section 19 – DD – 54 to 78**

The renovation project will improve the overall grading of the range. This will facilitate more even mowing of the lawn area and make walking through the range easier, thereby limiting hazards. It also gives us an opportunity to fix curbs, foundations and the irrigation system.

Unfortunately, every renovation creates inconveniences. There will be limited access to visit these gravesites, limited watering during the project, disrupted lawn areas and the like. We are committed to making the disruptions as minimal as possible.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to make the Cemetery the best it can be for you and your dearly departed family members and friends.

We trust you'll be pleased with the results and thank you for your support of Catholic Cemeteries.

All Souls Day Masses

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.**

Catholic Cemeteries will be celebrating Mass on **All Souls Day, Thursday, November 2, 2017** at the following times:

9:30 am Cemetery of the Holy Rood
9:30 am Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
11:00 am Queen of All Saints Cemetery

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.

Cemetery Sunday

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 5th**, 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 Cemetery of the Holy Rood**, [the Diocesan Choir](#) will preside over a ceremony of prayer, song and remembrance. The names of all who have been interred in our cemeteries after November 1st, 2016 will be printed and will appear at the ceremony. All will participate in a candle lighting ceremony at which time those present will speak the name of those who were interred and remembered.

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

Christmas Ornament Mass



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 2nd** 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 1st through January 10th. Please note that any ornaments not picked up by January 10th will be discarded.

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.**

For a complete listing of our Mass schedule, please visit the [Events and Documents](#) page of our website or click the link below.

[Mass Schedule](#)

[Holiday Schedule](#)

Seasonal Decoration Programs for 2017-2018

Catholic Cemeteries will again offer a holiday decoration program. For those families who have gravesites, you may purchase an **evergreen blanket or pillow** for **Christmas**; a **palm cross** for **Easter**; and **seasonal potted plants** for both **Mother's Day** and **Father's Day**, for placement on individual graves.

We will continue to decorate the chapels in our mausoleums with **poinsettias** at **Christmas**; **lilies** at **Easter**; and **potted plants** for both **Mother's Day** and **Father's Day**. All families, especially those who have entombments in our mausoleums, are invited to purchase a plant in memory of a loved one. The name of the deceased will be listed in a memorial book placed in each of the chapels.

Decoration Programs for the 2017-2018 holiday season will be available online at www.holyroodcemetery.org. Order forms may be mailed to the cemetery office along with a personal check, or you may come into the cemetery office to pay by cash, check, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover).

Note: Online purchasing via PayPal will be available soon – check our website for details!

Mausoleum Decoration Programs

Christmas Chapel Plants



Easter Chapel Plants



Mother's Day & Father's Day Chapel Plants



Gravesite Decoration Programs

Christmas Blankets and Pillows



Easter Palm Crosses



Mother's Day & Father's Day Plants



Catholic Cemeteries & Jewish Lore: An Old Custom and its Potential Hazards

My first thought many years ago when seeing small stones placed on the top of granite markers was, "I wonder who placed them and why?" It did not make much sense to me but I have always appreciated the customs of others and let it go. Several years later, one of my Jewish friends told me that it was an old Jewish custom but he did not know why, yet my mind was satisfied with that brief explanation. However, when I first began working at Catholic Cemeteries, I was dumbfounded. If placing rocks on monuments is an old Jewish custom, why were they on many headstones within Catholic Cemeteries? Nothing like the World Wide Web to search for obscure musings and I found a Jewish news site that had a small explanation that I wish to share with you.

Although no one really knows for sure why this custom started, it is believed the practice began in ancient pagan times and was later 'adopted' by some of the Jewish faithful. Flowers, it seems, are a good example of the life cycle but they do not demonstrate the permanence that a stone could. It seems the stones meant a lasting memory to our deceased loved ones. With a quick remembrance of Hebrew Scripture, one can recall that piled stones in the desert were constructed as an altar or offering to God for a special event. I also learned that there are references in the Talmud, where it was thought the person's soul hung around for a number of days, and the stones were a means of keeping them where they belonged. Hence the link with stones on Jewish monuments.

The only thought I can make for the leap from a Pagan custom to a Jewish custom, and on to a very questionable Catholic custom, the link may be that our Lord Jesus was raised a Jew. That is only my guess but as Catholics, we believe in the resurrection, so why would I symbolically wish to hold down someone's soul? I do not have the answer to that question but as a cemeterian, I can easily describe for you why they are a bane to all cemetery workers.

