

For Immediate Release

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island to Welcome Public Back to Traditional All Souls Day Masses

~ Families of departed loved ones can attend in-person Masses at Cemetery of the Holy Rood in Westbury, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Coram, and Queen of All Saints Cemetery in Central Islip on Tuesday, Nov. 2 ~

Westbury, NY; October 26, 2021 – All Souls Day is a day where many family members visit and attend Mass to remember loved ones who have passed on in prior years. Traditionally, each year on All Souls Day, Bishops and/or priests from the Diocese of Rockville Centre have celebrated Masses at Cemetery of the Holy Rood in Westbury, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Coram, and Queen of All Saints Cemetery in Central Islip. Families look forward to this opportunity to pray together as they remember their loved ones laid to rest at these cemeteries. Due to the pandemic, sadly, these Masses were not held in 2020. However, for 2021, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island announced today that All Souls Day masses will return and all families are welcome to attend. Each Mass this year will be presided over by a Bishop from the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

“This is an important day for families and friends, especially since we could not host our All Souls Day Masses last year. The Masses held on All Souls Day provide hope and comfort to families across Long Island who are mourning a loss. Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island remains committed to providing access to our cemeteries and offering masses as well as other opportunities to pray, reflect and remember those who have passed, especially those who have passed over the past two years during the pandemic,” stated Richard C. Bie, President and CEO of Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island.

The All Souls Day Masses take place at each site, simultaneously, on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

The following Bishops will preside:

- Cemetery of the Holy Rood Chapel, Westbury – Presided by Bishop William Murphy
- Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Chapel, Coram – Presided by Bishop Robert Coyle
- Queen of All Saints Cemetery (outdoor tent), Central Islip – Presided by Bishop Luis Romero

Link to Mass Schedule: <https://cclongisland.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Mass-Event-Schedule-Oct-Dec-2021.pdf>

During 2020, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island remained open throughout the pandemic, accommodating all burial requests in a timely and respectful manner (even while interring up to approximately three times the typical number of requests) while successfully meeting the challenges regarding health and safety protocols. Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island's staff and Deacons provided caring and respectful graveside services at a time when many churches were unable to conduct funeral masses.

In addition, Christmas remembrance Masses and Christmas ornament blessings will return. Families will have the opportunity hang special ornaments on Christmas trees, to remember friends and loved ones who have passed.

For additional information about Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island, including the "Decoration Program", please visit www.CCLongIsland.org.

Dedicated to meeting both the spiritual and physical needs of the more than 1.4 million Catholics across Long Island, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island owns and operates four cemeteries across Long Island, including Cemetery of the Holy Rood in Westbury, NY, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Coram, NY, Queen of All Saints Cemetery in Central Islip, NY, and Queen of Peace Cemetery in Old Westbury, NY. Queen of Peace is the first new Catholic cemetery to open on Long Island in decades. The chapel at Queen of Peace Cemetery is under construction at this time and is expected to be completed and open to visitors by the summer of 2022.

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About Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island exists to meet the needs of individuals and parishes throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY in preparation for, at the time of, and following the death of a loved one. Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island owns and operates four cemeteries across Long Island including Cemetery of the Holy Rood in Westbury, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Coram, Queen of All Saints Cemetery in Central Islip and Queen of Peace Cemetery in Old Westbury. At our cemeteries, we attend to both the spiritual and physical needs of the families we serve - from the physical burial of their dead to emotional support for the difficult loss of separation. We attempt to maintain a beautiful and comforting setting where a family can come to remember and memorialize their loved one. We also support parish bereavement groups for families as well as assist with a bereavement conference. Finally, we attend to financial matters to assure that funds are available to care for cemeteries now and in distant future. Most importantly we attend to spiritual needs of the families we serve. We do this through our Saturday masses and other liturgical celebrations throughout the year. Catholic cemeteries are "Sacred places" and are given a special blessing to highlight their sacred character. For more information please visit www.CCLongIsland.org