



## SACRED PLACES

Vol. 35 No. 1

Spring 2024

### Stations of the Cross During Lent

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island has a long tradition of hosting Stations of the Cross prayer services during Lent. This year, in addition to our annual Good Friday prayer service at Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Catholic Cemeteries hosted Stations of the Cross on the first Friday of Lent in our new chapel at Queen of Peace Cemetery.

#### First Friday in Lent, Queen of Peace Cemetery

On Friday, February 16th, 40 people attended the inaugural Stations of the Cross service in Queen of Peace Chapel. Deacon Christopher Quinn led the congregation in prayer as they walked to each Station along the walls of the Chapel.



#### Good Friday, Cemetery of the Holy Rood

One of the most heavily-attended events at our cemeteries each year is the walking of the Stations of the Cross at Cemetery of the Holy Rood. Annually, hundreds of family members gather on Good Friday to commemorate Our Lord's redemptive death.



We invite all families to join us at Holy Rood this **Good Friday, March 29th at 12:00 Noon**. After opening prayers at Holy Rood Chapel, we will begin our 1.5 mile pilgrimage throughout 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 Holy Rood Chapel.

#### Self-Directed Stations of the Cross

Families unable to join us on Good Friday are invited to participate in a self-directed Stations of the Cross prayer service at **Cemetery of the Holy Rood** or **Queen of Peace Cemetery**. Families may come to either cemetery to complete the self-directed prayer service at a time convenient to them during Lent.

Prayer booklets for Stations of the Cross may be picked up from the Chapels at both cemeteries. Prayer booklets may also be downloaded from our website at [cclongisland.org/stations-of-the-cross](https://cclongisland.org/stations-of-the-cross).

## Holiday Decoration Program for 2024

Have you placed your holiday decoration orders for 2024? Families may place holiday decoration orders on our website for the following holidays: **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



**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 in Fall 2023, 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, floral color and exact mix of flowers and containers may vary.

## New Columbaria and Available Options for Cremation

Last Fall, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island announced the addition of "**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 was installed with niches available for families to consider.

These new 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 traditional **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**

- ♦ **Monday, March 25, 2024:** Cleanup of St. Patrick's Day Decorations Begins
- ♦ **Thursday, March 28, 2024 (Holy Thursday):** Offices Close at 12:30 PM, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Friday, March 29, 2024 (Good Friday):** Offices Close at 12:30 PM, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Friday, March 29, 2024 (Good Friday):** Stations of the Cross at Holy Rood at 12:00 PM
- ♦ **Monday, April 8, 2024:** Cemetery Grave Cleanup Begins – Removal of Easter Decorations and Any Violations
- ♦ **Monday, May 20, 2024:** Cleanup of Mother's Day Decorations Begins



### PORTRAITS

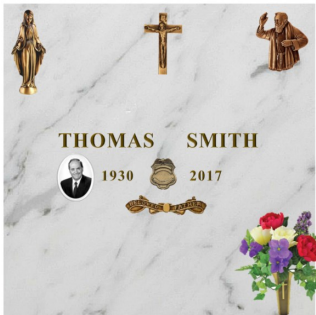
Your photograph or digital image can be turned into a protected memorial to capture the memory of your loved one for generations to come. Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island, in conjunction with our memorial suppliers, offers state-of-the-art image transfer technology and the maximum color retention of stainless steel to ensure beautiful, long lasting results. These portraits are covered by a generous, limited manufacturer warranty.



Portraits are priced at **\$405** and may be purchased for most crypts, niches, and monuments. For more information on this program, please contact the cemetery office or email [portraits@cclongisland.org](mailto:portraits@cclongisland.org).

### CRYPT & NICHE BRONZE EMBLEMS

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island offers a wide range of **bronze emblems** that may be purchased for placement on a crypt or niche front. Options include religious emblems, professional symbols, and scrolls. [Click here](#) to review the catalog of available emblems.



*Example of crypt front featuring bronze emblems, portrait, and floral vase.*

### CRYPT & NICHE FLORAL VASE PROGRAM

When subscribing to the **floral vase program**, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island will supply and install an artificial floral arrangement in a vase for a crypt or niche front. New seasonal arrangements will be installed every 3 months for those subscribed to the program. Full details on the program can be found by [clicking here](#).