A gust of wind or a visitor passing by can very easily knock the stone off onto the ground below. Beginning in late March/early April, our dedicated field staff begin work with line trimmers and six-foot wide lawn mowers, to keep the landscaping in fine condition. This usually continues until late November. If you have never witnessed a rock shot out from the blades of a mower, you would be shocked at the velocity and distance the stone can travel. Worse than that is the amount of damage it can do! We have experienced chips in granite markers due to stones thrown out from under a mower or line trimmer (see below for examples of such damage). However, our biggest fear is one of these stones striking a visitor or one of our workers. Hitting in the right spot can cause death. The same hazards hold true for marble chips, statues and the like, which is why these items are not permitted on gravesites.



Since we are Roman Catholics who fervently acknowledge the resurrection, we do not need rocks on headstones since we know our souls are with God for all eternity. I imagine our loved ones are pleased with our visit yet I firmly believe if people knew the damage this practice can cause, they would cease. Thank you for being a safety conscious visitor and thank you for your kind consideration.

Planting & Decoration Guidelines

As the holiday season approaches, it is important to be mindful of our cemeteries' rules and regulations for planting and decorations.

Holiday decorations may be placed on the following dates:

Holiday	Place ON or AFTER this date	Take away BEFORE this date
All Hallow's Eve (All Saints Day)	10/24/17	11/7/17
Thanksgiving Day	11/16/17	11/30/17
Advent-Christmas	11/24/17	1/15/18

Below are links to a few important resources to help you determine what items are permitted at each gravesite and mausoleum location:

[Planting & Decoration Guidelines - Quick Reference Guide](#)

[Cemetery Rules & Regulations - Overview](#)

[Seasonal Planting & Decoration Schedule](#)

Planting & Decoration Guidelines (Gravesites)

Catholic Cemeteries, Diocese of Rockville Centre



IS MY DECORATION/PLANTING PERMITTED?

Planting/Decoration Type	Upright Monument Lots		Flush Marker Sections		
	Lawn Crypts	1, 2, or 3 Grave Lots	4 Grave Lots & Larger	Graves & Lawn Crypts	Children's Plots
Annual Flowers	YES - semi-circle of 18" in front of monument	YES - semi-circle of 18" in front and rear of monument	YES - semi-circle of 18" in front and rear of monument	Not Permitted	YES - semi-circle of 8" in front of monument
Bouquet Holders	YES - Approved bouquet holders (aluminum/bronze) may be installed. Limit of 2 bouquet holders per lot are permitted.		ONLY where holder is part of the marker design		Not Permitted
Vases	YES - Flat bottom vases ONLY The following vase types are not permitted: glass vases, ceramic vases, pin style vases, or cone shaped vases				
Artificial Flowers	SEASONAL - Winter Months ONLY (November 1 until one week after Easter). ***Will be removed outside of the winter month period***				
Fresh Cut Flowers	YES - Must be in designated area in approved container				
Potted Plants	SEASONAL - Permitted on Holy Days/Holidays. ***Must be removed or planted one week after the day of celebration***				
Shrubs/Bushes	3 Grave Plots or Larger ONLY - Refer to Page 2 for rules and regulations				
Flags	YES - Must not exceed 12" x 16". No more than 2 flags permitted on plot, one must be an American flag. ***Faded/soiled/trim flags will be removed***				
Holiday Decorations	SEASONAL - See separate schedule for permitted dates				
PROHIBITED ITEMS	To protect the safety of field employees and visitors, some items are NOT permitted in the planting area and may not be placed or affixed to monuments. Examples of prohibited items include, but are not limited to, the following: Wooden crosses Pin-wheels Banners Glass jars Planters Statues Bottles Toys Ballons Earthenware pots Crockery Brick-brac Tin Cans Shells Edging Stones Pebbles Marble chips Vigil lights (flame or solar) Perennials, vines, climbers, hedging or rose bushes				

Please note the following important reminders on decorations:

- No placed item, whether floral or otherwise, is considered permanent to the site. The cemetery makes every effort to enforce rules and regulations uniformly and with compassion.
- Because the cemetery is open to the public, with thousands of visitors each year, **the cemetery cannot guarantee plants and decorations from DAMAGE, THEFT, or DISAPPEARANCE.** The cemetery will not be responsible for plant or shrub damage caused by wildlife.
- The cemetery reserves the right to remove and dispose of any decoration/planting **WITHOUT NOTICE OR COMPENSATION** when deemed as unsightly, out of season, or otherwise not permitted in accordance with the cemetery's rules and regulations.

