



SACRED PLACES

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A Sacred Milestone: Consecration of Queen of Peace Chapel

On Sunday, November 5, 2023, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island celebrated a significant milestone with the formal dedication of the Chapel at Queen of Peace Cemetery in Old Westbury. The Consecration Mass of Queen of Peace Chapel was celebrated by Bishop John O. Barres. Concelebrating with Bishop Barres was Father Eric Fasano, Father John J. McCartney, Father Michael Duffy, Father Brandon O'Brien, Father Alessandro da Luz and Rev. Msgr. John Bracken. Deacon Christopher P. Quinn, five seminarians, and several members of the Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island staff assisted at the Mass, with music provided by a quartet directed by Mary Rose Gallipeau.

A Consecration Mass is a truly monumental and sacred event which signifies the Chapel's dedication to the worship of God. More than 200 Catholic faithful attended this special Mass. Attendees included the management team, Board of Directors, and staff members of Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island; Catholic Cemetery Conference President Mary Jo Frick; and the architects and key contractors who designed and built the Chapel and other structures on the cemetery property over the past three years.

During the Introductory Rites of the Mass, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island President/CEO Richard Bie presented Bishop Barres with a special gift, a book containing the history of the Old Westbury property and construction of the Chapel. The book detailed the great care that was taken to ensure the Chapel's features were fitting and appropriate as the centerpiece of the cemetery, highlighting the contractors involved in the construction and the numerous items that were accumulated from other sources for inclusion in the chapel, including the altar, stained glass windows, pews, statues, and Stations of the Cross. After this presentation, Bishop Barres sprinkled the walls of the chapel, the altar, and all those in attendance with Holy Water.



During the homily, Bishop Barres said, "The liturgical actions, the signs and symbols involved in the dedication of Queen of Peace Cemetery Chapel and the consecration of this altar speak so powerfully and so deeply," with his homily serving as "a commentary on the beautiful liturgical actions, signs, and symbols that we celebrate and that reach the body and soul, the logic of our Catholic sacramental theology in such a beautiful and moving way."

During the Dedication of the Chapel and Altar, Bishop Barres enshrined a relic of Saint Maria Goretti in the new altar table. Bishop Barres anointed the altar with chrism and lit incense on the altar table. The walls of the Chapel were also anointed, followed by incensation of the altar and chapel. Once this was completed, Committal Deacons from Catholic Cemeteries wiped the oil from the altar, with four employees of Catholic Cemeteries vesting the altar. After the dedication of the chapel and altar was complete, Bishop Barres consecrated the gifts into the Body and Blood of Christ which was then shared in Queen of Peace Chapel for the first time.



The full Consecration Mass can be viewed online at CCLongisland.org/queen-of-peace. With the consecration complete, the Chapel is **now officially open**, with families welcome to visit between **8:00 AM to 4:30 PM each day**. The Chapel may be used for committal services, with monthly Masses scheduled in Queen of Peace Chapel.

NEW! Cremation Garden of Angels with Columbaria

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island is pleased to announce the addition of its "**Cremation Garden of Angels**" sections at **Cemetery of the Holy Rood**, **Queen of All Saints Cemetery**, and **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery**. In the first phase of each cremation garden, a new columbarium has been installed with niches **now available** for families to consider.

These cremation niches can accommodate **1 or 2 urns**, depending on the size of the urn. In addition to a bronze crucifix and sandblasted inscription, niche fronts may be memorialized with bronze emblems and stainless steel portraits. Each garden is dedicated to a specific Archangel:

Cemetery of the Holy Rood in Westbury

- **Saint Michael the Archangel** Cremation Garden
- Located on the northwest corner of Section 7



Queen of All Saints Cemetery in Central Islip

- **Saint Gabriel the Archangel** Cremation Garden
- Located between Queen of All Saints Garden Chapel Mausoleum and Annunciation Garden Mausoleum



Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Coram

- **Saint Raphael the Archangel** Cremation Garden
- Located north of Section 11 in close proximity to The Risen Christ Meditation Garden



The Cremation Garden of Angels at each location serves to expand the options for cremated remains to be committed at our Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island. In addition to these new columbaria, families may choose the following options for cremated remains:

- **Glass front niches** and **marble/granite niches** inside large community mausoleums
- **Granite front niches** in outdoor garden mausoleums
- Dedicated **cremation graves**
- Option of including cremated remains in all of our general **in-ground burial plots**

Families may select a space "**at need**" when a loved one has just passed or "**pre-need**" to lock-in their final resting spot now, relieving their loved ones of the burden to make such decisions at the time of interment. In addition, we welcome you to now bring in loved ones who were previously cremated but not yet committed and laid to rest.

Please call any of our four sites today and make an appointment to come in and explore the options to determine the one right for you and your family.

IMPORTANT DATES: UPCOMING EVENTS, HOLIDAYS, AND CLEANUPS

- ♦ **Saturday, December 2, 2023:** Christmas Ornament Masses (See **Page 4**)
- ♦ **Monday, December 25, 2023 – Christmas Day:** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Monday, January 1, 2024 – New Year's Day:** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Monday, January 8, 2024:** Removal of Christmas Trees from Chapels, **Cleanup of Mausoleum Benches/Areas**
- ♦ **Monday, January 15, 2024 – Martin Luther King Jr Day:** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Tuesday January 16, 2024: Full Cleanup of All Gravesites** (See **Pages 4-6** for more information)

Holiday Decoration Program for 2023-2024

Have you placed your decoration orders for the upcoming holidays? Families may place decoration orders on our website for **Christmas (December 2023)**, **Easter (March 2024)**, **Mother's Day (May 2024)**, and **Father's Day (June 2024)**.

See below for the decoration options available for both gravesites and our mausoleum chapels. For chapel decorations, the name of your loved one will be listed in a memorial book placed in the chapel. To place an order online, visit CCLongIsland.org and click on **Holiday Decoration Program** from the top menu ([or click here](#)). To begin your order, select the cemetery in which your loved one is interred to view the decoration options and add items to your cart. When ordering decorations for gravesites, please make sure to enter the correct plot location (Section-Range-Plot) of your loved one. If you are unsure of the exact grave location, please use our [Locate a Loved One search tool](#) to obtain that information.

GRAVE DECORATIONS



Christmas Blanket or Pillow



Easter Palm Cross



**Mother's Day
Potted Plant**



**Father's Day
Potted Plant**

CHAPEL DECORATIONS



Christmas Poinsettia



Easter Lily



**Mother's Day
Chapel Plant**



**Father's Day
Chapel Plant**

Please note:

- Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island reserves the right to substitute decorations of a similar quality and nature, based on vendor availability. For Mother's Day and Father's Day plants, the floral color and exact mix of flowers and containers may vary.

Christmas Ornament Masses

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island welcomes all families to attend our traditional **Christmas Ornament Masses** this December. As part of the celebration of the Mass, family members will be invited to bring an ornament to be placed on one of the trees in the Chapel.

Ornament Mass Date & Time

Saturday, December 2nd at 9:30 AM

Ornament Mass Locations

Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Westbury

Queen of Peace Cemetery, Old Westbury

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Coram

Queen of All Saints Cemetery, Central Islip

If you are unable to attend the Ornament Mass, we welcome you to place your ornament on one of the chapel trees at any other time you are visiting the cemeteries. For those planning to place an ornament, please remember that our chapels are public places so we recommend an ornament that can be easily replaced, if necessary.



Ornaments will remain on the trees throughout the Christmas season. Families wishing to retrieve their ornaments should pick them up from the cemetery **by Sunday, January 7, 2024**. Trees will be removed from the chapels on January 8th.

