



## SACRED PLACES

Vol. 34 No. 1

Spring 2023

### Crypts & Niches Now Available at Queen of Peace!



Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island is pleased to announce that we have opened up sales of **crypts and niches** at Queen of Peace Cemetery!

A total of ten mausoleum buildings surround our beautiful Chapel, which will be opening in the coming months. These garden mausoleums are named for **Pope Saint John Paul II, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Knock and Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)**.

Each building features several different crypt and niche space options to best meet your family's needs:

#### **Crypts**

- **Single Crypts** for one casket
- **True Companion Crypts** for two caskets
- **Side by Side Crypts** for two caskets

#### **Niches**

- **Select Niche** spaces for up to two urns
- **Family Niche** spaces for up to four urns



For those interested in traditional burial options, plots are available in Section 1 at Queen of Peace:

#### **Grave Plots**

- **Single Graves** for up to 3 caskets and 3 urns
- **Double Graves** for up to 6 caskets and 6 urns

Sales for crypts, niches, and graves at Queen of Peace are **by appointment only**. To schedule an appointment with one of our Customer Sales and Service Representatives, please call **(516) 434-2439** or email [QPinfo@CCLongIsland.org](mailto:QPinfo@CCLongIsland.org).



#### **MAIN ENTRANCE NOW OPEN!**

Families visiting Queen of Peace should access the cemetery via the **Jericho Turnpike entrance**, centrally located between Powells Lane and Hitchcock Lane.

## Stations of the Cross — Lent 2023

One of the most heavily-attended events at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island each year is the walking of the Stations of the Cross at Cemetery of the Holy Rood. Annually, hundreds of family members have gathered on Good Friday to follow a 1.5 mile route throughout Holy Rood to commemorate Our Lord's redemptive death.

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Stations of the Cross returned to Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island last year. This year, the Stations of the Cross prayer service will be celebrated at Holy Rood on **Good Friday, April 7th at 12:00 Noon.**



After opening prayers at Holy Rood Chapel, we will begin our pilgrimage through the cemetery, stopping at each of the 14 Stations to pray and reflect. The service will conclude with final prayers and Veneration of the Cross in the Chapel. If the weather is inclement, the full service will be held in the Chapel.

All are invited to our Stations of the Cross service on Good Friday. For those that may be unable to attend, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island will once again offer **two additional options** for families to prayerfully experience the Stations of the Cross at a time convenient to them:

### Self-Directed Stations of the Cross

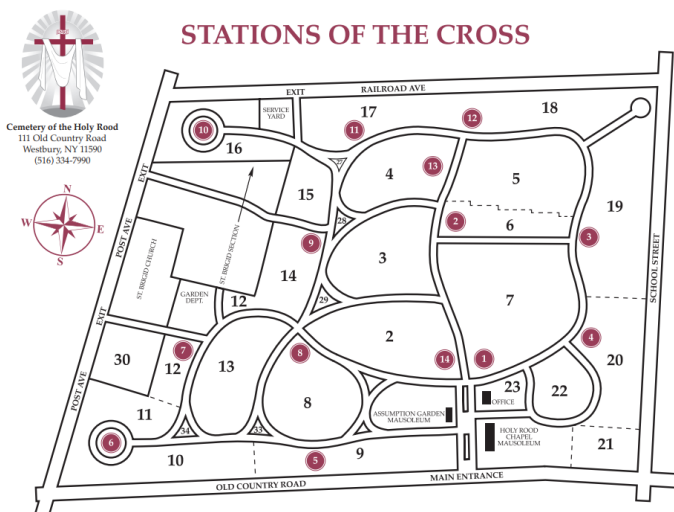
- Offered at Cemetery of the Holy Rood
- Available throughout Lent and open to all visitors
- Families may pick up a prayer booklet with map from Holy Rood Chapel before following the 1.5 mile route throughout the cemetery. Prayer booklet may also be downloaded from our website

### Virtual Stations of the Cross

- Video version of the prayer service allows families to participate in the Stations of the Cross remotely
- Prayer booklet may be downloaded from the website so families may pray the Stations of the Cross together with our deacons
- Video can be accessed on our website or via YouTube by clicking the image below



For full details on our Stations of the Cross offerings, please visit [CCLongIsland.org/stations-of-the-cross](https://CCLongIsland.org/stations-of-the-cross).





## Holiday Decoration Program for 2023

Have you placed your holiday decoration orders for 2023? Families may place holiday decoration orders on our website for the following holidays: **Easter (April 2023)**, **Mother's Day (May 2023)**, and **Father's Day (June 2023)**.