29th Annual Mass for Deceased Children

Let the children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to these. Matthew 19:14



The Annual Mass for Deceased Children will be on Saturday, **September 23, 2017 at 12:00 Noon** at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre. The presider will be Msgr. William Koenig.

All are welcome. Come early to inscribe your child's name in the "Book of Families." Following the Mass, refreshments will be available in the Parish Center.

For more information, contact Ellen Zafonte at 516-678-5800 x506 or ezafonte@drvc.org

Bereavement Information

Bereavement Support Groups: Many parishes, hospitals and community organizations offer support groups for you to participate in. These groups provide the opportunity for you to gather with members of the community to gain strength and find solace from one another.

Details and contact information on available groups, special events and workshops can be found on our website at <http://www.holyroodcemetery.org/Bereavement.html>.

Information available on the website includes:

- Bereavement Support Groups with meeting dates
- Weekly and Monthly Bereavement Support Groups
- Support Groups/Programs for Children
- Special Programs, Conferences, Masses, and Retreats for the Bereaved
- Other Programs Available as Needed

Additional resources can be found at the website of the Office of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Rockville Centre at <http://www.drvc-faith.org/bereavement.html>

Locate A Loved One?

Visit Our Mobile Website

Just scan the QR code below on your phone or type in the URL



<http://m.holyroodcemetery.org>



To find a loved one online, type search.holyroodcemetery.org in your web browser. You can also visit our website and click on any page where it states: "**Locate a Loved One?**"

Have a special photo? Wish to add an image or a memorial story to the online record?

Families may choose to have an image of their loved one added to the directory so that it is displayed along with their burial location information. Families can also add a memorial story, along with up to 5 additional photos, in order to commemorate their loved one. Catholic Cemeteries provides these memorial services at **no cost** to families.

Photos and stories can be uploaded to the online record directly by family members. Stories will be reviewed for approval by Catholic Cemeteries prior to being published. Please contact the cemetery office for more information.

Did You Know?

Instruction from Pope Francis restates the doctrinal and pastoral reasons for the Church's burial preference for the remains of the faithful. The Church continues to prefer the practice of burying the bodies of the deceased because this shows a greater esteem towards the departed.



Nevertheless, cremation is not prohibited unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian faith. Cremated remains of the faithful departed should not be scattered, or kept in one's home, nor should they be divided among family members. When cremation of the body has been chosen, the human cremated remains of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, such as a cemetery. This helps to ensure that due respect is shown to the faithful departed and that they are included in the prayers and remembrance of their family and the Catholic community.



e-Newsletter

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Sacred Places

Vol. 28 No. 1
Spring 2017

Preparation for Spring

Rev. 21:5 (NAB)

"And he who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new. Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true."

Each winter season on Long Island causes multiple challenges for our dedicated field crews that inevitably take time to remedy. Whenever a burial occurs during the very cold weather, the site cannot be properly "dressed" until the spring thaw. Dressing a burial site includes a number of steps. The first is to tamp the site to ensure the soil has settled sufficiently. After tamping, we level the site with topsoil and grass seed is applied. With burials during the cold winter, this dressing must wait for warmer weather. I know that this can cause some families a degree of distress. We want to assure you that with the warmer weather, the men will be very busy taking care of all those winter burials properly. We ask for your understanding.

Winter also causes other problems that will cause a delay in repairing. Twigs, sticks, and the like become scattered across our lawn areas and much similar to your own yard, it takes a while until everything becomes green and new again. On Sunday April 16, we will rejoice at the Lord's resurrection, the center of our faith. Christians

Join us for Mass

Westbury NY - Cemetery of the Holy Rood,
Holy Rood Chapel Mausoleum
Central Islip NY – Queen of All Saints Cemetery,
Garden & Chapel Mausoleum
Coram NY – Holy Sepulchre Cemetery,
Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel & Garden Mausoleum

[Mass times & dates](http://www.holyroodcemetery.org) are listed at [holyroodcemetery.org](http://www.holyroodcemetery.org)

joyously recall that in Christ Jesus, we have hope for the future and all things will be made new. So too our cemeteries.