### CANDLE MEMORIALS

Families may purchase a candle memorial in one of our community mausoleums. Red candles may be purchased for 1 or 2 years, while white candle memorials remain lit for 2 years. [Click here](#) for information on our candle memorial program or to purchase a candle memorial online.



### 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 since November 2023:

### Cemetery of the Holy Rood

- **James Lusk, Jr**, Customer Sales & Service (Dec 2023)
- **Sylvia Wierzbicki**, Part-Time Receptionist (Dec 2023)

### Queen of Peace Cemetery

- **Brenda Flower**, Part-Time Receptionist (Dec 2023)
- **Noel Ratner**, Accounting Manager (Jan 2024)

### Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

- **Craig Bostick, Jr**, Semi-Skilled Field Worker (Dec 2023)

## Employee Anniversaries

Please join us in congratulating the following employee who is celebrating a significant milestone with Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island in April 2024:

### 35 Years of Service

- **Michael Toscano**, Skilled Field Worker at Holy Rood

We thank Michael for his dedicated years of service!

## 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.

For more information or 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!

Families are encouraged to visit [CCLongIsland.org](https://CCLongIsland.org) for the latest updates on our cemeteries. In addition, we invite families to stay connected with us by joining our email list and following us on social media.

### **JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST**

Emails are sent monthly to keep 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.

### **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Follow us on social media for cemetery updates, details on upcoming events, and photos of our cemeteries. Families are invited to follow Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island on **Facebook** ([@CCLongIsland](#)), **Instagram** ([@cclongisland](#)) and **X (Twitter)** ([@CathCemLI](#)). Click on the links above to access our social media pages.

## Helpful Cemetery Resources

Not sure how to plan a family inurnment? Looking for more information on cemetery rules and regulations? Below are links to several helpful brochures and documents for families. Additional resources are available at [CCLongIsland.org](https://CCLongIsland.org).

[Cemetery Directory – Locate a Loved One](#)

[Planning Guide – Inurnment of Cremated Remains](#)

[Cemetery Rules & Regulations](#)

[Cemetery Planting and Decoration Guidelines](#)

[Grave Decorations – Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Seasonal Decoration Placement/Pick Up Schedule](#)

[Cemetery Visitors Guide](#)

[Cemetery Office 2024 Holiday Schedule](#)



## SACRED PLACES

**Vol. 35 No. 2**

**Fall 2024**

### **Christmas Ornament Masses—All Are Welcome!**

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

Here is the schedule for this year's Ornament Masses:

#### **Ornament Mass Date & Time**

**Saturday, December 7th 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 one of our Ornament Masses, we welcome you to place an 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 Tuesday, January 7, 2025**. Trees will be removed from the chapels on January 8, 2025.

### **IMPORTANT DATES: UPCOMING EVENTS, HOLIDAYS, AND CLEANUPS**

- ♦ **Saturday, December 7, 2024:** Christmas Ornament Masses
- ♦ **Tuesday, December 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve):** Offices Close at 12:30PM, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Wednesday, December 25, 2024 (Christmas Day):** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Tuesday, December 31, 2024 (New Year's Eve):** Offices Close at 12:30PM, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Wednesday, January 1, 2025 (New Year's Day):** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation
- ♦ **Wednesday, January 8, 2025:** Removal of Chapel Christmas Trees, **Cleanup of Mausoleum Benches/Areas**
- ♦ **Wednesday, January 15, 2025:** **Full Cleanup of All Gravesites** (See **Pages 5-7** for more information)
- ♦ **Monday, January 20, 2025 (Martin Luther King Jr Day):** Offices Closed, Cemeteries Open for Visitation



## Holiday Decoration Program for 2024-2025

Have you placed your decoration orders for the upcoming holidays? Families may place decoration orders on our website for **Christmas 2024, Easter 2025, Mother's Day 2025, and Father's Day 2025.**

**Save time and receive a discount** by placing your orders online. Online pricing reflects a **\$5 savings** on each item compared to mail or in-person orders. Families can also receive **additional savings** by ordering a four holiday package online. We have improved the online checkout process and are confident you will find the system more user friendly. To place a decoration order, visit [CCLongIsland.org](https://www.CCLongIsland.org) and click on **Holiday Decoration Program** from the top menu ([or click here](#)). Then, click the cemetery in which your loved one is interred to view decoration options and add items to your cart. For grave decorations, please enter the correct plot location (Section-Range-Plot) of your loved one. If you are unsure of the exact plot location, please use our [Locate a Loved One search tool](#).