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](http://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



**Easter Palm Cross**



**Mother's Day  
Potted Plant**



**Father's Day  
Potted Plant**

### CHAPEL DECORATIONS



**Easter Lily**



**Mother's Day  
Chapel Plant**



**Father's Day  
Chapel Plant**

#### **Please note:**

- If you placed an order for an annual decoration package or for individual holiday decorations for Easter/Mother's Day/Father's Day when the decoration program opened up last Fall, there is no need to order for those holidays again.
- 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.

## 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 on 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 the 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 two flags are permitted, but **one must be an American flag**.
- Potted plants and seasonal decorations per the holiday schedule published by the 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*

### *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](http://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.**



## Cemetery Irrigation

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island maintains irrigation systems for our burial lawn grounds at Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, and Queen of All Saints Cemetery, with systems soon to be installed at Queen of Peace. These systems ensure a healthy lawn throughout most seasons of the year.

Our irrigation systems utilize on-site wells that account for 99% of the water used. This promotes growth and beautiful lawns at our cemeteries, since no chlorine or chemicals are added to the well water. Backflow devices at each cemetery prevent fertilizer and chemicals from seeping into the main pipe and water supply. These devices undergo yearly tests by licensed inspectors.

Below are answers to some questions frequently asked by cemetery visitors, particularly during the summer months. It is important to note that irrigation is **not** part of Permanent Maintenance, but rather an added benefit at the discretion of management to enhance the appearance of our cemeteries.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### *Why are my plants dry in front of the monument?*

Sprinkler heads are designed to place the maximum water in the lawn areas of the cemetery. They are not intended to water the area in front of the family monument at the gravesite. Any planting done within the allowable space in front of the monument needs to be maintained (watered and cared for) by the family.

#### *Why is the grass brown in some areas?*

**Brown grass is not dead, merely dormant.** Excessive sun, shade, fertilization, heat, and rain all contribute to lawn appearance. Brown grass is often due to summer heat followed by periods of deficit natural rain fall. The sprinkler systems are designed to establish new grass growth and maintain lawn appearance during normal weather, not to replace nature's watering.



#### *Why was the lawn sprinkler on during the day at my last gravesite visit?*

Lawn sprinklers are tested weekly during irrigation season. The staff isolates a particular zone or zones and tests system components. Frequent inspections are necessary for many reasons.



## Grave Programs and Services

### MONUMENT CLEANING SERVICES

A clean monument enhances the natural qualities of the granite and adds to the overall beauty of a well-kept cemetery. Our staff is knowledgeable on the cleaning products necessary to remove different types of stains.



Pricing for this service is determined by monument size. Please note that monument cleaning services are only available during the months of May through October. To request cleaning service on your monument, please contact the cemetery office or complete the [Maintenance Request Form](#) on our website.

### SHRUB AND BUSH MAINTENANCE

A well-maintained, balanced shrub or bush enhances the natural qualities of the plant, adds to the overall beauty of the family plot and compliments the monument. With regular maintenance throughout the growing season, early detection of growth-related problems is possible. A treated bush can be saved when early detection occurs.



Pricing starts at **\$60** per shrub/bush trimmed or removed. To request service, please contact the cemetery office or complete the [Maintenance Request Form](#) on our website.

### GRAVESITE BOUQUET HOLDERS

Aluminum bouquet holders are the perfect place for floral arrangements and are a lasting and beautiful memorial tribute. Available for use at most in-ground burial sites, these bouquet holders come in two parts: the holder and the insert. The insert should be inverted when not in use to prevent filling with water, which attracts breeding mosquitoes.



Bouquet holders are **\$65** and can be [purchased online](#) or at the cemetery office.

## Cemetery New Hires

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

### Cemetery of the Holy Rood

- **Joseph Manzolilo**, Mechanic (Dec 2022)
- **Angela Pittman**, Part-Time Receptionist (March 2023)

### Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

- **Milton Treadwell**, Semi-Skilled Field Worker (March 2023)
- **Stephanie Ramirez**, Customer Sales & Service (April 2023)

### Queen of Peace Cemetery

- **Erika Viscovich**, Part-Time Receptionist (Dec 2022)

## Employee Anniversaries

The following employees celebrated significant milestones with Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island in the first quarter of 2023. We thank them for their dedicated years of service!

### 25 Years of Service

- **Frank Pascarella**, Assistant Superintendent at Holy Rood and Queen of Peace

### 20 Years of Service

- **Ann Carey**, Data Entry Clerk at Holy Rood
- **James Brosnan**, Customer Sales & Service Manager at Holy Rood

### 15 Years of Service

- **Luis Cruz**, Skilled Field Worker at Holy Rood
- **Marvin Rodriguez**, Skilled Field Worker at Queen of All Saints

### 10 Years of Service

- **Christine Haddigan**, Senior Customer Sales & Service Representative at Queen of Peace
- **Roberto Torres**, Semi-Skilled Field Worker at Holy Rood
- **Santiago Sandoval**, Semi-Skilled Field Worker at Holy Rood

## Rest in Peace

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island lost an important member of our family on March 3, 2023 with the sudden passing of **Deacon Al Pickford**.