Please let us know if an issue needs addressing. You may have a maintenance request generated over the telephone by calling the cemetery Customer Service Representatives or by logging on to our website, www.holyroodcemetery.org. On the home page, click on the word "Information" and you will find "Maintenance Requests" where you can advise us of the problem. Either way, we will do our utmost to rectify your problem. May the warmth of the 'Son' shine on you always.

Deacon Al Pickford, Customer Service Manager 631.732.3460 x 1227
apickford@holysepulchrecemetery.org

Choose Annual Plants Wisely

If you're thinking of an annual that will thrive in intense sun, heat and is very drought resistant, once established, vinca may be your best bet. Vinca is often mistaken for impatiens.

It's important to know your planting area. Certain annuals do better than others in shade, southern exposures and amount of waterfall. Once you're familiar with the conditions affecting your plot or home garden, you'll be able to pick plants that will adorn an area with minimal effort on your part. Of course, if you are a frequent visitor at the cemetery and can devote the time and care to water, your options for planting and plant survival are greater. To become more familiar with annuals that may work best for you, consult a salesperson at your local nursery, or visit the web [click here](#)

Prepared – Andreas Zielinski, Cemetery Manager – Catholic Cemeteries
azielinski@holyroodcemetery.org 516.334.7990 x 1111



Order Now at: holyroodcemetery.org



Order Easter Lilies, Mother's Day and Father's Day Plants

Order Now at: holyroodcemetery.org



Order Palm Crosses, Mother's Day and Father's Day Plants

Spring Decoration Program

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 order form to the right and mail it with your check as soon as possible.



- Orders are placed and then delivered to the family gravesite 1 week before holiday.
- If flowers are to be kept, families should plant at lot or remove their flowers 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.
- 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

2017: Mother's Day # of Plants _____

2017: 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**

Why are some things allowed and other items a problem?

[Click here for additional information](#)



**Thank you for supporting the
Catholic Cemeteries
Mother's Day and Father's Day
Chapel Plant and Gravesite Floral Programs.**

Why Choose a Catholic Cemetery?

A cemetery is a history of people, a perpetual record of yesterday, and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering — always.

To remember and be remembered are natural human needs. Throughout history, we have memorialized our dead. It has been an important tradition in every culture. The Washington Monument, Tomb of the Unknowns, and Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C. are examples that demonstrate our need to honor our dead.

Recently, society's view of death, dying and the process of bereavement has been changing. The rise in cremation and alternate forms of ritual surrounding our deceased has presented many more options than before. Sometimes, practical factors such as cost have overridden the inherent need to have a physical place for surviving loved ones to grieve.

There is no wrong choice in deciding how you or a loved one would like to be remembered. Consider the following reasons why our Catholic cemetery may be the right choice for you or a loved one.



Photo – Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Westbury NY

A peaceful place for families & friends

We often think of cemeteries as a place that holds the remains of our community's deceased. But cemeteries, more than anything, function as places for the living. They are a place where both families and friends can go to grieve or just spend a few moments remembering someone special. Psychologists say that ritual and remembrance practices, including having a place for permanent memorialization, help survivors find closure and allow the healing process to begin. Because of the natural beauty of a cemetery with its grass, trees and flowers, it serves as a sanctuary where people can go to reflect, contemplate, and sit with nature.

Sacred, protected grounds

Cemeteries are considered sacred grounds and they are protected by the law. A cemetery cannot be sold or built upon without careful consideration. When a deceased person is placed in a cemetery, their remains are protected. Communities afford respect to cemeteries and to the memorialization which cemeteries provide. In order to protect interment rights holders, strict rules govern the use of cemetery lands. Graves are normally considered to be sold in perpetuity which restricts possible re-development.

Ongoing maintenance and care

When a cemetery runs out of land, it continues to operate and serve the community. Since more and more individuals and families are purchasing their graves in advance, graves which have been sold will be opened when a death occurs, markers will be placed and other services will be provided. Most states, including New York, have laws that require funds to be set aside from each sale for the long-term care and maintenance of the cemetery.