### 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.

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island is no longer offering the live grave plant option at **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery** for Mother's Day & Father's Day due to the cemetery's large deer population. Families may order an artificial potted plant for Mother's Day and Father's Day for grave placement at Holy Sepulchre only.

## New Inventory at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island

### GLASS NICHE AT HOLY SEPULCHRE

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island is pleased to announce the addition of glass niches at **Holy Sepulchre Cemetery** in the **Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel Mausoleum**.



With existing glass niche inventory running low and no empty walls to install new niches, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island enlisted a contractor to build two niche “rooms” in the vestibule area of the Chapel. This construction allowed us to install four walls of niches, adding a total of **144 glass front niches** and **48 marble front niches** to the Chapel at Holy Sepulchre. These niches are **now available** for purchase.

Glass front niches are desirable spaces for families who wish to see the urn of their loved one. Glass niches are available in two sizes: **Classic** and **Select** (see images below). Both niche types can accommodate up to two urns depending on the size of the urns selected.



Classic Niche



Select Niche

Due to their visibility, any urns placed within a glass niche must be of a style approved by the cemetery. In addition to inscribing the niche, families may choose to purchase a portrait of their loved one which can be placed inside the glass niche.

### CHAPEL NICHE AT QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island recently added niches at **Queen of All Saints Cemetery** in our **Garden Chapel Mausoleum**. These unique “thin niches” can accommodate **two urns** with the use of the **standard cremation box** or a special plastic urn which is available at the cemetery office.



These new niches provide families with an **indoor** option for cremated remains at Queen of All Saints. In addition to these new spaces, families interested in a space for cremated remains may consider the following options at Queen of All Saints:

- **St. Gabriel the Archangel Cremation Garden** niches available in our outdoor columbarium
- **Granite front** and **Mosaic front niches** along outside walls of garden mausoleums
- Option of including cremated remains in all of our general **in-ground burial plots**
- Dedicated **cremation graves in Section 7**

### QUEEN OF PEACE CEMETERY

Graves are now available in three sections at Queen of Peace Cemetery – Section 1, Section 3, and Section 4. Plots are available in a variety of sizes to best meet each family’s needs:

- **Single Grave** plots (3 caskets and 3 urns)
- **Double Grave** plots (6 caskets and 6 urns)
- **Three Grave** plots (9 caskets and 9 urns)
- **Four Grave** plots (12 caskets and 12 urns)
- **Six Grave** plots (18 caskets and 18 urns)

In addition, garden mausoleums surround our beautiful chapel, featuring **crypts** for full casket entombments and **niches** for the inurnment of cremated remains.

**For more information or to schedule a sales appointment, please contact the cemetery office:**

**Holy Sepulchre Cemetery: (631) 732-3460**

**Queen of All Saints Cemetery: (631) 234-8297**

**Queen of Peace Cemetery: (516) 434-2439**

**Cemetery of the Holy Rood: (516) 334-7990**



## Candle Vespers & All Souls Day

On Sunday, October 27th, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island welcomed families to **Candle Lighting Vespers Services** at Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Queen of Peace Cemetery, and Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Vespers is a traditional and solemn evening prayer service of thanksgiving and praise in the Roman Catholic liturgy. This year, over 400 people gathered in our chapels to honor those laid to rest at our cemeteries through prayer, song, and a candle lighting service. During each service, a microphone was passed throughout the congregation so that everyone in attendance could say aloud the names of their dearly departed family members and friends.



The following Saturday on November 2nd, 600 faithful gathered in our chapels for **All Souls Day Masses**. During these Masses, families prayed and remembered the faithful departed with the hope of the Resurrection.

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island was honored to welcome the following bishops and clergy from the Diocese of Rockville Centre to lead our All Souls Day Mass celebrations:

- **Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski** at Holy Rood
- **Bishop Robert J. Coyle** at Queen of Peace
- **Rev. Msgr. Ellsworth Walden** at Holy Sepulchre
- **Rev. Anthony Iaconis** at Queen of All Saints

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island would like to thank all clergy, musicians, and staff who assisted at each of these services. We hope these prayerful celebrations provided families with a sense of comfort and hope.

## 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.

## Crypt & Niche Programs

Catholic Cemeteries offers several memorialization programs for families with loved ones entombed or inurned in our community mausoleums.