Saturday Masses

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island celebrates Masses on select Saturdays each month at **Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Queen of Peace Cemetery, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, and Queen of All Saints Cemetery**. Each Mass is celebrated in remembrance of those laid to rest in our cemeteries during the previous month or during the one year anniversary month.

Masses are open to all who would like to attend and pray with us. Please visit CCLongIsland.org to view the current Mass schedule at each of our cemeteries.

Cemetery Cleanups in January

On **Monday, January 8, 2024**, cemetery staff will remove the Christmas trees from our cemetery chapels. At this time, cemetery staff will also **remove all decorations from the chapels and mausoleum buildings**, including any items (Christmas trees, etc) that have been placed on floral tables.

Cemetery staff will be completing a **full cleanup** of our cemeteries beginning **Tuesday, January 16, 2024**. In addition to removing all Christmas decorations, cemetery staff will **remove and discard all items** from gravesites that are not permitted per the cemetery's rules and regulations. **As a reminder, the only items permitted year-round on graves are flowers and flags; all other items will be removed.** Please refer to **Pages 5 and 6** of this newsletter for full details on the cemetery's decoration guidelines.

Due to the volume of items being removed during the cleanup, **it is not possible to make arrangements to have families claim items once they have been removed.** Families are requested to remove any placed items that they wish to save by Monday, January 15th. We kindly ask that families refrain from placing any prohibited items back on graves after the cleanup is completed.

The cemetery's rules and regulations play an important part in the beautification and preservation of the sacred resting place of the faithful departed. They are intended not as restraining, but rather as defining an orderly plan of operation, care, and permanent maintenance.

Below are links to some important documents which cover Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island's decoration guidelines, along with additional cemetery rules and regulations. In addition to the decorations permitted year-round, families may place holiday decorations on graves at certain times throughout the year. Please refer to the holiday decoration placement schedule for the dates on when these decorations may be placed and when they should be picked up.

[Cemetery Planting & Decoration Guidelines](#)

[2024 Holiday Decoration Placement Schedule](#)

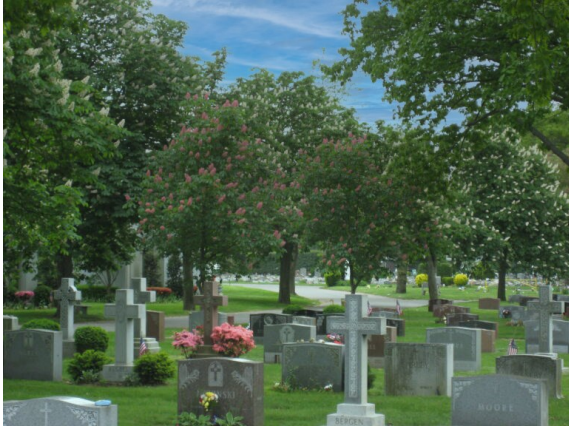
[Overview of Cemetery Rules & Regulations](#)

Thank you for entrusting Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island with the care of your loved ones. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in following these rules and regulations. Should you have any questions, please contact the cemetery office.

Planting & Decoration Guidelines FAQ

It is important to be mindful of our cemeteries' rules and regulations for planting and decorations. They are intended not as restraining, but rather as defining an orderly plan of operation, care and permanent maintenance.

We have compiled the most frequent questions we are asked regarding decorations at our cemeteries. Please review the next two pages for the answers to these questions. We hope this is helpful and provides greater understanding of our rules and why they exist.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Generally, what items are permitted on graves?

The following items are typically permitted on graves:

- Annual flowers planted in a semi-circle of 18" in front of monument (not permitted for flat marker sections)
- Fresh flowers in a permitted vase or bouquet holder.
- Artificial flowers placed in an approved container in winter months (November 1 until one week after Easter).

Note: Artificial flowers are **permitted year-round at Holy Sepulchre** due to the cemetery's deer population.