Why a Catholic cemetery?

We live our lives following Catholic traditions, conducting our lives as Catholic Christians. We come together weekly as a worship community with our families and friends. We are asked to inter our loved ones within a Catholic cemetery, within the worship community where they have spent their lives. Hence, the Catholic cemetery symbolizes the extended community of believers unbroken by death. The Catholic cemetery serves the faithful and witnesses to the entire world the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Catholic Beliefs & Funeral Rites

The long-standing funeral and cemetery tradition of the Catholic church flows from fundamental tenets of the Catholic faith, i.e. the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the dignity of each human person, the importance of baptism into the faith, the promise of Jesus that one day we will also share eternal life, the value and need to pray for the dead, and the celebration of the Eucharist as the great act of memory and thanksgiving for redemption.

Death is rightly celebrated within a parish community where the bereaved find comfort, community, and strength in the Eucharist that is celebrated for them on behalf of their deceased relative or friend. The church provides the Order of Christian Funerals as the proper and fitting way for the death of a Catholic to be observed.

The church offers the Vigil, usually observed as a wake for the deceased in the funeral home. The Mass of Christian Burial is celebrated for the deceased in the company of family, friends, and the parish community at the parish church. Following the celebration of the funeral liturgy, it is proper that the Committal Rite and Farewell take place in a Catholic cemetery.

The Catholic Cemeteries program is committed to helping families at the time of the death of a loved one and that commitment continues long after the committal prayers conclude.

A Place of Prayer, Hope and Consolation

A cemetery is a place of prayer, of hope and of consolation.

By calling it a place of prayer, we say that it is a holy place: a place where we can reflect, ponder, be in silence with the Lord, and share with God our deepest thoughts and feelings. It is a place of individual and communal prayer: we often come together in such places to pray with others. When the mortal remains of someone are committed here, people unite and pray together. A Catholic cemetery always beckons us to prayer.

A cemetery is also a place of hope. It expresses our belief in eternal life won for us by Jesus. Paul says that just as we have been baptized into the death of Jesus, so we will be joined to him in his resurrection. In a Catholic cemetery we affirm that we are a people of hope and that our hopes rest on what Jesus did for us in his death and resurrection. So even as we tend with care the graves of our loved ones, we know that the grave is not the end.

A cemetery is a place of consolation. When we come here we may be grief stricken; we may be burdened by the weight of sorrow – and that is actually a good thing, because grief is the flip side of love. No wonder Jesus told us blessed are those who mourn: for to mourn is a sign of having loved and having been loved. If we believe in God and the life of eternity then even when we mourn, we do so secure in the knowledge of God's goodness and love. Grief is lightened when we can share it with others; whether that happens informally or formally, we are stronger when we pull together. So when our faith in the Lord is strong, we will be ready to turn our grief over to him. He doesn't promise to remove it but he does promise that he can lighten our load.

A cemetery is not simply a lovely park or a manicured garden. For us, **it is always a place of prayer, hope and consolation.** It is holy ground. It is a place of blessing and of God's presence.

Mausoleum Candle Votive and Memorial Stands

Catholic Cemeteries' staff is in the process of refurbishing the candle stands in our chapels and mausoleums, starting with our candle stands at Cemetery of The Holy Rood. Below is a photo showing one of the candle stands before and after refurbishment.



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."

For more information on the Candle Memorial options offered by Catholic Cemeteries, please visit our website: <http://www.holyroodcemetery.org/candle-memorial.html>

Stations of the Cross

We invite you to join us on **Good Friday, April 14th, 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 Cemetery of the Holy Rood 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.



Chicken Soup for the Bereaved Soul



Many of us have heard it and many of us have said it as we depart friends and family after an interment: "If you need anything, just call me."

Whether it's meant sincerely or just spoken because it's the "appropriate" thing to say, very few bereaved people will take you up on your offer.

After the loss of a loved one, there are so many emotions that come into play. Physical and emotional needs are easily neglected. Often our basic need for proper nutrition is ignored. Eating alone is no fun. What's the point of cooking for one person? Who cares if I eat chips and a Kit Kat bar for dinner?