### PORTRAITS

Your photograph or digital image can be turned into a protected memorial to capture the memory of your loved one for generations to come. This stainless steel portrait will be installed on the crypt or niche front. For glass front niches, the portrait is placed within the niche.

### BRONZE EMBLEMS

Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island offers a wide range of **bronze emblems** that may be purchased for placement on a crypt or niche front. Options include religious emblems, professional symbols, and scrolls. [Click here](#) to review the catalog of available emblems.

### FLORAL VASE PROGRAM

When subscribing to the **floral vase program**, Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island will supply and install an artificial floral arrangement in a vase for a crypt or niche front. New seasonal arrangements will be installed every 3 months for those subscribed to the program. Full details on the program can be found by [clicking here](#).



*Example of a crypt front featuring bronze emblems, portrait, and floral vase.*

## Cemetery Cleanups in January

On **Wednesday, January 8, 2025**, cemetery staff will remove the Christmas trees from our cemetery chapels. At that time, cemetery staff will also **remove all decorations from chapels and mausoleum buildings**, including any items (Christmas trees, rocks, statues, etc) that have been placed on floral tables.

Cemetery staff will be completing a **full cleanup** of our cemeteries beginning **Wednesday, January 15, 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 6 and 7** 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 Tuesday, January 14**. 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](#)

[2025 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.

## Oh Deer! Cemetery Wildlife

Many of God's creatures love to visit our cemeteries, including deer, turkeys, geese, and groundhogs. For many, the presence of wildlife enhances the serene and peaceful atmosphere of the cemetery, providing moments of mindfulness and connection to nature.



*Deer peeking through bushes at Queen of Peace Cemetery*

Unfortunately, deer are known to target flowers and other plantings for their nourishment. Due to the large deer population at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, flower arrangements left by funeral homes do not last a day before the deer have targeted them! We are also starting to see an increase in the presence of deer at Queen of Peace Cemetery.

As the cemetery is not responsible for plant or flower damage caused by wildlife, we want to ensure families are aware of their presence in our cemeteries. Some families have planted "deer-resistant" plants with varying degrees of success, but no plant is 100% deer proof – when they are hungry, they will eat anything!



*Above are two plants placed for Father's Day at Holy Sepulchre. Pictures on the left show the plants when they were placed. Pictures on the right show those same plants two days later.*



## 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, coins, statues, or other placed items can become dangerous projectiles that get caught up in lawn mowers and line trimmers; they can seriously injure visitors or cemetery workers and damage monuments or car windows. Placed items can also cause permanent damage and discoloration to the monument, releasing elements that penetrate below the surface of the granite and become bleached by the sun. For these reasons, **no items are permitted on top of monuments at any time.**



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 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**. 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, nativities, 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 New Hires

**Welcome to our New Hires!** Please welcome the following employees who have joined Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island since April 2024:

### Cemetery of the Holy Rood

- **Marie Kowalczyk**, Customer Sales & Service Representative (April 2024)
- **Kristen Przybylski**, Part-Time Receptionist (April 2024)
- **Theresa Soto**, Part-Time Receptionist (June 2024)
- **Frank Bonilla**, Field Worker (Aug 2024)

### Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

- **Christopher Modugno**, Field Worker (Aug 2024)
- **Marilyn Hutnick**, Customer Sales & Service Representative (November 2024)
- **Joan Dale**, Part-Time Receptionist (November 2024)

## 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.



With four locations across Long Island, opportunity exists in several areas at any given time, including: **Cemetery Field Staff, Customer Sales & Service, Finance, and IT.** For more information or to review current openings at Catholic Cemeteries of Long Island, visit [CCLongIsland.org/career-opportunities](https://CCLongIsland.org/career-opportunities).

## Helpful Cemetery Resources

Not sure how to plan a family inurnment? Looking for more information on cemetery rules and regulations? Below are links to several helpful brochures and documents for families. Additional resources are available at [CCLongIsland.org](https://CCLongIsland.org).

[Cemetery Directory – Locate a Loved One](#)

[Planning Guide – Inurnment of Cremated Remains](#)

[Cemetery Rules & Regulations](#)

[Cemetery Planting and Decoration Guidelines](#)

[Grave Decorations – Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Seasonal Decoration Placement/Pick Up Schedule](#)

[Cemetery Visitors Guide](#)

[Cemetery Office 2025 Holiday Schedule](#)