- Flags which must not exceed **12" x 16"**. Up to 2 flags are permitted, but **one must be an American flag**.
- Potted plants and seasonal decorations per the holiday schedule published by cemetery (link below)

Below are links to important documents which cover our cemetery rules and regulations.

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

[Cemetery Rules & Regulations - Overview](#)

[Seasonal Planting & Decoration Schedule](#)

What items are **never** permitted on graves?

Any item not listed in the previous section is **not permitted** to be placed on graves, **including but not limited to:**

Statues	Stones/Rocks/Pebbles
Shells/Marble Chips	Borders/edging
Mulch	Perennials
Glass jars/vases	Balloons
Plaques/markers	Vigil lights (flame or solar)
Wooden crosses	Rosary beads
Pinwheels	Banners
Bottles	Toys
Pictures	Bric-a-brac

Why do these rules exist? Why can't I put any items I want in the 18" planting area in front of the headstone?

Items placed on graves can cause potential safety concerns and/or monument damage when caught up in equipment. In addition, placed items can impede day-to-day cemetery work. For example, when opening a grave, items on adjacent graves need to be removed before work can be completed. Items placed also move outside of the planting area over time due to weather or ongoing activity within the cemetery.

Why can't I place rocks on top of monuments/markers?

Rocks, stones, and coins can become dangerous projectiles that get caught up in lawn mowers and line trimmers; they can seriously injure visitors or cemetery workers and cause damage to monuments or car windows. Separately, placing rocks can also cause permanent damage and discoloration to the monument as they release elements that penetrate below the surface of the granite and become bleached by the sun.



Please don't leave rocks, coins, or other items on top of monuments! They will be removed and discarded.

Can I plant a bush/shrub on my plot either in front of or next to my monument?

Bushes or shrubs are only permitted on plots having **three graves or more**. They must be planted on the **side** of the monument, cannot extend more than 14" in front of or behind the monument, must not encroach on other plots, and must adhere to height restrictions listed in our rules. Bushes and shrubs are **never permitted** on single graves, double graves, or in any flat marker section.

Decoration FAQ Continued on Next Page

Planting & Decoration Guidelines FAQ (Continued)

Decorations were removed during a recent cleanup. Can I retrieve them?

Cemetery staff removes and discards any items that are not permitted per the cemetery's rules and regulations. Due to the volume of items being removed during cleanups, it is not possible to make arrangements to have families claim items once they have been removed. Because of this, we kindly ask that families refrain from placing any prohibited items, particularly items of value or importance, on gravesites.

Decorations were removed from my grave, but I see the same types of items on another grave. Why did you only remove my items?

While our cemetery staff makes every effort to enforce our rules and regulations uniformly, it is possible that certain violations were missed during a cleanup. In other instances, items may have been placed by families after our staff completed the cleanup of that section.

When are violations removed from graves?

The cemetery completes scheduled cleanups after holidays throughout the year ([Seasonal Planting & Decoration Schedule](#)). During cleanups, the staff removes holiday-specific decorations, and if time permits, they will also remove any violations. However, it is important to note the following:

- If an item is not removed during a cleanup, this does **not** mean that the item is acceptable. The staff may have been focused solely on holiday decorations during the cleanup due to other field priorities at the time.
- **Separate from the cleanup schedule, violations may be removed at any time without notice**, especially if items are a safety hazard or they interfere with cemetery work.

I placed flowers and flags which are permitted, yet they were removed. Why?

Because the cemeteries are open to the public, with thousands of visitors each year, we cannot guarantee plants and decorations from damage, theft, or disappearance. In addition to potential theft, items are often displaced due to the weather or wildlife. The cemetery reserves the right to remove and dispose of any decoration or planting when deemed as unsightly, in poor condition, or out of season.

No placed item, whether floral or otherwise, is considered permanent to the site. The cemetery may remove items at any time **without notice or compensation**, and the cemetery is not responsible for any damaged or missing items.