Sharing a meal has long been a means of bringing people together. Family gatherings, social events, celebrating occasions, even post interment luncheons and dinners serve to cohesively bond the group and offer comfort to the bereaved. The most depicted scene of gathering for a meal is Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper.

I have been blessed with a neighbor showing up at the door with a warm home cooked meal. It was unannounced and completely unexpected. Okay, you're not a culinary expert, how about a card with a gift certificate for a restaurant and a note that you are going together for lunch/dinner at a mutually convenient time?

Don't let your good deed end with this one event. Suggest meeting at each other's houses for meals from time to time. Ask the bereaved person to go shopping with you. Invite them to a movie or a show.

Being Catholic means we are part of a community. Help those in your community who are in need. "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you do to the least of these brothers or sisters, you do to me.'" – Matthew 25:40.

Andreas Zielinski, Cemetery Manager

**Cemetery grounds open every day (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**

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 [Mass 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 every day from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
Offices closed noon Saturdays and on Sundays*

Forms and Documents

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

[Bouquet holders for Gravesite flowers?](#)

[Cemetery Donation Programs?](#)

Organization – Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre (“Catholic Cemeteries”) include the accounts of The Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, and Queen of All Saints Cemetery. Catholic Cemeteries is a part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre (The “Diocese”) which is under the control of the Diocesan Ordinary.

Catholic Cemeteries is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and a similar provision of the New York State Income tax laws.

Transparency - [The Financial Statements](#)

Schedules

[Cemetery Chapel Masses](#)

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

[Seasonal Decorations and Planting](#)

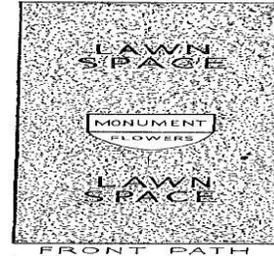
Have You Moved?

It's important to keep your current address on file in case you have to be contacted for any reason

[Change of Address Form](#)

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?

[Seasonal Decorations & Planting Schedule](#)

For a more in-depth explanation of grave decorations and planting rules and regulations, please visit the following link:

[Decorations FAQs](#)

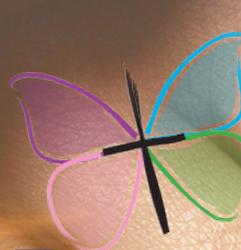
Memorial Day Masses

Memorial Day Mass celebration on **Monday, May 29, 2017**

11:00 AM Cemetery of the Holy Rood (Holy Rood Chapel)

11:00 AM Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel)

12 noon Queen of All Saints Cemetery and Saint John of God Cemetery - Field Mass



Journeying Together in Times of Pain and Loss Bereavement Conference

For the Bereaved and those Ministering to Them

Saturday, March 25, 2017

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Parish

39 N.Carll Ave.,

Babylon, NY 11702

Conference Schedule

- 8:30 **Registration**
Coffee and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 **Welcome – Introductions**
Opening Prayer
- 9:30 **Keynote Presentation**
Dr. Kerriane Page
*Chief Medical Officer Hospice,
Palliative Care & Home Care Services
Catholic Health Services of Long Island*
- 11:00 **Workshop I**
(choose one workshop)
- 12:15 **Lunch**
- 1:15 **Workshop II**
(choose one workshop)

Keynote Address: The Health Effects of Bereavement

Dr. Kerriane Page
Chief Medical Officer Hospice,
Palliative Care & Home Care
Services Catholic Health Services of Long Island
Dr. Page has 20 years of experience as a medical
director and clinician with expertise in enhancing
the care of people dealing with a serious and
life-limiting illness. She joined Catholic Health
Services in 2012, and is responsible for the
medical component of Good Shepherd Hospice's
patient care program, Palliative Care Consultation
Services in several CHS hospitals, and serves as
the Medical Director for Catholic Home Care, the
health system's certified home health agency.



Workshops will include topics on

Finding Forgiveness in Time of Grief | Grief as a Family |
Grieving Teenagers | Management of Perinatal Loss | Men
and Grief | Bereavement Group Facilitation | Dealing with
Loss Due to Suicide | and more

All faiths are welcome!

For more info and to register, visit www.drvc-faith.org/bereavement
Or call 516-678-5800 ext. 506

Sponsored by the Diocese of Rockville Centre Office of Faith Formation and Catholic Cemeteries



"Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4