Deacon Al assisted Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island with our mission full-time from 2013 until his retirement in January 2021. Deacon Al managed aspects of customer service, field operations, and parish cemetery support in various roles before being promoted to Assistant Director and then Associate Director of



Operations of our cemeteries. Upon his retirement, Deacon Al remained involved with Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island, providing comfort to families through his role as a committal deacon for our Suffolk cemeteries.

During his time with Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island, Deacon Al touched the lives of everyone he came in contact with, from the families he assisted to his co-workers. We will miss our friend dearly, but his legacy and words of wisdom and comfort will remain with us.

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island also mourned the passing of two other members of our family over the past year: **Deacon Peter Acquaro** and **Deacon Anthony (Tony) Banno**.

Both Deacon Peter and Deacon Tony served as committal deacons with Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island. Deacon Peter assisted with committal services in our Suffolk County cemeteries (Holy Sepulchre, Queen of All Saints, and managed parishes) from May 2017 until his passing on March 26, 2022, while Deacon Tony served families at Holy Rood from December 2017 until he was called to the Lord on October 20, 2022.

**May Deacon Al, Deacon Peter, and Deacon Tony  
all rest in peace.**

## Adopting Families for the Holidays

This past holiday season, the staff at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery wanted to do something for the less fortunate. Catherine Horgan, a Customer Sales and Service Representative at the cemetery, mentioned to her co-workers that her parish, St. James in Setauket, was sponsoring a program where parishioners could “adopt” families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The staff instantly knew that they wanted to help.

For Thanksgiving, the cemetery adopted a family consisting of a mom, dad, and four kids. The office and field staff took up a collection in order to provide the family with a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with “all the fixins.” A gift basket was assembled which included a gift card to purchase a turkey, a roasting pan, cranberry sauce, gravy, potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, pumpkin pie ingredients, and some special goodies for a celebratory breakfast for the kids.



For Christmas, the staff once again took up a collection, this time to support a grandmother raising her 7 year old grandson on her own. Items were purchased off of the family’s wish list: clothes for the grandmother and items from the young boy’s list for Santa, including Pokémon toys, Spiderman toys and a Rubik’s Cube pyramid. The “lady elves” of the office wrapped the gifts to provide to the family for Christmas Day.

Thank you to employees at Holy Sepulchre for coming together to help make the holidays a little brighter for two local families in need.

## Career Opportunities at CCLI

Looking for a stable, rewarding work environment and a generous employee benefits package? Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island provides a career path where you can use your talents and skills to benefit others in their time of need and thereafter. We are seeking detail oriented and caring individuals to contribute to our mission serving the Catholic faithful on Long Island. Benefits include but are not limited to health/medical, dental, paid time off, life insurance, and 403(b) retirement plan with employer matching contribution.

Current positions available include Customer Sales & Service, Receptionist, and Field Worker. To review current openings at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island, please visit [CCLongIsland.org/career-opportunities](https://CCLongIsland.org/career-opportunities).

## Stay Connected With Us!

In addition to visiting [CCLongIsland.org](https://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. See below for details.

### 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. Families may also contact our cemetery office and provide their email address in order to be added to our list.

### 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 icons below** to access our social media pages.



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram





## SACRED PLACES

Vol. 34 No. 2

Fall 2023

### 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](https://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](https://www.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](http://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](#)

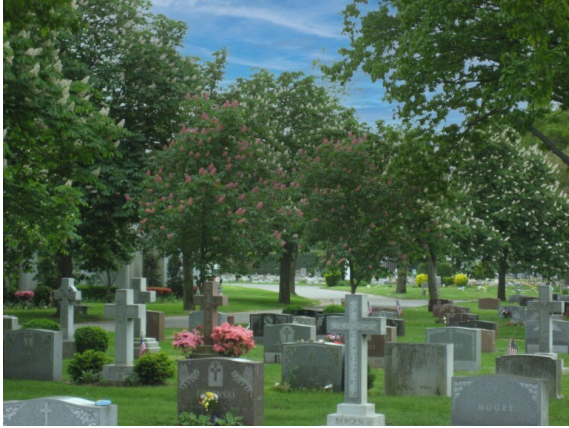
[Overview of Cemetery Rules & Regulations](#)

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](http://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.