MAUSOLEUM DECORATION GUIDELINES

Community mausoleums require acts of sharing of common areas. With this in mind, the cemetery must restrict decorations to **designated floral tables only**. Below are important guidelines on what is permitted for crypt and niche locations.



Floral Tables

- Fresh flowers may be placed in the bouquet holders within the floral tables.
- Artificial bouquets may be placed from November 1 until one week after Easter (artificial flowers are permitted year-round at Holy Sepulchre).
- Tables are designated for placement of **flowers only**. **No other items** should be placed on these tables, including but not limited to cards, balloons, statues, pictures, Christmas trees, nativity sets, or other holiday decorations.
- The cemetery will **remove and discard** any objects that violate these regulations. Additionally, arrangements will be removed when they become unsightly or out of season.

General Guidelines

- The cemetery offers memorialization programs for our mausoleums, including bronze emblems, floral vase, memorial photos, and holiday decorations. Visit CCLongIsland.org for details.
- **No other decorations are permitted** in mausoleum buildings **at any time**:
 - ♦ Items are **not permitted** to be placed in front of crypts or niches.
 - ♦ Items are **not permitted** to be affixed to crypt or niche covers, as damage could occur.
- Any violations will be **removed and discarded without notice**. Crypt holder will be responsible for cleaning and repair charges for any damage due to affixing items to crypt or niche covers.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in following the cemetery's rules and regulations.

Adopting A Family for Thanksgiving

Last year, the Holy Sepulchre office and field staff banded together to adopt a family in need for Thanksgiving. Thanks to everyone's kindness and generosity, the staff was able to provide a family of six with a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with "all the fixins."

This year, the staff decided to adopt a family in honor of Deacon Al Pickford, former Associate Director of Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island. Christine Hahn, Assistant Customer Sales and Service Manager at Holy Sepulchre, reached out to Deacon Al's parish, St. Joseph the Worker in East Patchogue. The parish identified a family of nine that could use our assistance.

The staff took up a collection and then went shopping, gathering Thanksgiving staples such as potatoes, pasta, rice, stuffing, gravy. They also purchased cooking supplies, such as roasting pans and aluminum foil, and a gift card so the family could purchase a turkey and other perishables for Thanksgiving Day.



Thank you to employees at Holy Sepulchre for coming together to help a local family in need this Thanksgiving.

Cemetery New Hires

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HIRES! Please welcome the following employees who have joined Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island over the past seven months.

Cemetery of the Holy Rood

- **Jeffrey Schroeder**, Customer Sales & Service (October 2023)

Queen of Peace Cemetery

- **Mario Perez**, Semi-Skilled Field Worker (April 2023)

Queen of All Saints Cemetery

- **David Chicas**, Semi-Skilled Field Worker (October 2023)

Employee Anniversaries

The following employees celebrated significant milestones with Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island since April 2023. We thank them for their dedicated years of service!

20 Years of Service

- **Santos Polanco**, Assistant Irrigation Laborer at Holy Rood

15 Years of Service

- **Jose Benitez**, Skilled Field Worker at Queen of Peace
- **Carlos Penado**, Semi-Skilled Field Worker at Holy Rood

Stay Connected With Us!

In addition to visiting [CCLongIsland.org](https://www.cclongisland.org), we invite you to stay connected with Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island by joining our email list and following us on social media.

EMAIL LIST

Emails are sent each month in order to keep our families up to date with what is happening at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island. To join our email list, [click here](#) and complete the sign up form on our website, or contact the cemetery office to provide us with your email address.

SOCIAL MEDIA

You can find Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island on **Facebook** ([@CCLongIsland](#)), **Instagram** ([@cclongisland](#)) and **Twitter** ([@CathCemLI](#)). Follow us to stay connected and receive the latest news and updates, receive notifications on upcoming events, and view photos of our cemeteries. **Click on the links above** to access our social media pages.